### Relevant Background Information

1. **Members may recall that the Council is assessed each year by the British Toilet Association (BTA) regarding the standard of public toilets. The BTA is the main organisation for promoting and improving standards in “away from home” public toilets in the UK. Its activities include raising awareness and recognising good practice through national “Loo of the Year Awards”. The awards are sponsored by private companies and local tourist boards.**

2. **The awards have been taking place since 1987 and the Council has been successful over the years due to the high standards of its public toilet facilities. Last year the Council gained the following recognition for its public toilet provision:**

   - National Winner in Northern Ireland for our Public Toilet provision
   - Attendant of the year award for the mobile cleaning teams
   - Champions League Standards of Excellence Award
   - Premier League, Local Authority Award
   - City Hall Toilets, National Category Winner, Northern Ireland (Heritage)
   - Custom House Automatic Toilets, National Category Winner, Northern Ireland (Public Toilets)
   - Winetavern Street Toilets, National Category Winner, Northern Ireland (Public Toilets)

3. **As well as the seven gongs, 10 council toilets picked up gold awards: Arthur Lane, Church Lane, Agnes Street, Connswater, Ormeau embankment, Drumglass Park, Gasworks, Dublin Road, Antrim Road and Lombard Street.**
1.4. Keeping with the Olympic theme in 2012, the 3, 4 and 5 star awards were replaced with Bronze, Silver and Gold and a new Platinum award was introduced to recognise excellence in public toilet provision over and above the Gold award.

2. **Key Issues**

2.1. In keeping with previous year’s entries, Waste Management submitted the following public toilet facilities to this year’s “Loo of the Year” for consideration:

- Winetavern Street
- Church Lane
- Arthur Lane
- Agnes Street
- Lombard Street (APC)
- Customs House Square (APC)
- Gasworks Park (APC)
- Antrim Road (APC)
- Dublin Road (APC)
- Ormeau Embankment
- Drumglass Park, Lisburn Road
- Connswater, Hollywood Arches

2.2. The City Hall was also entered by Property and Projects Department. This year’s “Loo of the Year Awards” event was held on 6th December 2013 in the St John’s Hotel, Solihull, England. The Council was not represented at this year’s award ceremony.

The Council achieved the following recognition for its public toilet provision:

- National Winner in NI for our Public Toilet provision
- National Winner in NI for Accessible Toilets
- Premier League, Local Authority Award
- City Hall Toilets, National Category Winner, NI (Heritage)
- Gas Works Automatic Toilets, National Category Winner, NI (Public Toilets)
- Winetavern Street Toilets, National Category Winner, NI (Public Toilets)

2.3. One of the key performance indicators for the Service in 2013 was to achieve 7 Gold, Loo of the Year Awards, the actual achievement was twelve 11 Gold and 1 Platinum award.

2.4. The overall 2013 UK “Loo of the Year” Winner for the UK was Brighton and Hove City Council.

3. **Resource Implications**

3.1. **Financial**

The Council did not attend this award ceremony, therefore no cost were incurred

3.3. **Human Resources**

None
### 3.4 Asset and Other Implications

The awards represent ongoing recognition of the continual service provision which the Council has taken to provide away from home public toilet facilities for the residents and visitors to Belfast.

### 4 Equality Implications

#### 4.1
There are no Equality implications associated with this report.

### 5 Recommendation

#### 5.1
The Committee is requested to note the report.

### Decision Tracking

None.

### Key to Abbreviations

- BTA – British Toilet Association
- APC – Automatic Public Convenience

### Documents Attached

None