STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality**
Date:	21 May 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Sometime in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 7th May 2021, which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 7th May 2021, as set out in the attached appendix.

3.0	**Main Report**
	Background Information
3.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.
3.2	The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24th March 2017, 23rd June 2017, 23rd June 2019 and 25th October 2019.
	Key Issues
3.3	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.4	The attached schedule covers three applications for functions, scheduled for 2021 and 2022 however approval is provisional, and functions will be planned in due course in line with NI Executive guidance and Council approval to reinstate functions in City Hall. It is hoped the function scheduled for 2025 will be delivered in line with pre-Covid operations.
	COVID implications
3.5	In managing and delivering future functions, liaison with and guidance for organisers will be provided by officers to ensure compliance with any relevant social distancing guidelines at the time of their function. Committee approval for their function to take place in City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications
3.7	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Schedule of Function requests received up to 7th May, 2021.