



Subject:	Pride of Place Awards 2025
Date:	3 rd June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Michelle Wilson, Neighbourhood Integration Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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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 bring to Members' attention that 4 community organisations from across the city have been nominated by Council for the IPB Pride of Place 2025 Award and to seek approval for costs for attendance by the Chair of People and Communities Committee or their nominee, the Director of Neighbourhood Services or his nominee and 8 representatives from the nominated groups.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the 4 community organisations nominated to the IPB Pride of Place Competition 2025 and their categories for nomination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solas – Inclusive Communities ○ RCity/ She Project - Community Youth Initiative ○ Half Moon Lake/ Men's Shed – Community Wellbeing Initiative ○ Eastside Arts – Creative Communities • Approve attendance of the Chair of People and Communities Committee or their nominee and the Director of Neighbourhood Services or his nominee at the awards ceremony in Limerick in November 2025 • Approve the budget associated with nomination, judging panels and attendance of up to 8 community and 2 Council representatives(as outlined above) at the Awards Ceremony in November 2025 which is estimated at £8,580.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	IPB Pride of Place, in association with Co-operation Ireland, is an all-island competition that acknowledges the work that communities are doing all over the island of Ireland. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and improve daily lives in their communities. It has been in existence since 2003.
3.2	The competition is based on communities demonstrating directly to the judges their pride in their place by oral presentations where they highlight community activities, culture and many other aspects that contribute to their pride of place. It is also important that the community demonstrates a real partnership with their local authority and shows that all sectors of the community are included.
3.3	The IPB Pride of Place offers community groups an opportunity to receive monetary awards and all island recognition for their various achievements and hard work. Celebrating community groups and allowing local authorities / councils the opportunity to applaud their efforts is at the heart of the IBP Pride of Place awards.
3.4	Members may recall that Belfast hosted the annual celebration for Pride of Place in 2016 but has not made nominations to the competition in recent years. Further to a meeting with representatives from IPB Insurance with the CX, Officers were asked to nominate groups under the City Categories outlined in the information brochure in Appendix 1 .

3.5	<p>Entry is by way of council nomination. Each local authority may nominate groups in up to a maximum of five categories and one entry only in any individual category. Population categories are judged on all aspects of the community and single issue categories are judged on the specifics of that category.</p>
3.6	<p>Members will note that given the deadline for submission of nominations, there was not sufficient time to bring the nominations before the relevant Committee.</p>
3.7	<p>Given the size of the community and voluntary sector in Belfast and the number of categories, Officers have nominated 4 groups under separate categories which provide services/programmes across the City and meet the criteria laid down by IPB Insurance/Pride of Place and these are also outlined in Appendix 1.</p>
3.8	<p>The nominations are as follows:</p> <p>Solas – Inclusive Communities Sólás is a special needs charity which supports children and young people with a broad range of additional needs including Autism. Based in South Belfast, they have a number of social development, early intervention, educational support, parent support and therapeutic programmes.</p> <p>RCity/ She Project - Community Youth Initiative R-CITY has evolved from an idea to develop leadership skills and opportunities for young people into a wide reaching and multifaceted initiative that remains fully committed to young people living in areas facing issues of conflict, mental health, gang culture, educational disadvantage and lack of aspirations.</p> <p>Half Moon Lake/ Men's Shed – Community Wellbeing Initiative Half Moon Lake is set within 2 acres of woodland close to the residential area of Suffolk Road and Lenadoon in West Belfast. It has been reopened for community recreation and education, with footpaths, environmentally themed artwork, benches and information signs. The Men's Shed provides invaluable services to the local community with a focus on wellbeing that benefits the individual and the entire community as well. Whilst members focus on woodwork, looking after the Lake and its surrounding environs, the Members also volunteer their skills and services to local schools and community groups in need. The Mens's Shed is also a place where local men come together for companionship, learning a new skill and taking part in wellbeing and health focused workshops and activities.</p> <p>Eastside Arts – Creative Communities EastSide Arts aims to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world. EastSide Arts is a dynamic charitable arts organisation based in east Belfast, Northern Ireland, dedicated to transforming the area into a thriving cultural hub. Operating under EastSide Partnership (a local neighbourhood regeneration charity) it aims to make the arts accessible to all, fostering creativity and connection within the community.</p>
3.9	<p>The timeline for the Competition is as follows:</p>

		Entry Form Deadline	Friday 9 th May
		Summary Form Deadline	Friday 6 th June
		Judging Period	Mid-June to Early September
		Awards Ceremony	Friday, 7 th November in Strand Hotel, Limerick
3.10	Officers will work with the nominated groups to assist with preparation for the judging period.		
3.11	<p>Members are asked to note that up to 2 representatives from each nominated group can attend the awards ceremony and it is also proposed that the Chair of People and Communities Committee or their nominee and the Director of Neighbourhood Services or his nominee also attend the awards ceremony in Limerick in November 2025.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Registration Costs £500 fee per entry x 4 entries - £2000</p> <p>Judging Slot Costs Accommodation and meal costs on 17-19th June and 24th for 2 judges, approx. £1300</p> <p>Award Ceremony Costs – Limerick based on 12 attendees Accommodation and meals - £200 per head - £3,840 Travel costs – Train to Dublin and Limerick approx. £120 each return - £1440</p> <p>Approx. total costs - £8,580 Costs will be covered from existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report</p>		
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached		
4.1	Appendix 1 - IPB Pride of Place Information Brochure		