



<b>Subject:</b>	Invitation received by Lord Mayor
<b>Date:</b>	9 April 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Keith Forster, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, EU and International Relations Manager

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on an invitation received by the Lord Mayor to attend the Heroes of Irish America Awards in Buffalo, New York on 16 May 2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note and consider the invitation received by the Lord Mayor to attend and address the Heroes of Irish America Awards in Buffalo, New York on 16 May 2025.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Lord Mayor has recently undertaken a visit to Nashville and New York in order to explore and develop a range of economic linkages between Belfast and

	our sister city in Nashville and to engage in a number of cultural and social events around the St Patrick's Day celebrations in New York.
3.2	As part of his programme of engagements in New York, the Lord Mayor met with a number of senior representatives of the US-Irish community and diaspora in the city. Through these engagements, he has subsequently received an invitation from the Irish Echo and Congressman Tim Kennedy – the event host – to attend and address the Heroes of Irish America Awards in Buffalo, New York on 16 May 2025. This will be the second annual event and it recognises the unsung heroes of Irish America.
3.3	In addition to attendance at the event, the Lord Mayor will also be invited to take part in a business roundtable to discuss transatlantic economic links.
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Costs associated with attendance at the event for the Lord Mayor and one officer will not exceed £3,400. These costs will be covered within the International Relations budget for US-based activities.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>No specific equality/good relations implications. No negative impact on rural areas.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None.