

# City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 12th February, 2025

## THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM AND  
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors de Faoite, Murray and R. McLaughlin.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of  
Legal and Civic Services;  
Ms. K. Mullen, Client Manager;  
Mrs. J. Murray, Civic Services Manager; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Member Services and Digital Support  
Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were recorded.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th November and 12th December, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

### **Christmas Tree City Hall Grounds**

The Working Group considered a report which detailed the current constraints around purchasing a real Christmas tree for the front of City Hall.

During discussion it was agreed that the City Hall tree would be included in any future Christmas updates to City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Civic Services Manager also agreed to liaise with the Senior Woodland and Recreation Officer regarding the planting of trees which could be used as Christmas trees annually at suitable locations throughout the city, which would encourage sustainability.

The Working Group agreed to undertake a quotation/tender exercise to test market provision and ascertain the types of artificial Christmas trees available, with an update report to be submitted to both the Working Group and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in due course.

### **Stained Glass Window City Hall**

The Client Manager drew the Members' attention to the final artwork for the new LGBT+ stained-glass window and she highlighted the minor amendments and refinements that had been made following the December 2024 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. She advised that officers now would commence formal engagement with the families of the individuals depicted in the artwork and reported that early discussions with both families had indicated that they were happy with the references included.

The Members noted that work was underway on the narrative panel that would sit to the side of the window containing a descriptor of the artwork and highlighting the role and contribution of the LBGTQ+ community to the city of Belfast. The Members were reminded that the scope of the original motion had been extended at its meeting of the Working Group in November 2024, to ensure it was reflective of all groups within the LGBT community. The Members noted that the proposed wording of the narrative panel would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group for approval.

The Client Manager reminded the Committee that an event in the City Hall would be organised on the evening of the unveiling as part of the celebrations around International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia and further details would also be available at the next meeting of the Working Group.

The Chairperson, along with several other Members of the Committee commended the officers for their hard work and commitment in bringing this project to fruition in what was a particularly short deadline.

The Working Group agreed the final artwork for the LBGT+ stained glass window and noted the proposed unveiling date, subject to all statutory permissions being in place. It also noted that the wording for the narrative panel would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group for approval.

Chairperson