



Subject:	Requests for the Use of Council Premises
Date:	18th June, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna. Senior Democratic Services Officer

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/Summary of Main Issues
	To Consider two separate requests for the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner and the Boundaries Commission for Northern Ireland for the use of Council premises.
2.0	Recommendations
	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 accede to both requests.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u> Local Government Boundaries Commissioner Members will beware that the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner is currently undertaking a review of the Local Government Boundaries. As part of the review, the Commissioner is planning to publish her provisional proposals at the end of July for public consultation. At the time of the last Review in 2008/2009, hard copies of the Review reports were available in Council Office across NI for the public to view. Given the public health situation and the advances in technology since the last

	<p>Review, the Commissioner is planning to publish her proposals in an accessible online format. In order to increase accessibility for members of the public who may not have access to the internet at home, she has asked that the Council assist in facilitating interested parties in viewing my proposals online in council offices, subject to public health restrictions. This would involve providing access to a pc in a Council-owned facility, as such as a community centre in order to access the documents as outlined. If the Members are minded to accede to the request, then officers would discuss the practicalities.</p> <p>At the end of September, the Commissioner will convene public hearings on the provisional proposals in each Council area. Given the public health situation, she is planning for the eventuality that these will be ‘virtual’ rather than in person hearings. However, in the hope that she will be able to convene an ‘in person’ hearing for at least limited number of people in addition to plans for virtual events, she is requesting the use of an appropriate Council venue that could be used for the public hearing, again subject to public health restrictions.</p> <p>The Council, has, in the interest of allowing wider access by the public, granted free use of a room in the City Hall previously for similar events and it is recommended that the Committee approves the free use.</p> <p>Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland</p> <p>In January 2021, the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland announced the commencement of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Northern Ireland, in accordance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended. This review is running alongside similar reviews across other parts of the UK, with each Commission’s final recommendations due by 1st July 2023. The Commission also recently published its Guide to the Review, which includes information on the upcoming boundary review process and outlines how members of the public, political parties and wider civic society will be able to share their views.</p> <p>The publication of the Commission’s initial proposals and the first period of public consultation is planned for autumn 2021, with further periods of public consultation planned during 2022 in line with the statutory requirements. The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 requires the Commission to make a copy of its proposals open for inspection by the public at specified places within each proposed constituency. During previous reviews, Public Display Points were established in a range of public venues across all constituencies, including local council buildings and public libraries. This</p>
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	<p>ensured that there was widespread access for the public to the Commission's proposals, in addition to them being made available on the Commission's website.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission would like to adopt a similar approach for the 2023 Review, although it is also conscious of possible public health restrictions that may be in place in the autumn. Therefore, it is seeking your agreement, in principle, to establish one or more Public Display Points within Belfast City Council buildings throughout the 8 week consultation period, subject to public health restrictions.</p> <p>Again, during the previous review, the Council made available a space in the reception area of the City Hall to display the proposals and it recommended the Committee agrees to the request</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There will be some minor costs associated with the set of the rooms for such events but this can be accommodated within Council budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.