



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Awards 2010
Date:	10 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The annual Local Government Awards 'aim to showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and personal commitment from councillors and officers'.
1.2	In December, the Department submitted two entries for the 2010 awards: (i) in the category of Best Local Authority Service Team – the 'Standards pilot' group which worked on the Department's submissions to achieve the Green Flag standard for Roselawn Cemetery, Ormeau Park and Falls Park, and (ii) in the category of Best Business Improvement Project – the Parks and Leisure departmental improvement programme.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The department has been selected as one of three finalists in the category of Best Business Improvement Project, sponsored by NILGA.
2.2	The category recognises achievement in challenging traditional methods of service delivery, resulting in significant improvement in service delivery or business performance through improved use of technology, process or organisational redesign, or innovation in service delivery.
2.3	The entry for the departmental improvement programme highlighted the aims of the programme, the extensive work that has been undertaken to date by the task groups and reference panels, the communications mechanisms used in keeping staff informed, as well as the range benefits to all stakeholders involved.

2.4	A further four applications submitted by other departments have been selected as finalists in other categories. An evening dinner and presentation event will take place following the annual NILGA conference in La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castlereagh, on 10 February 2011 (today).
2.5	Current Council policy is that two representatives will attend per finalist application – in this instance the Chairman of Committee will attend with the Head of Parks and Leisure.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> As finalists in the awards, the Department is allocated 2 free places at the award ceremony dinner.

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality implications.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report.

6.0	Decision Tracking
A report will be brought to Committee in March, indicating the outcome of the awards.	

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
NILGA – Northern Ireland Local Government Association	

8.0	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Departmental submission for Best Business Improvement Project.	