



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request to use the Banqueting Hall, City Hall
Date:	Friday, 21 September, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Sandra Robinson, Lord Mayor's Principal Officer (ext. 6244)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) is the largest Christian media organisation in the UK, operating 6 radio stations, a TV channel and printing millions of booklets with a world-wide circulation. The broadcasts reach all sections of the Northern Ireland community with the purpose to encourage, strengthen and build-up those in their faith, promoting a message of unity. UCB also attracts a significant following from non-religious viewers, listeners and readers. UCB received cross-party support at Stormont for broadcasting in Northern Ireland.
1.2	The Lord Mayor agreed to host an event for UCB in celebration of their three years of digital broadcasting in Northern Ireland and to recognise the impact that the radio station has made on many of its listeners. The event is scheduled to take place on Monday, 19 November 2012.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Initially the event was due to be held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour with a small number of people to mark the achievements of the station. However, as word spread amongst supporters and listeners of the station the organisers approached the Lord Mayor to identify if it would be possible to have a larger event should numbers increase.
2.2	The organisers have now been able to advise of the number of people who would wish to attend the event and mark the important occasion should it be possible to have it in a larger room.
2.3	The invited audience will include political figures, businesses and community representatives and strategic partners from across Belfast and beyond. This celebratory event will include speeches, interviews and music.

2.4	Accordingly, the authority of the Committee is sought for the Lord Mayor to host this event in the Banqueting Hall in order to accommodate the increased numbers who now wish to participate.
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3	Resource Implications
	None.

4	Equality Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the Banqueting Hall for this event on 19th November, 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer October, 2012	