



Subject:	Women in Business NI Awards 2016
Date:	23 September 2016
Reporting Officer:	Jill Minne - Director of Organisational Development
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy – Human Resource Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek permission for the council's involvement in the Women in Business NI Awards 2016.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to the council's involvement in this year's Women in Business NI Awards 2016 through sponsorship of the award category for "Outstanding Management & Leadership".• If Member's agree to the council's involvement in the awards, approve the allocation of ten guest invitations to the Chair of Women's Steering Group (WSG), Councillor Deirdre Hargey, Deputy Chair of WSG, Councillor Aileen Graham and representatives of both the WSG and the Women's Network Group.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Women in Business is the largest and fastest growing business network for female entrepreneurs and business leaders in N Ireland and aims to increase significantly women's contribution to the success of our economy.

3.2	<p>The Women in Business Awards celebrate the hard work and achievements of many business women who make a valuable contribution to the economic life of Northern Ireland. Now in its 6th year, the Women in Business Awards allow all sectors and industries throughout Northern Ireland to come together for an evening of celebration to recognise the best of home grown talent and women at the cutting edge of our economy.</p>
3.3	<p>Support of this event through sponsorship of an award would clearly demonstrate the Council's commitment to developing the economy through inclusive growth and links directly to the objectives set out in our Gender Action Plan under Women in the Economy. It is therefore is proposed that the council attends the event and sponsors the award category for "Outstanding Management & Leadership".</p>
3.4	<p>The cost of the sponsorship and attendance package is £3,000, giving sponsorship of one of the awards and 10 places at the awards ceremony; it is proposed that the Chair of the Women's Steering Group (WSG), Councillor Deirdre Hargey, the Deputy Chair of the WSG, Councillor Aileen Graham and the Chief Executive Suzanne Wylie, attend the awards along with representatives from WSG and the Women's Network Group (made up of women working at all levels across all Council departments.) The awards will be held at Ramada Plaza, Shaw's Bridge on Thursday 17th November 2016.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>The cost is £3,000 for sponsorship and ten places at the awards ceremony and financial resources are available through the Council's Organisation Development budget.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This proposal links directly with objectives set out in the Council's Gender Action Plan.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached.
4.1	None