



Subject:	Request by the Institute of Chartered Foresters' National Study Tour for Hospitality
Date:	8 September 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The Institute for Chartered Foresters (ICF) is the only organisation in the UK licensed to award Chartered Forester and Arboriculturist designations. It has over 1500 members and provides support to its members; guidance to professionals and educational advice and training to students and tree professionals. From October 7th -9th 2015 the ICF will be holding their National Study Tour: Forestry – ‘An Enabler to Development in Northern Ireland’.</p> <p>The programme includes visits to Belvoir, Alexandra and Victoria Parks to learn about urban forestry initiatives and issues in the Belfast area.</p> <p>Among those attending this tour will be the Parks Development Manager for Edinburgh, the Community Policy Advisor for Forestry Commission Scotland, the former Head of Policy for the Forestry Commission in Scotland, the Chief Executive of the NI Forest Service and the NI expert on tree disease. The organisation has requested that Belfast City Council would support the study tour by hosting a light buffet lunch with refreshments for approximately 50 people.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
	Belfast City Council hosts a light buffet lunch with refreshments on Friday 9th October for around 50 people who are attendees at the Institute of Chartered Foresters National Study

	Tour to Northern Ireland.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Institute is a professional organisation keen to promote learning, education and professionalism in the field of tree and land management. The Study Tour only occasionally over the years has been held in Northern Ireland and will attract many first time visitors to the province. The Tour will showcase several of Belfast City Council sites to demonstrate good urban forestry practise and ongoing challenges. The Council is asked to support this tour further by hosting a lunch for the participants.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The proposed arrangements are for a light buffet lunch with refreshments to be provided for around 50 people at the Clayton Hotel in Ormeau Avenue at an approximate cost of £14.50 per head. It is proposed to invite the Chief Executive, the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees to attend and give a welcome to Belfast.</p> <p>This will be funded from within the Parks and Leisure budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No implications</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None