



Subject:	Pride of Place Awards 2026
Date:	14 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan
Contact Officer:	Frances Dennison

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	<p>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</p> <p>To request approval to nominate 5 community initiatives from across the city for the IPB Pride of Place 2026 Awards.</p>
1.1	<p>If approval to proceed at 1.0 is given, to approve the following nominees and categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Neighbourhood Over 3,000: Glencairn Community Project • Climate Action and Biodiversity: Connswater Community Greenway • Community Youth Initiative: Lagmore Youth Project • Community Wellbeing Initiative: Care Zone • Creative Communities: Sandy Row Digital Hub
2.0	<p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve nomination for 5 initiatives and associated costs • To approve the 5 nominees as outlined at 1.1
2.1	
3.0	<p>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.</p> <p>The competition is based on communities demonstrating directly to the judges, 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.</p> <p>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 IPB Pride of Place awards.</p> <p>Members may recall that in 2025, nominees R City won the top prize in the Community Youth Initiative category for their SHE (Supporting Her Empowerment) project. Also in 2025, SOLAS Specialist Support Services came second in the Inclusive Communities category for their work to support young users with autism.</p> <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> <p>Given the size of the community and voluntary sector in Belfast and the number of categories, Officers have nominated 5 groups under separate categories which provide services/programmes across the City and meet the criteria laid down by IPB.</p>

The timeline for the Competition is as follows:

Entry Form Deadline	8 th May 2026
Summary Form Deadline	5 th June 2026
Judging Period	Mid-June to Early September
Awards Ceremony	24 th October 2026, held in Convention Centre Dublin

Financial and Resource Implications

Approximate cost of up to £10,000 to include:

Judges visit to Belfast accommodation and subsistence £1,000

5 Nomination entry fees (£500 fee per entry) £2,500

Costs associated with attendance at the awards ceremony in the Convention Centre, Dublin

Accommodation in Dublin £5,000

Travel costs to Dublin £1,500

Costs will be covered from existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

None

4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	2026 Information Brochure POP