



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion – John Luke Proposal
Date:	4th February, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6312
Contact Officer:	As above.

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 4th February, the undernoted Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O' Muilleoir and seconded by Councillor Kyle:</p> <p>“John Luke (1906-1975) is one of Belfast's most celebrated artists and among our great city's most famous sons. His works of astonishing beauty adorn Belfast City Hall (in the form of his striking 1951 mural on the granting of a city charter to Belfast in 1613, painted for the Festival of Britain) and he is being honoured by a special retrospective now showing at the Ulster Museum.</p> <p>According to the programme for that exhibition, John Luke "was a painter, muralist, printmaker and sculptor, who began his life working in the city's shipyards. A modernist who was dedicated to craftsmanship, Luke's work is characterised by a unique sense of 'rhythm' he found in Ulster as a region."</p> <p>Among the most stunning works of this revered Belfast artist are several evocative landscapes of the Lagan River. It is of note that his credo as a painter was poetically captured by Luke in 1945 in the magazine Lagan: "I believe in the curve, the straight line and the holy shape, colour-relations, tone and design – all which go to make a living thing and not a culled mistake." His mesmerising tempera masterpieces were, he said, products of "going modern and being Irish".</p> <p>One of his most-loved works, 'The Locks at Edenderry' (one of several of the Lagan), depicts the point where the current Council-mooted Lagan Gateway scheme would culminate. This Council therefore agrees that it would be fitting for the City of Belfast to honour John Luke by naming the new bridge (currently without any formal name) being restored by the Council across the Lagan at Newforge in honour of this great artist who has left such a marvellous legacy to our citizens.”</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor indicated that the matter would be referred to the Development Committee without debate.</p>

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the Notion of Motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.

