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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

26th August, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the report for the following item to be considered at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 27th August, 2025 at 5.15 pm.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. **2025 Association for Public Service Awards** (Pages 1 - 4)

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Subject:	Vacant to Vibrant Programme
Date:	27 August 2025
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with an update that Vacant to Vibrant has been shortlisted as a finalist at the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) Service Awards 2025, and to request approval for the Chair of the CG&R Committee or their nominee to attend the Awards on the evening of Thursday 11 th September in the Glasgow Marriott.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: I. Note the update on Vacant to Vibrant and GoSucceed being shortlisted as finalists at the APSE Service Awards 2025. II. Agree attendance at the Awards on the evening of Thursday 11th September of the Committee Chair or their nominee for the Vacant to Vibrant project nomination, and the GoSucceed nominations in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>APSE Annual Service Awards 2025</u> These prestigious awards are for all local authorities and their public-sector partners across the United Kingdom, recognising frontline services teams as well as special initiatives. The awards are agreed by a panel of expert judges. This year, the Awards include 17 categories, covering the vast majority of local services. The winners will be announced at the APSE Annual Charity Awards Dinner, in aid of Parkinson's UK, on Thursday 11 September 2025 at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel. The Council's Vacant to Vibrant scheme has been shortlisted as a finalist in recognition of the scheme's success. <u>Finalists from Belfast City Council</u>
3.2	This year Belfast City Council was shortlisted for three awards across the following categories: 1. Award category: Best Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship initiative Finalist: Belfast City Council (Vacant to Vibrant) 2. Award category: Best Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship initiative Finalist: Belfast City, Derry City and Strabane District Council (GoSucceed) 3. Award category: Best Collaborative Working initiative (with other public sector or third sector) Finalist: Belfast City, Derry City and Strabane District Council (GoSucceed)
3.3	The awards take place on the evening of Thursday 11th September in The Glasgow Marriott Hotel, to conclude the annual APSE seminar 2025 taking day on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September. The seminar involves exhibitions, panels, discussions, plenary sessions and the Annual General Meeting. It is proposed that the Chair of the CG&R

	Committee or their nominee, attend the APSE Annual Service Awards Charity Dinner 2025 on behalf of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. Three Belfast Officers will also be in attendance for the Seminar and the Awards event. The GoSucceed nomination was submitted by Derry City & Strabane District Council as a collaboration. The Lord Mayor of Derry City & Strabane City Council will also be in attendance and will jointly receive any award received by GoSucceed.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Costs incurred as a result of attendance at the events will be met from existing and approved budgets within City Regeneration and Development and Economic Development
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> N/A

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