



Belfast City Council

Report to	Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Stained glass window to commemorate Belfast men who fought in the Spanish Civil War
Date:	16th January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager Ext: 6020
Contact Officer:	Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer Ext: 6019

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the March 2014 Council meeting a Motion was brought by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Webb that “this Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City hall to commemorate the sons of our city who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.”
1.2	The Spanish Civil War was fought from 1936 – 1939 and had involved a range of political factions, but mainly fascist and socialist forces. Most of the Irish volunteers who had fought against Franco’s fascist forces were members of the Fifth International Brigade. Around 80 of those 320 were from Northern Ireland, a significant proportion of which were from Belfast.
1.3	The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21 st March, had agreed that the matter should be referred to the Joint Group of the Party Leaders’ Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group (now known as the Diversity Working Group) for consideration and comment. Thereafter it would ultimately be a matter for the Committee to determine.
1.4	This course of action is in keeping with the methodology used by the Council in 2011, prior to the installation in the City Hall of the “Celtic Myths and legends” window, which had been referred to the former memorabilia Working Group for initial comment.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Further to consideration by the Diversity Working Group, it was agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in October that a Working Group, comprising one Member from each of the Political Parties on the Diversity Working Group, be established to give initial consideration to the erection of a stained glass window in City Hall to commemorate those from Belfast who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism. The first meeting of the group was scheduled to take place on 9 th January.
2.2	It is envisaged the process will be similar to that which was employed to erect the Celtic Myths and Legends window.

2.3	Members will note that the consideration of the stained glass window is not included within the current review of memorabilia being undertaken through Redhead Consulting and therefore, would require a separate budget to be set aside.
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3	Resource Implications
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3.1	This project has not been included with current budgets. Based on the previous project, the cost will be approximately £25,000. The Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that finance is provided through the general reserves.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
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4.1	The matter will need to be considered in light of the Council's overall policy on Memorabilia in the City Hall.
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5	Call In
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5.1	This decision is subject to call in.
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6	Recommendations
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6.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and agree that the cost of up to £25,000 is financed through general reserves to support the erection of a stained glass window in City Hall commemorating those from Belfast who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.
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7	Decision Tracking
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7.1	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager Ext:6020
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8	Key to Abbreviations
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8.1	N/A
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9	Documents Attached
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