



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Pride of Place Cities Competition 2010
Date:	12 May 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525 John Nelson Community Services Area Manager ext 3541

#### Relevant Background Information

The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. Officers in Health and Environmental services had taken the organisational lead within the context of the Brighter Belfast programme, with support from Community Services staff in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.

Given the focus of the competition, and the cessation of the Brighter Belfast funding stream, overall responsibility for both organising and selecting the groups for the competition was transferred to Community Services with committee approval last year.

Established in 2003 and hosted by Co-operation Ireland, Pride of Place is an all-Ireland competition which aims to recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that community groups make to society. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. It gives community groups the opportunity to showcase specific pride initiatives, whether social, environmental or heritage-related, which will have long lasting and positive impacts on their society.

Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited; all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. In previous years, entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success. Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony, hosted by a previous winning council, each autumn.

In 2009 we entered 4 groups:

- North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support project
- Failte Feirste Thiar
- Wandsworth Community Centre
- Star Neighbourhood Centre

The North Belfast Women's Initiative won their category and Failte Feirste Thiar came second in theirs.

The 2010 awards ceremony will be held in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath on 13-14 November 2010. The 2010 Pride of Place Cities Competition allows a maximum of six entries per council, subject to defined categories and rules.

The service have identified four suitable groups:

- Hannahstown Community Association in the Population Category: the only rural community within Belfast, they run a community facility in the West of the City;
- Forum for Action on Substance Abuse: FASA work across Belfast with those who are affected by drugs, alcohol and other substances;
- Artability in the Theme Category: this group provide art, music and drama workshops which highlight the issues of disability and cultural awareness at a community level, in order to promote integration, equality and cultural diversity;
- Taughmonagh Community Forum in the Non-population Housing Estate Category: TCF help coordinate community programmes and projects within their area in the south of the city.

#### Key Issues

The Pride of Place competition is a prestigious all Ireland competition with a high profile throughout the Island of Ireland, President Mary McAleese and Stormont ministers both having attended the prize giving.

All the groups nominated to date have feedback positive and tangible benefits from their association with the competition. These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.

#### Resource Implications

##### Financial

The cost per entrant is £500, with a maximum of 6 entrants per council (one per category, 4 suitable entrants have been identified for Belfast).

Should the Members agree to enter the 2010 competition, it is proposed that the Council should pay the entry fees as well as the travel and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development (or their nominees) together with a maximum of three persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony.

The total cost is estimated at £5,000 including subsistence, travel and accommodation for one night. This would be funded from existing budgets.

#### Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the entry of the following groups in the Pride of Place Cities competition 2010:
  - Hannahstown Community Association
  - F.A.S.A.
  - Artability
  - Taughmonagh Community Forum
  
2. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair and the Director of Development (or their nominees) together with a maximum of three persons per external project (maximum twelve in total) at the 2010 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants' fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

#### Decision Tracking

Further to approval arrangements will be made to attend the 2010 awards ceremony.

Time line: November 2010

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

#### Key to Abbreviations

FASA: Forum for Action on Substance Abuse

TCF: Taughmonagh Community Forum

#### Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2010 - Categories and Proposed Entrants.