



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Lord Mayor's Photography Project
Date:	25th October, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Lord Mayor has agreed, on a personal basis, to be the focus of a photographic project featuring his year in office both from a public and private point of view.
1.2	The photographer is Donal McCann, who is a former UK Young Photographer of the Year and was awarded a Fellowship with Royal Photographic Society in 2012, the highest recognition in the profession. He previously completed a 14 month essay featuring the construction of Titanic Belfast.
1.3	He will shadow the Lord Mayor throughout his year in office and the aims include publishing the images online and mounting an exhibition during the Belfast Festival in October 2014.
1.4	The Lord Mayor has explained the project in the following terms: <i>"The overall purpose of the project is to show the public how the Lord Mayor of Belfast generally, through the specific example of this Lord Mayor, carries out his duties for the city. This will include how the Lord Mayor represents the city, interacts with the public, prepares for engagements, delivers on his stated objectives and carries out his ambassadorial role for Belfast. The finished work will provide a permanent insight into the scope and reality of the post of Lord Mayor, enabling citizens to better understand the role of Lord Mayor."</i>

2	Key Issues
2.1	During this project, Donal McCann will shadow the Lord Mayor at various public functions and events at which he can freely take photographs on the same basis as any other photographer. He will also attend some private meetings and engagements and the Lord Mayor has given an assurance that anyone involved,

	including staff members and elected representatives, will be advised in advance of the purpose of the photographer. Permission of those being photographed at events inside the City Hall will be requested prior to any photographs being taken and they will be free to withdraw from any photograph if they so wish.
2.2	The Lord Mayor has also requested that Mr McCann is granted access to one or more full council meetings for the duration of his tenure in the post rather than having to request permissions separately at a future time. He will not be permitted to move freely around the chamber during the meetings but will be limited to similar areas used by media when they are given permission to photograph proceedings and will be managed by Corporate Communications in the usual way.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	As this is a private arrangement between the Lord Mayor and the photographer there are no resource implications for the council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are not any equality or good relations implications associated with the report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report and the commitment to seek permission from participants, including staff, in advance of photographs being taken or used from private meetings/events. • Consider the request from the Lord Mayor to approve the attendance of the Donal McCann at monthly council meetings for the duration of the current Lord Mayor's tenure to take photographs, subject to the usual movement restrictions, and to take such action as may be determined.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager November, 2013	