



Belfast City Council

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| Report to | Strategic Policy and Resources Committee |
| Subject: | Request for the Use of the City Hall – Friends of the Irish Guards |
| Date: | 25th April, 2014 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314) |

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| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
| | A request has been received by the Friends of the Irish Guards organisation seeking the use of the City Hall on 31st October, 2014. |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| | <p>The organising committee requesting the use of the City Hall wish to use this opportunity to promote the 1st Battalion Irish Guards within the local community.</p> <p>The Friend of the Irish Guards, who were formed in April 1900, is requesting the use of City Hall to host a Gala Ball to commemorate the role of the Irish Guards from WW 1 to the present day. They plan to invite dignitaries from central and local government as well as senior ranking army officers from London.</p> <p>The organisers wish to celebrate the achievements of the many people in the Regiment that hailed from Belfast and to mark the charitable work it has been involved with in schools, hospitals and nursing homes.</p> <p>Belfast City Council hosted a similar type Gala Ball in 2012 to bid farewell to the Irish Guards who were deployed to Afghanistan.</p> <p>Normally, any request for an event which references a major centenary such as the commencement of World War I would be referred in the first instance for consideration by the Joint Group of the Party Leaders' Forum and the Historic Centenaries Working Group. However, it is unlikely that a meeting of that Working Group will take place prior to August and the proposed event would require a significant lead-in time for organising. Accordingly, the Committee is requested to consider the application.</p> |

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| | The proposed event would appear to meet the criteria established by Committee for the granting of the use of the City Hall. |
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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| | None. The organisers are simply requesting the use of the City Hall for the event and do not require the provision of any Civic Hospitality. |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Implications |
| | None associated with this report. |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| | The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the City Hall on 31st October for the Gala Ball for the Friends of the Irish Guards organisation. |