



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Attendance at NILGA Awards – 28 February 2013
Date:	19 February 2013
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	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) will be holding its Annual Conference and Exhibition on Thursday 28 February 2013 in the Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry. Similar to previous years, the event will incorporate the Local Government Awards.
1.2	At its meeting on the 23 November 2012, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee authorised attendance at the NILGA Conference by the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair, elected Members who are represented on NILGA and appropriate Chief Officers (or their nominees).
1.3	Details of the projects short-listed for an award have now been issued and there are a number of these in which the Development Committee is involved.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Local Government Awards will be held in the evening of the 28 February 2013 and seek to recognise and showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and outstanding commitment from councillors, councils and officers. The 2013 Awards cover seven categories.
2.2	Correspondence has been received recently from NILGA confirming that a number of Belfast City Council-led initiatives have been nominated as finalists for three categories as set out below. <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Best Initiative by a Councillor/Councillors – Elected Members of Belfast City Council for Belfast Investment Programme– Best European Funded Project - Belfast Enterprise Academy– Best Joint Initiative – Super Connected Belfast.

2.3	The overall winners of the Local Government Awards will be announced at the event on 28 February 2013 in the Everglades Hotel. A listing of finalists across all categories is set out at Appendix 1.
2.4	In the event that the Council is successful in winning one or more of the categories in which we are shortlisted as finalists, it will be important that there is representation from the Committee to receive the associated Local Government Award. It is therefore recommend that the Chair of Development Committee (or nominee) attend the event.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	All shortlisted finalists receive a free place at the Awards Ceremony Event.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no specific equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the nominations for the NILGA awards - Agree to attendance at the event by the Chair of Development Committee (or nominee).

6	Key to Abbreviations
NILGA – Northern Ireland Local Government Association	

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Shortlisted finalists for all award categories	

APPENDIX 1

The 2012 Local Government Award Categories and Finalists are:

Best Local Authority Service Team – Award Partner Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE):

1. Antrim Borough Council – Customer Services Team
2. Cookstown District Council – Leisure Disability Working Group
3. Lisburn City Council – Sports Services Unit ‘Review and Refocus’

Best Initiative by a Councillor / Councillors – Award Partner NAC:

1. The Elected Members of Belfast City Council – Belfast Investment Programme
2. Alderman William Leathem and Councillor Uel Mackin, Lisburn City Council – Benefit take up pilot programme
3. Councillor Billy Webb, Councillor Robert Hill and Alderman William DeCourcy, Newtownabbey Borough Council – Youth Zone

Best Sustainable Development Initiative – Sustainable Economy - Award Partner NILGA

1. Coleraine Borough Council – The Portrush / Portstewart Environmental Improvement Programme
2. Derry City Council – Walled City Partnership – Townscape Heritage Initiative
3. Newry and Mourne District Council – Development Management Planning Site and Strategic Partnership

Human Resource Services Award – Award Partner (NIJC)

1. Antrim Borough Council - healthY people = healthy performance
2. Lisburn City Council - HR 20:20 – Developing a clear vision for the future through continuous improvement
3. Newtownabbey Borough Council – Human Resources Team

Best European Funded Project - Award Partner Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)

1. Belfast City Council – Belfast Enterprise Academy
2. Down District Council – Beyond Project

Best Joint Initiative – Award Partner SOLACE

1. Belfast City Council – Super Connected Belfast
2. Coleraine Borough Council – Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership – Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Programme
3. Magherafelt District Council – Greenvale Leisure Centre

Employee of the Year – Award Partner William Johnston Memorial Trust (WJMT)

1. Ballymena Borough Council - Shauna Lagan
2. Ballymoney Borough Council - Keith Beattie
3. Lisburn City Council - Brendan Courtney