



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Older Volunteer Award and Presentation Event
Date:	21 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Atlantic Philanthropies fund a five year project (Unlocking Potential) delivered by Volunteer Now that works to increase the involvement of those aged 50 and over as volunteers.
1.2	Part of the project's remit is to increase recognition and awareness for the considerable input made by older volunteers across Northern Ireland. In 2011, as part of the European Year of Volunteering, Belfast City Council worked with Volunteer Now to develop and promote an Older Volunteer of the Year Award. The aim of the Award is to recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution made by people aged 60 and over to the work of organisations, groups and communities across Belfast.
1.3	Volunteer Now is offering funding towards the Belfast City Council Older Volunteer of the Year Award for the next 2 years. This will be £500 per year for the next two calendar years to support any administration/event costs that Belfast City Council may incur.
1.4	In 2011 there were 15 older volunteers nominated by 11 organisations. The nominees ranged in age from 60 to 83 and were nominated by a range of organisations from small community based to larger charitable organisations.
1.5	The overall winner of the 2011 Award was Jim Pierce a volunteer with Lighthouse: an organisation that works with those bereaved through suicide or sudden death. There were also 2 runners up: Jonene McMaster from Parenting NI and Lynn Davidson from Ulster Cancer Foundation.
1.6	The winner and two runners up received their awards from the Lord Mayor, Cllr Niall Ó Donnaghaile, and Chair of the Cross Party Older People's group, Cllr Bernie Kelly, at a presentation event in the Lord Mayor's Parlour
1.7	2012 is the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. One of the aims of the Year is to ensure greater recognition of what older people bring to society. The Belfast City Council Older Volunteer Award actively contributes to this aim.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Award provides an opportunity for organisations across the City to recognise and value their older volunteers
2.2	Volunteer Now is keen to support Belfast City Council to run the award scheme again. As with last year organisations across the City will be invited to nominate individuals aged 60 and over, whose dedication, commitment and enthusiasm as a volunteer has made a significant contribution to local people and the community as a whole during the last year.
2.3	This Award offers an opportunity for cross departmental working through the involvement of the Older People's thematic group. This group will provide additional support for the award and will be represented on the judging panel along with Volunteer Now and an officer from Community Services.
2.4	It is envisaged that the award presentation event will take place on Wednesday 5 December in the Reception Room of City Hall. The Lord Mayor and Chair of the All Party Reference Group on Older People will be invited to make the presentations to the winner, two runners up and nominees. The morning event will finish with a buffet lunch.
2.5	

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Volunteer Now is offering £500 towards the cost of awards and the event
3.2	The Older People's thematic group has offered £2,000 towards the cost of the project.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality or good relations considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. support the Older Volunteer of the Year Award 2012. ii. agree that the Older Volunteer Award presentation event for all nominees be held in City Hall on 5 December 2012. iii. agree for hospitality in the form of a buffet lunch to be provided as part of the award event. iv. agree for Community Services to accept the offer of sponsorship towards the Older Volunteer Award for the next two years from Volunteer Now.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Recommended action to be carried out by Clare Mullen by December 2012.