



Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Operation Banner – Dedication Ceremony
Date:	Friday 19 April 2013
Reporting	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager

Relevant Background Information	
1	<p>The Committee will be aware that, following a short consultation exercise and having considered various options, the Council agreed at its meeting on 1 November 2012:</p> <p>“That the memorial to the servicemen and women should take the form of:</p> <p>(ii) The modification of the existing UDR window at the City Hall to include the “Conspicuous Gallantry Cross” awarded by Her Majesty the Queen in 2006; and</p> <p>(i) The location of a granite bench with the inscription “Placed here to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women of Her Majesty’s Forces during Operation Banner 1969-2007” in the Garden of Remembrance at the City Hall;</p> <p>subject to such provision being considered as part of the overall Equality Impact Assessment in the City Hall”.</p>
2	<p>The full Equality Impact Assessment of memorabilia in the City Hall was approved by the Council on 3 December 2012. The next stage in this will be the development of a detailed Action Plan, which is still being discussed within Party Groups and may take some time to be agreed in full.</p>
3	<p>In view of the fact that the original Notice of Motion requesting a memorial had been agreed in 2007, some Members were keen that work on these two items should proceed in advance of the main Action Plan and requested that these be considered separately.</p>
4	<p>This request was considered by the Council’s Joint Diversity Group of Party Group Leaders and Centenaries Working Group at its meeting on 1 March 2013. The Joint Diversity Group agreed that work on these two items should proceed in advance of the main action plan and agreed the proposal should be forwarded to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for their consideration.</p>
5	<p>At its meeting on 22 March 2013 the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed designs for the modification of the UDR window and a granite bench for the Garden of Remembrance at the City Hall in relation to a memorial for Operation Banner. This decision was ratified by Council on 3 April 2013.</p>

Key issues	
6	The Committee is requested to grant approval to the holding of an appropriate dedication ceremony to mark the installation of the revised UDR window and the memorial bench.
7	The most suitable time for such a ceremony appears to be the morning of Sunday 2 June. A solemn dignified ceremony, led by the Lord Mayor, to mark the contribution of all those who served in Operation Banner, would be held at the City Hall. Invitations would be extended appropriately and a short dedication service held.

Equality and Good Relations Implications	
8	<p>The Council agreed in the recent City Hall EQIA that one of its aims is: "to manage Belfast City Hall and its grounds in order to help promote a good and harmonious environment for those who visit and work in the building, while reflecting both the diverse identities of its users and the several functions served by the City Hall, and acknowledging its prominent role in the civic life and history of Belfast."</p> <p>Such a ceremony would be in line with the Council's role in civic life.</p>

Resource Implications	
9	Small scale hospitality only would be involved and the cost of the event can be met within existing budgets.

Decision required	
10	The Committee is requested to grant authority to proceed with this dedication ceremony.