



<b>Subject:</b>	Happy Christmas & Nollaig Shona Signage – City Hall
<b>Date:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To obtain the Committee’s guidance in respect of the Christmas dressing of the City Hall in future years with regard to the replacement and possible re-location of an Irish-language ‘ <i>Nollaig Shona Duit</i> ’ sign to the front façade of the City Hall.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Decision(s) required and recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide whether or not to replace the ‘<i>Nollaig Shona</i>’ sign in 2017, and if so to provide guidance on the Christmas signage<sup>a</sup> and location of the signs.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that, in 2012, the Committee approved the erection of an Irish-language Christmas sign on the East façade of the City Hall, and this sign has now been in

3.2	<p>place for 5 years. The original sign was made available to the council at no cost and has served its purpose to date, but is becoming difficult to use given its overall poor condition. The sign is however in need of replacement as soon as possible, and in 2015 it was necessary to fit new rope-lights to the sign to keep it operational at a cost of over £1,000.</p>
3.3	<p>A new sign of this size/type would cost approx. £12,000 - £15,000, and in addition to the associated costs of a sign the issue of the optimal placement of any new sign has been raised. Officers have been asked to assess the feasibility of erecting any new sign on the front façade rather than in the East area as at present.</p>
3.4	<p>The Property Maintenance unit has therefore reviewed the site and the available options appear to be as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 1</b> - Procure a replacement '<i>Nollaig Shona</i>' sign of the same dimensions as the existing one and erect it on the existing location on the East façade (using existing fixing points &amp; power connections etc) – approx. cost £12,000 - £15,000);</li> <li>• <b>Option 2</b> - retain the existing large 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and complement it with one sign on each end column of the front façade east and west, i.e. one 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and one '<i>Nollaig Shona</i>' sign – cost per sign would be approx. £12,000 - £15,000 each (i.e. £24K-£30K in total);</li> <li>• <b>Option 3</b> - commission a completely new sign incorporating both English and Irish text on a single large sign and use it to replace the existing 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign – approx. cost £25,000 - £30,000.</li> <li>• <b>Option 4</b> – similar to option 2, except having <i>Nollaig Shona</i> in one end column and Blythe Yuletide on the other</li> </ul> <p><b>NB; these options are illustrated in Appendix 1</b></p>
3.5	<p>As indicated above, the existing '<i>Nollaig Shona</i>' sign could probably be procured and erected in time for the upcoming Christmas 2017 season if the necessary decisions are taken promptly.</p>
3.6	<p>The Committee's view on the desirability of replacing the existing '<i>Nollaig Shona</i>' sign and the optimal placement of any such replacement sign are therefore sought.</p>
3.7	<p>It should be noted that further changes to the Christmas lighting around Donegall Square will be required as the City Branding changes away from the Belfast 'B'.</p>

3.8	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The key issues are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) does the Committee wish to replace the existing ‘<i>Nollaig Shona</i>’ sign with a new version;</li> <li>b) if so, ought the new sign be affixed to the East façade as at present or should it be erected on the front façade;</li> <li>c) if it is to be erected on the front façade should this be on the basis of two separate signs being erected on the east and west end columns of the building or should a large new, integrated sign in both languages be commissioned for the centre of the front façade.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The various options around the replacement and potential re-location of the ‘<i>Nollaig Shona</i>’ sign are set out above, and range from approx. £12,000 - £30,000 in total. This work would be funded through the annual non-recurring maintenance spend. It should be noted that there is the possibility of financial assistance from Foras Na Gaelige should the decision to replace the sign be taken.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>If changes are to be decided upon in relation to the front façade signage it is likely that such changes will need to be subjected to an EQIA screening exercise, although it is anticipated that the matter would be screened out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Illustration of options