



Subject:	Illumination of Belfast Castle – The Samaritans
Date:	25th March, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibitions 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"/>
Sometime 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
1.1	The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention a request to illuminate Belfast Castle on the night of 21st December in recognition of the valuable contribution made by the Samaritans organisation.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Kyle and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

	<p>“This Council commends and recognises the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the period of Covid-19 and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear, day or night, 365 days a year, is to be commended.</p> <p>The Council also recognises the mental health challenges facing our society and agrees to illuminate the Belfast Castle in green (Samaritan colours) to mark the Longest Night on 21st December, to show people that the Samaritans are always there for them.”</p> <p>3.2 The Committee agreed that the element of the motion specifically requesting the illumination of the Belfast Castle on 21st December be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as an ‘Issue Raised in Advance’. The remainder of the motion, calling upon the Council to commend and recognise the work of the Samaritans, was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st March.</p> <p>3.3 The Committee should note that the motion originally requested that the City Hall be illuminated on 21st December. However, the proposer was advised that the building could not be illuminated on or around that date due to the Christmas lighting and, accordingly, agreed to amend his motion to call for Belfast Castle to be illuminated on that date instead.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The proposal will take equality and good relations implications into account.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None