



Subject:	Northern Ireland Equality & Diversity Gala and Awards 2017
Date:	17 February 2017
Reporting Officers:	John Walsh, Town Solicitor; Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development
Contact Officer:	Lorraine Dennis, Equality & Diversity Officer

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	The purpose of this report is to seek approval to purchase tickets for the Northern Ireland Equality & Diversity Gala and Awards 2017, due to be held in the City Hall on Friday, 31 st March 2017. Belfast City Council has been short listed for an award to be presented at the event.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the Council's short listing• Approve the attendance of nominees at this event (maximum of ten)
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The inaugural Legal-Island Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Gala and Awards are due to be held in the City Hall on Friday, 31 st March 2017. The Council submitted an application for the accompanying award, which will be will be presented to the outstanding organisations who are pioneering new standards of equality and diversity practices and

	<p>driving the diversity agenda in Northern Ireland. This year the focus of the award competition will be on ethnicity, nationality and race. The three award categories are the private sector (SMEs and large employers); charity/not-for-profit; and the public sector.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council has been short-listed for the public sector award, following the successful submission of the application form. Our application provided an insight into the range of services and policy initiatives we provide to promote equality and diversity, including examples from Legal and Democratic Services; HR/OD; Tourism, Culture and Arts; Community Services; Community Safety and the Good Relations Unit. Assessment continued with an interview on 20th January 2017, attended by Catherine Christy, HR Manager, Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager and Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer. The winner will be announced at the Legal-Island Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Gala and Awards, due to be held in the City Hall on Friday, 31st March 2017.</p>
3.3	<p>Permission is sought for the Council to purchase tickets for the event. The following options are available:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cost of one table (ten places) is £1000 + VAT (£100 per ticket + VAT). ii. Individual tickets are available at a cost of £120 + VAT.
3.4	<p>It is recommended that event attendance reflects the areas of work submitted in the application, main party attendance and officers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee/Partnership Chairs (or Vice-Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr John Hussey, Chair of Strategic SP&R • Cllr Matt Garrett, Chair of People & Communities Committee (Community Services and Community Safety) • Cllr Aileen Graham, Chair of City Growth Committee (Tourism, Culture and Arts) • Cllr John Kyle, Chair of Shared City Partnership (Good Relations) 2. Two further Elected Members should be nominated to reflect attendance of all the main parties at the event. 3. Relevant Officers involved in the application should also be considered for attendance, up to a maximum of four.

3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> As detailed at 3.3.and 3.4 the total cost will not exceed £1,000 + VAT which will be from within the existing budget.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> This will support and highlight our commitment to equality and good relations.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None