



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the Use of the Council Chamber</b>
<b>Date:</b>	20th January, 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services manager (ext 6314)
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Chairman (Councillor Hargey) has received a request from the Principal of Colaiste Feirste, a post-primary Irish-medium school in Belfast, for the use of the Council Chamber in order to hold a debate in Irish for pupils during Seachtain na Gaeilge (the annual Irish language promotional week) which runs from 5th till 16th March.
1.2	The school has indicated that the use of the Council Chamber and its facilities would add to the learning opportunity of public speaking for their pupils. Pupils of other schools may also be involved in the event.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Council has granted the use of the Council Chamber for similar events in the past, including for Colaiste Feirste.
2.2	If such authority were to be granted, it would be normal practice to also provide some limited hospitality in the form of soft drinks, tea, coffee and biscuits.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The cost of hospitality can be met from the existing budget.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	None.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is recommended to grant to Colaiste Feirste the use of the Council Chamber on a date to be agreed in March, 2012 and to provide appropriate hospitality in the form of soft drinks, tea, coffee and biscuits.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
March, 2012	