



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for loan of The Covenant Table
Date:	21 st October 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright – Head of Facilities Management (Ext.5206/6232)

Relevant Background Information

Members may be aware that occasionally requests are received from outside bodies to borrow an individual piece of art and artefact item from the City Hall collection. Most requests are relatively straightforward and are dealt with by the relevant officer with most items loaned out subject to the proper loan agreement and insurance arrangements being in place.

A request has recently been received from the Leader, Deputy Leader and Officers of the Democratic Unionist Party to borrow The Covenant Table for the DUP Party's Annual Conference taking place at the La Mon House Hotel over the weekend 25th-27th November 2011.

The Covenant Table is currently displayed in the Council Chamber and is mentioned during the tours which take place in the City Hall each day. A sign beside the table indicates it was used by Lord Carson for the signing of The Covenant on the 28th September 1912.

Due to the sensitivities around this particular artefact Members are being asked to give their approval for the table to be borrowed.

Key Issues

In considering this request Members may wish to note the following:

- The table will only be on loan for 3 day period
- An appropriate notice will be placed at the table location indicating the item is out on loan
- All of the necessary loan agreement and insurance arrangements will be in place
- Alderman William Humphrey MLA on behalf of the DUP Party has given assurances that the Covenant Table will be treated with extreme care, covered by insurance and returned to the City Hall in the condition received

Resource Implications

<u>Financial</u>

There are no direct costs for the council associated with this request as transport, packaging etc. will be arranged by the DUP Party.
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<u>Human Resources</u>

No additional resources are required.

<u>Asset and other implications</u>

There are no significant implications for the integrity of the Councils assets, and the usual insurances and indemnities would be required.

Decisions required

The Committee is requested to consider the request for the loan of the Covenant Table for the period requested
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Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.
