



Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Memorabilia in the City Hall - Proposed Artwork for East Entrance
Date:	21 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager Ext: 6020

Relevant Background Information

The Committee will recall that some years ago, an Advisory Panel of external experts was established to examine ways of achieving a more favourable balance of artworks and artefacts within the City Hall.

The Advisory Panel made a number of recommendations and some work has been undertaken and progress made, including the renaming of the Committee Rooms and the commissioning of the Mary Ann McCracken bust. More recently, the development of the coffee bar area and exhibition space has also been helpful in this respect as it focuses on the contribution of the workers of Belfast and its industrial past. However, there is still a need for some more action to try to redress the overall balance.

Key Issues

The Memorabilia Working Group has discussed a number of possibilities recently and has agreed to recommend that the Committee commission 2 pieces of artwork to improve the overall balance within the City Hall, to be located in the newly re-furbished East Entrance area. These are to be on the themes of:

- boxing, always regarded as a cross-community sport, and
- young people and contemporary life in Belfast.

Discussions with groups from the Irish language community in Belfast and a possible artwork to represent the contribution of that community are continuing.

Financial Implications

Funding is available from the Peace III budget towards the cost of the new exhibition space within the City Hall as the Peace Plan includes provision for such expenditure. This will enable the main City Hall budget to be used to commission appropriate artworks at a sum not exceeding £15,000.

Recommendations

The Memorabilia Working Group discussed this proposal at its meeting on 14 August 2009 and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the commissioning of artwork representing boxing and young people in the city be approved and that its cost be met as outlined above.

Officer to contact for further information

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