



Subject:	Invitation to His Holiness Pope Francis to Visit Belfast
Date:	22nd January, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	As Above

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	To note the response from the Vatican in relation to the Council's invitation to His Holiness Pope Francis to visit Belfast.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the response from the Vatican.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Council, at its meeting on 2nd November, 2015 passed the following resolution following the submission of a Notice of Motion from Councillor McCallister:
3.1.2	<i>"This Council notes that Dublin will host the 9th World Meeting of Families and recognises the opportunity for the Republic of Ireland to host a Papal visit. The Council further recognises the opportunity to coincide this with a Papal visit to Northern Ireland and therefore the Council extends a formal invitation to Pope Francis to visit Belfast."</i>
3.1.3	A response from the Vatican has been received (Appendix 1) which passes on their thanks for the renewed invitation and indicates that the invitation has been duly noted.
3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2.1	None.

3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.3.1	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – Letter from the Cardinal Secretary of State at the Vatican.