



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Pride of Place Competition 2014
<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Mc Grillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. For the past 5 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	In 2013 we entered the following 4 groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Black Mountain Community Action Group in the under 1,000 population category</li><li>- Falls Partnership Initiative in the over 1,000 population category</li><li>- New Lodge Arts under the community arts initiative</li></ul>

	<p>- Mount Vernon under the housing estates (non population specific category)</p> <p>Black Mountain Community Action Group won an award at the ceremony which was held in the City of Derry hotel.</p>
1.6	<p>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.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The service alongside other internal departments and support from external agencies have identified five suitable groups who have attributes to compete strongly on behalf of the city for 2014</p>
2.2	<p><u>The Oak in the under 1,000 population category</u></p> <p>The Oak Partnership based in the East of the City was established to advance education and the promotion of health and well-being and to promote the benefit of children, young people and adults in the Clarawood Community and surrounding areas in Belfast. The group educates and assists such young people through their leisure-time activities so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities to enable them to grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Ligoneil Improvement Association in the over 1,000 population category</u></p> <p>The Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIA) based in North Belfast is a charitable, community based organisation established in 1974 to improve the quality of life in Ligoniel for all its residents. It provides an integrated, multidimensional resource and service to the community in their efforts to tackle problems of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion in this isolated part of North Belfast. Housed in the Wolfhill Community Development and Enterprise Centre, it provides a one stop shop for a variety of community services, facilities and resources available to encourage and assist community participation and involvement in the social and economic regeneration of the Ligoniel community. LIA have also played an integral part in the establishment of a regeneration strategy for Ligoniel, a response to the social issues affecting the area through decline of industry and lack of resources and facilities.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Sandyrow Community Forum under the Community Health Initiative category</u></p> <p>Sandy Row is one of the oldest residential districts in Belfast and is located just at the edge of Belfast City Centre.</p> <p>Sandy Row Community Forum (SRCF), was established in 1996, and acts as an umbrella organisation for all the local community groups, bringing together diverse social partners to benefit the area. At present, Sandy Row is undergoing a process of rebirth and the forum are striving to move the area forward and show what it has to offer - A prosperous and attractive place to live; a place where visitors and investors are welcome; a healthy, vibrant and positive community.</p>

2.5	<p><u>The Whiterock Hub under the Community Innovation category</u></p> <p>The aim of the Whiterock hub project is to improve the environmental quality around the Whiterock site so that it encourages the use of the services in and around the site, attracts community activity and participation that positively impacts on the regeneration of the site.</p> <p>The specific project proposals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Create a new playground and public realm area at the entrance of the site</li> <li>– Establish new community building(s) on the vacant site (Glor na Mona building) to contribute to a sense of community hub</li> <li>– Re-landscape the open space to make it more appealing area for the general public use, e.g. trim trail, paving. In addition, improve the connectivity between the Whiterock Road to the upper end of Falls Park.</li> <li>– Create new entry/access points for other service providers, including the improvement of the palisade perimeter fencing.</li> </ul>
2.6	<p><u>Windsor Women’s Centre under the Urban Neighbourhoods category</u></p> <p>Windsor Women’s Centre is situated in the Village area of South Belfast and has been operating since 1990. The centre works within a community development framework to develop and promote equality of opportunity and champion practices and policies to better the lives of women and their families. Situated in an area of high social and economic deprivation the Centre provides much needed services to meet the diverse needs of women and their families from the surrounding communities. They typically works with around 300 service users a week. Working with both the voluntary and community sectors, the centre endeavours to bring services to the area that are capable of supporting the women in the community towards building a better life for themselves and their families. Through these various programmes and services, the centre contributes significantly to community cohesion and social inclusion, in empowering women to become proactive and vocal members of the community.</p>
2.7	<p>The following groups have won their categories since Belfast city first entered the competition 11 years ago:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ballysillan Ardoyne Community garden Project (2004)</li> <li>– Council’s Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004)</li> <li>– Lagan Legacy (2005)</li> <li>– Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006)</li> <li>– Newtownards Road Women’s Group (2006)</li> <li>– Greater Village Regeneration Trust (2007)</li> <li>– Lower Ormeau Residents action Group (2008)</li> <li>– Engage with Age East/South (2008)</li> <li>– North Belfast Women’s Initiative &amp; support Group (2009)</li> <li>– Forum for Action on substance Abuse (2010)</li> <li>– Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)</li> <li>– Finaghy Crossroads Project (2011)</li> <li>– The Heart Project (2011)</li> <li>– Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)</li> <li>– Upper Anderstown (2012)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower Ormeau (2012)</li> <li>- Willowfield Parish (2012)</li> <li>- Blackmountain Community Action Group (2013)</li> </ul>
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The cost per entrant is £500 and 5 suitable entrants have been identified.
3.2	Should members agree to enter the 2014 competition, it is proposed that the Council should pay the entry fees, organised transport costs and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer with a maximum of two persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony which is being held in Treacys West Country Hotel in Ennis on Saturday 15th November.
3.3	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications resulting from this report. The Community Resources Team within Community Services will lead on the project

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	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.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the entry of the 5 proposed groups to the Pride of Place Awards 2014.</li> <li>- 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 two persons per external project at the 2014 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: May to November 2014	Reporting officer: Catherine Taggart

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
Ligoneil Improvement Association (LIA) Sandyrow Community Forum (SRCF)	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2014 - categories	