



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Awards 2009
Date:	18th January, 2010
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Relevant Background Information

This is the second year of the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards. Close to 70 submissions were made for the awards across a range of categories and, in most of these, only three finalists have been shortlisted. We have recently been notified that submissions by three of the Department's Services have been shortlisted.

The awards will be presented as part of the NILGA annual conference at an awards dinner on the evening of 18 February 2010 at the Slieve Donard Hotel.

Key Issues

Three of the Department's Services have recently been informed that their submissions for Northern Ireland Local Government Awards have been shortlisted as finalists and, accordingly, have been invited to attend the awards ceremony at the NILGA annual conference dinner on 18 February 2010 in the Slieve Donard Hotel.

The successful submissions were as follows:

Best Local Authority Service Team – Community Safety Team (Environmental Health Service)

The community safety team's selection is in recognition of their work to tackle antisocial behaviour, hate crime and alcohol fuelled violent crime as well as helping people feel safer. In their submission the team highlighted achievements such as the development of the city-wide warden scheme, the management of the first alleygating scheme in Northern Ireland and the team's work to address problems associated with drinking through their Get Home Safe scheme.

Best Sustainable Development Initiative – Lord Mayor’s Big Clean Up (Cleansing Services)

This project involved a schools competition, a schools roadshow, which included a living history drama, and a presentation about how people engaged in improving their local environment in the past. School children were encouraged to talk to their older relatives about this and submit their findings as part of the competition. The schools competition also involved a clean-up of their local area. The project was a great success with 19 schools entering over 1,000 pupils and produced very positive feedback from teachers.

Best Improvement Project – Building Control Partnership (Building Control Service)

This project was based on a partnership between the Council and Land and Property Services. It led to a contractual arrangement under which Building Control adds value to its site inspections under normal Council functions by collecting additional data which are shared with Land and Property Services. This has greatly improved the quality of data and efficiency of collection for both valuation and billing purposes and has improved equity in the rate burden.

The invitation to attend the awards ceremony includes two complimentary places at the dinner for each of the shortlisted submissions. Additional places are available at a cost of £45 and in view of the requirement to return all booking forms by 18 January, two additional places have been sought.

These are prestigious awards and provide further clear evidence of the innovative approaches being adopted by the Council in its service delivery. The success of the submissions also reflects the hard work and professionalism of the teams involved. The awards organisers will be compiling short films to provide an insight into each submission and it is their intention to post all the winning submissions on the websites of the awards partners. This, together with any publicity the Council might itself initiate, will ensure that the Council’s success and the evidence of its development of best practice will not go unrecognised.

It is recommended therefore that the Committee agrees that it be represented at the awards ceremony by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and two officers associated with each of the successful submissions. There would be no cost associated with the attendance of the six officers apart from necessary travelling expenses.

Resource Implications

Financial

Adoption of the recommendations would require purchase of two places for the awards dinner at a total cost of £90. Overnight accommodation, if required by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, is available at a cost of £90 per person.

There are no other implications as officer attendance will be out of hours.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to authorise the attendance at the Awards of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, together with two officers associated with each of the three successful submissions.