



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Use of ILLUMINATE facilities for 'World Autism Awareness Day'
Date:	21st February 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright (Ext. 5206/6232)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the governance arrangements approved by the Committee in February 2013 limit access to the new ILLUMINATE LED lighting facilities to (a) the charities nominated by our civic office-bearers, (b) events organized or supported by the council and (c) an agreed schedule of additional days. Any request not falling into these categories currently requires the approval of the Committee.
1.2	A request has recently been received from PEAT, Parents' Education as Autism Therapists to have the City Hall illuminated in a blue colour on the 2nd April 2014 to mark World Autism Awareness Day.
1.3	World Autism Awareness Day not only raises awareness of this condition but also helps to raise funds for research and to provide support for people living and caring for someone with this lifelong condition.
1.4	Members will be aware that the facilities available at City Hall allow lighting scenes to be created quite easily and usually without involving additional cost or significant work. The current request would be of this type.
1.5	This request does not arise as the result of a nomination by the council's civic office-bearers but has instead been made by an independent, external organization.
1.6	Members will be aware that there are many worthy charities and groups within the city and that there is always the potential, when considering requests of this type, that a precedent is set which could initiate a significant volume of similar requests in the future which may be equally worthy and therefore difficult to refuse.
2	Key Issues
2.1	Firstly, it should be noted that this request is for a single occurrence only; it is not a request that this date be added to the existing annual schedule of additional days.

2.2	Secondly, the Committee will need to balance the desirability of showing the council's support for deserving causes against the potential difficulty of rationing similar requests in the future and the concerns around the too-frequent use of the lighting system for special scenes.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to approve the use of the LED lighting system at City Hall for the purposes of marking World Autism Awareness Day on the 2 nd April 2014.

6	Decision Tracking
If the request is approved the lighting scene will be added to the existing file and will appear automatically on the specified date only.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
None.	

8	Documents Attached
None.	