



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Ulster History Circle Blue Plaques
<b>Date:</b>	3 April 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Robert Heslip, Culture & Heritage Officer, ext 3583

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Ulster History Circle is a voluntary organisation which erects blue plaques 'in honour of men and women who have contributed to the Province's history' according to criteria set out in Appendix 1. Their committee contains a range of expertise and is independent but will take nominations for plaques to commemorate people who meet their criteria
1.2	In October 2009 and December 2010 Committee agreed to fund eight and nine plaques respectively to commemorate people within Belfast. The mechanism by which this has been done is by the submission of a list by the Circle which Council agrees to fund. The Ulster History Circle does the research, obtains permission from the building owner, has the plaque manufactured, arranges the launch and issues a press release
1.3	Currently there are 17 plaques in the city centre; 11 in the north and west; 17 in the south; 9 in the east. These are detailed on the Ulster History Circle's website <a href="http://www.ulsterhistory.co.uk/plaques.htm">http://www.ulsterhistory.co.uk/plaques.htm</a>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	A request has been received from the Ulster History Circle for council to fund six additional Blue Plaques (listed in Appendix 2) in the next financial year and further ten over the years 2013 - 2015. The Circle have been urged to ensure that the plaques are spread across the city as far as possible, reflect the council's tourism place destinations and cover a range of different types of people who have made significant contributions to our society, as well as aligning with the strategic themes identified by Council in its corporate policies. The cost is £800 per plaque.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The cost of the proposal would be £4800 in the financial year 2012-13 and £4000 in each of 2013-14 and 2014 – 2015. This would come from existing budgets.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	The list of plaques submitted will, as far as possible, be representative of all the people of Belfast

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are requested to agree funding of £4800 in 2012 – 2013 and £4000 in each of the following two years for the erection of sixteen Blue Plaques in total by the Ulster History Circle, subject to an agreed list. Members are invited to submit any proposals for blue plaques and the process is set out Appendix 3.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
None Required.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
DOE – Department of the Environment	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 – Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque criteria Appendix 2 – List of proposed plaques and locations Appendix 3 – Proposing a Plaque	