



<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Northern Ireland Local Government Association Conference and Local Government Awards Ceremony
<b>Date:</b>	08 February 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney (Ext. 6202)

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Relevant Background Information</u></b>								
1.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) will be holding its Annual Conference and Exhibition on Thursday 28 February 2013 in the Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry. Similar to previous years the event will incorporate also the Local Government Awards.								
1.2	At its meeting on the 23 November 2012, the Committee authorised attendance at the NILGA Conference of the Chairman, Deputy Chair of the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources, elected Members who are represented on NILGA and appropriate Chief Officers (or their nominees). Attached at <b>Appendix 1</b> is a list of those Members who have confirmed attendance to date.								
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>								
	<b><i>Local Government Awards Ceremony</i></b>								
2.1	The Local Government Awards will be held in the evening of the 28 February 2012 and seek to recognise and showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and outstanding commitment from councillors, councils and officers. The 2013 Awards cover seven categories (details of which are set out at <b>Appendix 2</b> ).								
2.2	Correspondence has been received recently from NILGA confirming that Belfast City Council lead initiatives have been nominated as <u>finalists</u> for three categories as set out below. <table border="1" data-bbox="199 1332 1500 1624"> <thead> <tr> <th>AWARDS CATEGORY</th> <th>BCC INITIATIVE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>- <b>Best Initiative by a Councillor / Councillors</b></td> <td>Elected Members of Belfast City Council for <b>Belfast Investment Programme</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>- <b>Best European Funded Project</b></td> <td><b>Belfast Enterprise Academy</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>- <b>Best Joint Initiative</b></td> <td><b>Super Connected Belfast</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The overall winners of the Local Government Awards will be announced at the gala awards dinner on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in the Everglades Hotel. A listing of finalists across all nine categories is set out at <b>Appendix 3</b>.</p>	AWARDS CATEGORY	BCC INITIATIVE	- <b>Best Initiative by a Councillor / Councillors</b>	Elected Members of Belfast City Council for <b>Belfast Investment Programme</b>	- <b>Best European Funded Project</b>	<b>Belfast Enterprise Academy</b>	- <b>Best Joint Initiative</b>	<b>Super Connected Belfast</b>
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2.3	In the event that the Council is successful in winning one or more of the categories shortlisted as finalists, it will be important that there is representation from the Committee to receive the associated Local Government Award. It is suggested, for the Committees consideration, that the Chair (or nominee) may wish to attend the Awards Ceremony on behalf of the Committee.								

### **3.0 Resource Implications**

All shortlisted finalists receive a free place at the Awards Ceremony Event.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee consider authorising the attendance of the Chair (or nominee) to the Local Government Awards Ceremony.

### **5.0 Appendix**

**Appendix 1** List of confirmed attendees from Belfast City Council

**Appendix 2** Local Government Awards Categories

**Appendix 3** Local Government Award Finalists

## **APPENDIX 1**

- Councillor Tom Ekin (not staying for awards ceremony)
  - Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín (not staying for awards ceremony)
  - Councillor Pat Convery (staying for awards ceremony)
  - Councillor Mervyn Jones (staying for awards ceremony)
- 
- Ciaran Quigley, Assistant Chief Executive
  - Shirley McCay, Head of Economic initiatives
  - Kevin Heaney, Programme Manager, Local Government Reform
  - Neil Dunlop, Special Planning Advisor

## APPENDIX 2

# AWARD CATEGORY DETAILS



### **BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE TEAM**

*Sponsored by Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)*

Submissions will be accepted from teams providing both larger scale services such as refuse collection, street cleansing, environmental health or leisure services, and smaller teams responsible for, for example, community safety, abandoned vehicles or cultural services.



This award is part funded by the 2007-2013 Northern Ireland European Competitiveness and Employment Programme.

### **BEST EUROPEAN FUNDED LOCAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE**

*Sponsored by Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)*

This award will be presented to a local authority or a group of local authorities who can demonstrate material success having worked individually or in clusters with local / social enterprises. By applying European investment in a manner that has innovatively added value to, and created greater sustainability for, a key sector or sectors of the applicants district/s. It will focus especially on the tangible impact and outcomes that the European funded project had at a local level and how it can be considered as an example of best-practice by other regions.



### **BEST INITIATIVE BY A COUNCILLOR / COUNCILLORS**

*Sponsored by National Association of Councillors (NAC)*

This award will be presented to the most innovative project led by a councillor or councillors which contributes to the well being of the local community. Entries will be accepted in relation to social, environmental or economic projects.



### **BEST JOINT INITIATIVE**

*Sponsored by the Northern Ireland branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE NI)*

This award will include all partnerships that councils have been involved in with councils or other organisations in the wider public, private or voluntary sector. This category highlights the benefits of collaborative working. Submissions should note the advantages gained from cases where councils and other organisations have worked together and the benefits to citizens, partners, councillors, staff and the wider community.



### **BEST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE - SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

*Sponsored by Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)*

This award will be presented to the most innovative project or initiative demonstrating local government leadership and commitment to action on sustainable development principles. This should include projects focusing on an integrated approach to social, economic and environmental well-being within a target area. This year, we would particularly like to encourage projects focusing on local economic development, sustainable procurement, community environmental action or the green or social economy.



### **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

*Sponsored by the William Johnston Memorial Trust (WJMT)*

This category is intended to give public recognition to employees who, through their enthusiasm, activities, innovation, commitment or other positive attributes, have made a commendable contribution to the performance of the council.



### **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES AWARD**

*Sponsored by the Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services (NIJC)*

The award recognises the valuable work undertaken by council human resources teams in supporting delivery of councils objectives. It will be awarded to the human resources team that demonstrates development and implementation of human resources strategy aligned to corporate objectives, clear evidence of leadership by senior human resources management, positive engagement with trade unions and other key stakeholders and impact on organisational performance.

## APPENDIX 3

### **The 2012 Local Government Award Categories and Finalists are:**

#### ***Best Local Authority Service Team – Award Partner Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE):***

1. Antrim Borough Council – Customer Services Team
2. Cookstown District Council – Leisure Disability Working Group
3. Lisburn City Council – Sports Services Unit ‘Review and Refocus’

#### ***Best Initiative by a Councillor / Councillors – Award Partner NAC:***

1. The Elected Members of Belfast City Council – Belfast Investment Programme
2. Alderman William Leathem and Councillor Uel Mackin, Lisburn City Council – Benefit take up pilot programme
3. Councillor Billy Webb, Councillor Robert Hill and Alderman William DeCourcy, Newtownabbey Borough Council – Youth Zone

#### ***Best Sustainable Development Initiative – Sustainable Economy - Award Partner NILGA***

1. Coleraine Borough Council – The Portrush / Portstewart Environmental Improvement Programme
2. Derry City Council – Walled City Partnership – Townscape Heritage Initiative
3. Newry and Mourne District Council – Development Management Planning Site and Strategic Partnership

#### ***Human Resource Services Award – Award Partner (NIJC)***

1. Antrim Borough Council - healthY people = healthy performance
2. Lisburn City Council - HR 20:20 – Developing a clear vision for the future through continuous improvement
3. Newtownabbey Borough Council – Human Resources Team

#### ***Best European Funded Project - Award Partner Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)***

1. Belfast City Council – Belfast Enterprise Academy
2. Down District Council – Beyond Project

#### ***Best Joint Initiative – Award Partner SOLACE***

1. Belfast City Council – Super Connected Belfast
2. Coleraine Borough Council – Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership – Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Programme
3. Magherafelt District Council – Greenvale Leisure Centre

#### ***Employee of the Year – Award Partner William Johnston Memorial Trust (WJMT)***

1. Ballymena Borough Council - Shauna Lagan
2. Ballymoney Borough Council - Keith Beattie
3. Lisburn City Council - Brendan Courtney

#### **For more information please contact:**

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