



Subject:	Pride of Place Awards 2017
Date:	13 June 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on Belfast's Nominations for the Pride of Place Award 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Approve the entry of the 4 proposed groups to the Pride of Place Awards 2017.ii. Approve the accommodation allowance for the Judges' Assessment Visit to Belfast in August 2017.iii. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a

	<p>maximum of two persons per external project at the 2017 awards ceremony and approve the payment of corresponding entrant fees, travel, attendance and subsistence allowances.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years with Community Service Officers taking the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups. It is run by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the All Island Local Authority Steering forum, which encourages strategic and sustainable approaches to cross-border co-operation by Local Authorities.</p>
3.2	<p>The competition recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area.</p>
3.3	<p>Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited: all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. In previous years, entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success.</p>
3.4	<p>Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony which is hosted by a previous winning council. The 2016 Gala Event was hosted by Belfast City and Council, in November. This was a highly successful event attracting 1,000 people to Belfast, with guests travelling from as far away as Cork, Donegal and Dublin. The event also produced an economic return of approximately £400,000 over the weekend from visitor spend on accommodation, retail, entertainment, meals and drinks.</p>
3.5	<p>In 2016 the Council nominated;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Belfast Community Development Agency (Urban Neighbourhoods: Population over 2,000) ▪ Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (Urban Neighbourhoods: Population 1,000 – 2,000) ▪ Glór na Móna (Urban Neighbourhoods: Population under 1,000) ▪ Play Resource Warehouse (Community Enterprise Initiative)
3.6	<p>Three of the four nominations were winners in their respective category; East Belfast Development Agency; Glór na Móna and Play Resources Warehouse</p>

3.7	<p>All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced tangible benefits from their association with the competition. These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.8	<p>The service, alongside other internal departments and support from external agencies, has identified four suitable groups who have attributes to compete strongly on behalf of the city for 2017.</p> <p>The nominations are:</p>
3.9	<p>Urban Neighbourhood Over 2,000</p> <p>The Hanwood Trust Company Limited is a social enterprise and community development project based in Tullycarnet, East Belfast. The project vision is for Tullycarnet to become a centre of development for education, training, business, health, retail and recreation and the project is turning the vision into a reality. The facilities have been built to provide services to the whole community and the final completed project has now become a hub of activity and a model for best practice in this region.</p> <p>The Hanwood Centre consists of 4 phases of development which cover health and fitness, education and training, job creation and economic development.</p> <p>Facilities available to the community include 25 business units, meeting rooms, a 3G sports pitch, changing facilities and a fitness suite with over 4000 participants taking part in fitness activities, sports programmes and community lead cross community projects per month.</p> <p>On an old derelict dumping ground, the Hanwood Project and tenants currently employ over 160 people and 90% of employees are from the local community.</p>
3.10	<p>Urban Neighbourhood Under 1,000</p> <p>Lower Oldpark Community Association is a neighbourhood organisation providing a range of services to the residents of the Lower Oldpark area including Childcare, Youth Service, work with Older People, Advice and Community Development. Since 1972, LOCA has enabled the community to tackle the many problems of the area, including dereliction,</p>

lack of investment, social unrest, lack of community spirit and educational under-achievement.

Over the last seven years, LOCA has driven the physical renewal of the area, including the refurbishment of 26 long-term vacant and decaying properties and the development of seven new build social homes. Current projects include plans for affordable homes, retail facilities, and the upgrading of the local environment.

LOCA is a member of the Girdwood Community Forum working with neighbouring communities, Council and statutory partners. The Forum has been celebrated as a best practice model of early, ongoing and proactive community engagement particularly in relation to a large scale regeneration project on a historic interface

Situated at an interface location, LOCA works substantially on a cross-community basis to reduce conflict and tension with neighbouring communities. LOCA gives residents an opportunity to contribute to a process of positive change in their area. They work with residents to provide services in response to these problems, through the provision of a playgroup and an after schools club, women's group and youth provision. These services enable LOCA to lay the foundation for life-long learning and contribute to building community spirit.

3.11 **Community Environmental Initiative**

College Park Avenue Residents Association is a community regeneration group based in the Holyland area of South Belfast. This is an area of high architectural and historical importance that local residents believe has been negatively impacted by the overdevelopment of Houses of Multiple Occupancy engendering problems of anti-social behaviour, noise and rubbish pollution.

Statutory interventions to redress these have had limited success. In June 2015, local residents from College park Avenue, University Avenue and Rugby Road launched Wildflower Alley, a beautiful award winning garden developed through neighbours' voluntary labour, recycling and donations.

In 2016, DFI piloted a sustainable drainage scheme that separated storm water runoff from the existing combined sewer. This enabled the development of an attractive new rain permeable surface in the Alley. In 2017 the scheme will extend to College Park Avenue

itself, enhancing the streetscape and contributing to future flood risk management. This is the first such pilot project in Ireland and DFI are proud that it is community led

3.12 **Community Based Youth Initiative**

Upper Springfield Youth Team is a community youth work project which works with young people aged 11 to 25 years old from the Upper Springfield and Whiterock area. The project works to enhance the social inclusion, participation, educational attainment, and health & well-being of marginalised young people. It uses a 'needs-led' and outcome driven, community youth work approach which affirms the voluntary, emancipatory and democratic nature of the relationships between youth workers and young people.

USYT believe that effective work with children and young people must be underpinned by respect for their rights and their full and active participation. The project provides a clear pathway for the most excluded young people to become active citizens and community leaders in their own right.

The Youth Team reaches out to young people by engaging them 'where they are at'. This includes 'drop in' facilities on Friday and Saturday evenings, homework clubs, personal and social development programmes, sports and recreation programmes, health and well-being programmes, Irish medium youth work, experiential learning, 'cook it' programmes, community festivals, capacity support for community and sports groups, school transition programmes, youth diversionary programmes, cross community projects, Youth Assemblies and campaigns.

The Youth Team are active participants in the Whiterock Locality Planning pilot and contribute to the development of Council's Social Innovation process.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.13 The total cost is £5,000, which has been accounted for within the service budget for 2017/18. This includes:

- a cost per entrant is £500 and 4 suitable entrants have been identified,
- accommodation and associated costs for the Judges' assessment visit to Belfast up to a maximum of £500,
- entry fees, organised transport costs and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman the Deputy Chairman, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (or their nominees) and the project officer with a

3.14	<p>maximum of two persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony which is being held in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co.Donegal on 2 December 2017. (Up to maximum of £2,500)</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Organisations nominated for the Pride of Place awards reflect the diversity of the city and will promote equality of opportunity and good relations amongst nominees.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None