



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Request to Use City Hall Grounds
Date:	22 August 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officers:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	A request has been received from Kabosh a local theatre company to perform a short 20 minute piece of orchestrated music in the grounds of City Hall on 1 September 2014.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The piece of music entitled 20 has been composed by an award winning Lurgan composer Conor Mitchell and marks the twentieth anniversary of the 1994 IRA ceasefire.
2.2	Kabosh have been undertaking a body of work consisting of a number of projects over the past seven years under the theme of peace-building through the arts both at a local level and internationally.
2.3	The musical piece 20 which will be performed by 20 local musicians aged 20 is part of this overall theme.
2.4	The project has been supported by the Arts Council, Atlantic Philanthropies, our Good Relations and Culture and Arts Unit.
2.5	In addition to the proposed live performance at City Hall invitations have been extended to community groups from the Shankill, Short Strand, Falls Road and Antrim Road that Kabosh have worked with and of course the wider public. It is intended that this will be one off piece although the music is to be recorded and used as soundscape for a 3D installation at Victoria Square as part of the Belfast Festival at Queens in October.
2.6	The details of the performance set up and so on has been discussed with the Civic Headquarters staff and there are no particular logistical difficulties in hosting the event.
2.7	Kabosh see this as an important event in their peace-building activities and a timely reminder as to how far society has moved on since 1994 despite some current unresolved issues.
2.8	In this respect it is particularly important for Kabosh that the performance take place on the actual anniversary.
2.9	If Members are content that this performance goes ahead on 1 September agreement will also be required that it precedes formal Council ratification on the evening of 1 September.
3.0	Equality Implications
There are no equality implications.	
4.0	Recommendations

Members are asked if they are content that this event takes place on 1 September 2014.

5.0 Appendices

None