



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Invitation to Commemoration Ceremonies - Government of the Irish Republic
Date:	23rd March, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council, at its meeting on 4th January, 2012, passed the undernoted resolution:
1.2	“This Council, in consultation with the Royal British Legion, wishes to extend an invitation to the Government of the Republic of Ireland to participate, following normal protocols, from 2012 onwards in the Commemoration to mark the Battle of the Somme and the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Belfast.”

2	Key Issues
2.1	A meeting was held recently with the President of the Royal British Legion who confirmed that, at its Northern Ireland Executive Committee meeting on 16th February, there was unanimous support for the Council’s resolution. The Royal British Legion also wished to convey its appreciation to the Council for the fact that it had sought its views on the matter before proceeding.
2.2	Given that the Legion is in full support of the Council’s resolution, a letter will now be sent to the Government of the Irish Republic inviting it to participate in both the Commemoration to mark the Battle of the Somme and the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony.

3	Resource Implications
	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the support of the Royal British Legion.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager April 2012	