



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Charity Abseiling Event at Belfast Castle
Date:	12 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This charity event is to be held at Belfast Castle to raise vital funds for the Northern Ireland Hospice. Belfast Castle had been chosen for its unique location and marketing potential, especially with the beautiful gardens and panoramic views over the city.
1.2	Northern Ireland Hospice want to make this event special by promoting it as the first ever abseil at Belfast Castle, and therefore raising the profile of the occasion.
1.3	The event is scheduled to take place in September 2012.
1.4	Consideration has been given to the health and safety implications and environmental issues involved with this event.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The main issue of concern is the health and safety aspect of this event. The abseil will be organised and carried out by Out Door Concern (NI) who have been running charity abseil events for over 10 years. They use the highest standard of equipment and highly qualified instructors. They will provide all the necessary risk assessment, documentation and have £10 million public and employee insurance policy applicable to this event.
2.2	Out Door Concern (NI) will be required to undertake a risk assessment and to ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the satisfaction of Belfast City Council.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> There are no financial costs to Belfast City Council.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications to Belfast City Council
3.3	<u>Assets</u> Use of Belfast Castle for the event.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality implications.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the committee grant authority for the charity abseiling event at Belfast Castle subject to the satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The event organisers meet all operational and health and safety issues to the council's satisfaction. 2. NI Hospice enter into an appropriate legal agreement as drafted by Legal Services 3. The event organisers ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the council's satisfaction including risk assessments, safe systems of work and equipment inspection information.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Parks Estates Manager by May 2012.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Letter of request from NI Hospice