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| Subject: | Application for Extended Hours - Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, Custom House Square |
| Date: | 15th March, 2017 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435 |
| Contact Officer: | Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446 |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To consider a request from the organisers of Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival to operate their annual musical arts festival over eleven nights within a marquee at Custom House Square, running from Thursday 27th April to Sunday 7th May 2017, and to permit the entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on three of those nights. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | Taking into account the information presented and any representations received, you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either: <ol style="list-style-type: none">agree if any or all of the three proposed nights should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or;refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and it currently holds both a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Square. |
| 3.2 | The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm. |

Rationale for Additional Hours

- 3.11** A copy of the letter from the organisers outlining the background to the festival and reasons for requesting the extended hours to 12.00 am is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.12** A location map is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.13** The organisers have advised that the two weekends of the festival are regarded as the busiest evenings and they see more visitors from outside the city and further afield attending these festival events.
- 3.14** They hope that the extended hours will provide their visitors with a memorable festival experience and value for money and allow them to 'make a night of it' by availing of the many other venues and local restaurants before attending the event.
- 3.15** The organisers have also advised that the extra hour enables them to add local support acts to the bill and give them the opportunity to raise their profile and support a headline festival act.
- 3.16** As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Marquee Entertainments Licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition; there is no requirement to advertise the application.
- 3.17** The Service has received a draft copy of the Event Management Plan and a proposed site plan. Officers are currently assessing this information and working with the organisers to ensure that all technical requirements will be met. Work is ongoing in this regard.
- 3.18** Officers have also discussed the resident's notification and how this is essential to the success of events at the venue, particularly if hoping to operate beyond 11.00 pm. Officers have received a copy of a draft resident's notification letter and will continue to liaise with them to ensure that the letter is appropriate and issued to the correct addresses prior to the event taking place.
- 3.19** Representatives of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival.

PSNI

- 3.20** The PSNI has been consulted regarding the event and their request to operate three nights of the event to 12.00 am. It has confirmed that it has no objections or concerns with the operation of the event and will work with the organisers regarding the particulars of the proposed Liquor Licence. A copy of its comments is attached at Appendix 3.

NIFRS

- 3.21** The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has also been consulted about the application and has confirmed that it has no concerns about the event.
- 3.22** Members can be assured that, as with all such events, a series of detailed planning meetings will be held, and attended by officers of the PSNI and NIFRS to look at public safety, traffic management, transport and any wider operational issues.

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| | <p><u>Health, Safety and Welfare Issues</u></p> <p>3.23 Officers from the Service have carried out inspections for previous festivals and have always found the organisers to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of each individual event during that time.</p> <p>3.24 A pre-event planning meeting has already been held with the organisers and they are co-operating fully to ensure that everything is being done to protect public safety and to reduce the potential for noise disturbance and general nuisance from the event.</p> <p><u>Noise Issues</u></p> <p>3.25 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on three of the eleven nights at the venue.</p> <p>3.26 Due to the cumulative impact of the consecutive nights proposed and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents, officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.</p> <p>3.27 However, considerable work has been done with organisers of various events and festivals at the venue and as a result; the level of complaints and noise issues has been reduced.</p> <p>3.28 Last year's festival generated only one complaint, which was due to patron dispersal at the end of an event. It also did not result in any formal action being taken by the Council.</p> <p>3.29 As for all of these types of events, officers are currently working with the organisers and their representatives on appropriate noise management plans and procedures for the festival. The noise plan must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to both the commercial and residential premises of the area.</p> <p>3.30 Officers will consider all reports and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with all the relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.31 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.32 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | <u>Documents Attached</u> |
| | <p>Appendix 1 – Location map</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Rationale from the organiser outlining the reasons for requesting the extended hours</p> <p>Appendix 3 – PSNI comments</p> |