



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Pride of Place Competition 2013
Date:	23 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. For the past 4 years following committee approval, Community Service officers have taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.
1.2	The Pride of Place competition is run by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the All Island Local Authority Steering forum, a forum which encourages strategic and sustainable approaches to cross-border co-operation by Local Authorities.
1.3	The Pride of Place competition recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area. It differs from other similar projects in that they specifically recognise the involvement of the local community in all aspects of rural and urban regeneration including, promoting social cohesion, involvement in planning, the promotion of heritage and environmental awareness.
1.4	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 high-profile awards ceremony, hosted by a previous winning council, each autumn.
1.5	This year's awards ceremony is scheduled to take place in Derry City, venue to be confirmed.
1.6	This year marked the tenth year of the Pride of Place Competition. At this year's event Belfast won four prizes in the competition including Best Local Authority Award. Three Local community groups, nominated by Council : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upper Anderstown,- Lower Ormeau,- Willow field Parish All won awards at the ceremony which was held in Limerick.

1.7	All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced 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.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The service has identified four suitable groups who have attributes to compete strongly on behalf of the city for 2013. These include;</p> <p><u>Black Mountain Community Action Group in the under 1,000 population category.</u> Based in Greater Shankill Area of the city, the group aims to improve the quality of life of local residents through education, health, arts and culture and social well being and to “regenerate the area and to empower the local community.</p> <p><u>Falls Partnership Initiative in the over 1,000 population category.</u> The Falls Partnership Initiative was established in 2005 as a broad based community partnership for groups delivering projects and programmes in the Falls Ward. The aim of the partnership is to encourage co-ordinated and collaborative approaches involving residents in local decision making and service delivery. In 2005/06 the Falls Partnership Initiative consulted widely in the area and through an audit of local needs it launched the first Community Plan in 2006. This strategy was based on a range of interrelated thematic programmes including Family Support, Health & Well Being, Education & Training, and Children & Young People. The Partnership continues to implement local programmes and deliver services in partnership with other key voluntary, community and statutory stakeholders.</p> <p><u>New Lodge Arts under the Community Arts Initiative</u> A community based arts organisation working specifically with young people within the New Lodge & wider North Belfast area.</p> <p>The organisation promotes the arts generally including dance, theatre, music, video, computer arts, literature & painting. Work with local young people includes the provision of projects, workshops, classes, performance opportunities, outreach and specifically those activities which make the arts relevant to the community.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Mount Vernon Community Development Forum under the Housing Estates (not population specific)</u> Mount Vernon Community Development Forum is a local community organisation based in the lower North Belfast area delivering local services and supporting delivery of a capacity building programme. Over the past number of years work has been taking place to develop an integrated locality planning model which has involved the establishment of a Community Interest Company (social enterprise).</p>
2.3	The following groups have won their categories since Belfast City first entered the competition 10 years ago.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ballysillan Ardoyne Community garden Project (2004) - Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004) - Lagan Legacy (2005) - Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006) - Newtownards Road Women's Group (2006) - Greater Village Regeneration Trust (2007) - Lower Ormeau Residents action Group (2008) - Engage with Age East/South (2008) - North Belfast Women's Initiative & support Group (2009) - Forum for Action on substance Abuse (2010) - Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011) - Finaghy Crossroads Project (2011) - The Heart Project (2011) - Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011) - Upper Anderstown (2012) - Lower Ormeau (2012) - Willowfield Parish (2012)
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost per entrant is £500 and 4 suitable entrants have been identified. Should the Members agree to enter the 2013 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) and the project officer, 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 £5,500 including subsistence, travel and accommodation for one night; this would be funded from existing budgets.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no human resource implications resulting from this report. The Community Resources Team within community services will lead on the project.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications, with regard to Council assets or strategic planning, resulting from this project.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>Organisations nominated for the Pride of Place Awards reflect the diversity of the city and will promote equality of opportunity and good relations amongst nominees.</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approve the entry of 4 proposed groups to the Pride of Place Awards 2013. ii. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the deputy Chair, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (maximum twelve in total) at the 2012 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6	Decision Tracking
Timeline: May to November 2013	Contact officer: Catherine Taggart

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2013 – Categories	