



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Women in Business Awards
Date:	6 November 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that approval was granted at the 18 September 2012 meeting of the Development Committee for Belfast City Council sponsorship of a category as part of the Women in Business Awards 2012. This event will take place on 22 November 2012.
1.2	The awards are being sponsored by a range of public and private partners including Vodafone, Ulster Bank, Queen's University, Carlton Baxter, Isaac Agnew and Invest NI.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Members previously agreed that Belfast City Council should support the "Best Small Business" category at the awards. This award recognises an outstanding small business which demonstrates a high level of service, is profitable and shows innovation.
2.2	The shortlisted companies and individuals have now been announced. Belfast City Council's Head of Human Resources has been shortlisted in the category of Advancing Diversity in the Workplace.
2.3	As part of the sponsorship package, a table with places for up to 10 guests has been made available (over 400 guests in total expected to attend). It is recommended that invitations be extended to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee (or nominees); Councillor Bernie Kelly (the Council's women's champion); the Director of Development and Head of Economic Initiatives; the Head of Human Resources and four other guests (nominations to be agreed in advance).

2.4	Also as part of the sponsorship package, it is expected that a representative from Belfast City Council will present the Best Small Business award on the evening.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	No specific resources – category sponsorship approved.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	These events are intended to acknowledge, celebrate and reward the achievements of women in business.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the agreement to sponsor the Best Small Business category at the Women in Business awards on 22 November 2012- Note the allocation of a table for up to 10 guests as part of the sponsorship package- Agree the attendance at the event of the named representatives and nominate other individuals whom it may be appropriate to invite to the event.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no specific decision tracking required.	