

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 16th February, 2022

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Beattie, Ferguson and O'Hara.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Beattie take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

(Councillor Beattie in the Chair.)

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Installations – City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group Terms of Reference

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that the Strategic Policy Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st May, 2021 had agreed to the establishment of an All-Party Working Group – Installations: City Hall/City Grounds to consider and agree commissions for future installations in City Hall or City Hall grounds.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group had been circulated for the Members' consideration. She advised that the Working Group would be responsible for ensuring that any future installations in City Hall complied with and fulfilled the recommendations set out in the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment. The Working Group would report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to make recommendations and seek approval for investment decisions.

Officers had engaged with a number of external parties to explore their willingness to participate in the Working Group in an advisory capacity.

The Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities (HED) had indicated that it was content to participate in future meetings of the Working Group given the City Hall's Grade 1 Listed Status. Representatives were keen to assist the Council to ensure that any future installations met the necessary statutory requirements. HED had acknowledged the ongoing work to ensure that the City Hall and its grounds were inclusive and reflected the diverse nature of the City.

Following agreement by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st May, 2021, on the installation of statues to Mary Ann McCracken and Winifred Carney it was suggested that subject matter experts be invited to participate in the Working Group to inform an artist's brief. Officers had approached the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation who had nominated two representatives to attend the Working Group meetings on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore, it was recommended that Tom Hartley, Local Historian, be approached to provide background to inform an artist's brief for the installation of a statue of Winifred Carney.

The Working Group recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- i. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Installations: City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group; and
- ii. Agree the external statutory membership and subject matter expert membership.

Purpose Statement

- **To ensure Belfast City Hall¹ and its grounds are 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 functions served by the City Hall, whilst acknowledging its prominent role in the civic life and history of Belfast. This is in line with the recommendations of the EQIA 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment.**
- **The underpinning principles being that Council should move towards more balanced and inclusive displays in City Hall and by nature of the EQIA City Hall grounds and that these should be:**
 - **Welcoming**
 - **Attractive**
 - **Interesting**
 - **Representative of the history and heritage of Belfast**
 - **Representative of the diversity of the City**

¹ NB use of wording City Hall includes reference to both City Hall building and by extension the grounds of City Hall

The purpose of the Working Group is to:

- Consider and provide recommendations relating to City Hall and its grounds ensuring these are reflective of the principles set out in the EQIA whilst ensuring compliance with City Hall's status as a Grade 1 Listed Building;
- Make recommendations on any additionality² and give assurances to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with regard to City Hall and its grounds; and
- Take cognisance of any similar works/plans throughout the City to ensure complementarity.

Role of the Working Group:

1. Provide input on, and endorsement of, any additionality to City Hall and its grounds, to ensure these align with the EQIA 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment and corporate priorities/objectives;
2. Consider and provide recommendations on any additionality to City Hall, including the escalation of issues to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee;
3. Review and consider outstanding Notices of Motion in relation to installation of stained glass windows in City Hall with a view to taking these forward;
4. Take forward the procurement, design and installation of additional statues in City Hall grounds;
5. Take forward the installation of the Carson tile;
6. Review and consider and take forward the installation of the Municipal Arc;
7. Ensure there is complementarity and appropriate linkages with other planned installations within the City, that is, the Fredrick Douglass statue; and
8. Ensure that any future installations are underpinned by programming and supporting resources.

Accountability:

The City Hall Working Group will be accountable to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference.

All recommendations will be forwarded to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in line with Council's capital programme approval and investment processes.

² NB additionality includes, statutes, stained glass windows, municipal arc and any other memorabilia

Installation of Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken Statues City Hall Grounds

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

Members will recall that there have been ongoing discussions with regard to a number of issues related to installations and future installations in City Hall grounds following recommendations contained in the City Hall EQIA. In particular to the installation of two statues on the front lawn of City Hall one representing Winifred Carney and the second Mary Ann McCracken.

SP&R at its meeting on 24 January 2020 agreed that the City Hall Statues Project be added as a Stage 1 Emerging Project on the Capital Programme. SP&R at its meeting on 21 May 2021 agreed to the installation of a statue of Winifred Carney, the final form of this statue to be brought back to Committee for approval and that the proposed work be moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme. At that same meeting it was agreed to the installation of a statue of Mary Ann McCracken in the grounds of City Hall, the final form of which would be submitted to the Committee in due course for approval as part of the Capital Programme. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status of works and to note that it is proposed to bring these into the SP&R Committee next month to seek approval to move the installation of both statues to Stage 3-Committed on the Capital Programme and to commence the procurement process for the design, manufacture and installation of both statues subject to Committee approval.

2.0 Recommendations

The Members of the Working Group are asked to

- i Note that it is proposed that the installation of the Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken statues are moved to Stage 3 -Committed on the Capital Programme to allow procurement to commence with final approval on designs and costs being taken by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee based on recommendations from Installations: City Hall/City Grounds Working Group. This will be subject to a planning being obtained and a satisfactory tender being returned. An indicative budget has been set to allow for the process to commence in terms of design, fabrication and installation. In line with the three stage approval process Members are asked to**

- note that the final budget will only be agreed upon the receipt of a satisfactory tender
- ii Note that one artist be appointed to undertake the design and installation of both Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken to ensure there is complementarity between both pieces
 - iii Consideration be given to participating in the Mary Ann McCracken walking tour and the James Connolly walking tour by way of providing some further background and history of each individual.

3.0 Main report

Discussions have been ongoing at Party Group Leaders in relation to additional statues within City Hall grounds. Following agreement at Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 May 2021 it was agreed that this Working Group Installations: City Hall/City Hall grounds be established to take forward the statues project.

A number of meetings have taken place with HED to ascertain if the installation of additional statutory in City Hall grounds would be something which would be acceptable given City Hall's Grade 1 Listed Status in light of the need to secure the necessary planning approvals. HED, in initial conversations, have indicated that they have no objections to the proposal and have agreed to act in an advisory capacity in not only taking the City Hall Statues Project forward but also in relation to all future City Hall installations.

There has been early engagement with the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation who have indicated their support for the installation of a statue and have agreed to provide support in the development of an artist's brief. The Mary Ann McCracken Foundation undertake significant work in promoting the work undertaken by Mary Ann McCracken and recognising the impact she, as an individual, had on the City of Belfast. The Foundation operate regular walking tours where Mary Ann's work and contribution to the City are explored in more detail – the Foundation would like to offer Members the opportunity to participant in a walking tour to give a flavour of the remarkable contribution Mary Ann made and the impact of her work not just in Belfast but on a wider scale. The Mary Ann McCracken walking tour concludes in City Hall grounds so a very fitting tribute to her would be the erection of a statue in the grounds. There is an opportunity to work with the Foundation to ensure Mary Ann's contribution to the City is celebrated and acknowledged through the development of supporting programming.

Winifred Carney's role as a women, as a Trade Unionist representing workers and as an Irish Nationalist and Republican is recognised in the work of the James Connolly

Museum. The James Connolly heritage trail commences in City Hall grounds so there would be an opportunity to establish a linkage with the walking tour should Members be minded. In terms of background for inclusion in an artist's brief it is suggested that as well as a family member that Tom Hartley, Historian, be invited to participate in the Working Group to inform an artist's brief.

Once the artist's brief has been finalised the procurement process can commence. This is a two-stage process, the first being PQQ (pre-qualification questionnaire) process in order to proceed to ITT (invitation to tender) stage. As part of the ITT stage the shortlisted artists are required to produce maquette (a small preliminary model). It is suggested that the Working Group are involved in all steps of the process to select the final designs. Based on similar public art installations it is expected that the fabrication of the final pieces including installation and securing planning can take between 6 to 10 months with a procurement exercise taking approximately 14 weeks.

Finance and Resource Implications

Based on similar public art procurement exercises it is expected that each piece may cost in the region of £150,000. Procurement for public art is slightly different from a normal procurement exercise in that the budget must be specified in order to inform the design and fabrication of the final piece. It is recommended that £300,000 be ringfenced in Council's capital budget for City Hall statues project.

Human Resources

Officer time as required.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The installation of statues of Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken will contribute to meeting the recommendations of the EQIA in ensuring Council achieves a greater balance in terms of the persons who are depicted or represented within the grounds."

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendations and commended them to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. The Working Group noted that the Director would explore the incorporation of social value into the procurement process, in line with any procurement policies in place, and if any Members were aware of any other subject matter experts these could be forwarded to the Director for consideration.

Carson Tile - Verbal Update

The Working Group note an update on the Carson Tile which was to be located in the City Hall reception area and that report would be submitted to the next meeting.

City Hall Installation Group - Future work programme

The Working Group agreed to the following future work programme:

Meeting	Items to be discussed
March	Design specifications - Winfred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken statues Stained Glass windows – update on current position and proposed next steps Frederick Douglass statue – update Carson Tile - update
April	Statues - update Arc City Hall Grounds

Chairperson