



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: **Notice of Motion – Stained Glass Window**

Date: 14th March, 2014

Reporting Officer: Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council had, at its meeting on 3rd April, referred the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Webb, to it for consideration;</p> <p><i>“This Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City Hall to commemorate the sons of our City who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.”</i></p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The Spanish Civil War was fought from 1936 to 1939 and involved a range of political factions, but mainly fascist and socialist forces. Most of the Irish volunteers who fought against Franco’s fascist forces were members of the Fifth International Brigade. Around 80 of those 320 Irishmen were from Northern Ireland, a significant proportion of which were from Belfast.</p>
2.2	<p>The installation of the stained glass window would need to be considered within the overall context of City Hall memorabilia. One of the Council’s primary objectives is to make the environment within the City Hall balanced and inclusive and to reflect the cultural backgrounds of all of the citizens of the City. As a first step, it is recommended that the matter should be referred to the Joint Group of the Party Leaders’ Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group for consideration and comment. Thereafter, it would be a matter for the Committee to determine.</p>
2.3	<p>This course of action would be in keeping with the methodology used by the Council in 2011, prior to the installation in the City Hall of the ‘Celtic Myths and Legends’ window in 2011, which had been referred to the former Memorabilia Working Group for initial comment.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Costs to be met from within existing budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the matter be referred initially to the Joint Group of Party Leaders' Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group for consideration and comment.

6	Decision Tracking
Democratic Services Section will implement any decision taken.	