



Subject:	Request for siting of Homeless Jesus Sculpture at City Hall
Date:	8th May 2018
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager , ext. 6020

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

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	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	The purpose of this paper is to advise Members of a request to support the siting of a bronzed sculpture entitled "Homeless Jesus" on a bench outside City Hall to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness within Belfast.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>grant approval to Officers to engage with the organisers and explore options in principle, with a further report to be brought back for Members' consideration.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Officers have recently been contacted in relation to a request for support to site the bronzed sculpture entitled “Homeless Jesus” on a bench outside City Hall to raise awareness of homelessness within the City. One such sculpture currently exists outside Centenary House on Victoria Street which is run by the Salvation Army.
3.2	The sculpture, which was designed by Timothy Schmalz, depicts Jesus as a homeless man sleeping on a bench and can be identified as Jesus by the marks on the feet. It has been in existence worldwide since 2013 and has been placed in areas within Madrid, Singapore, Dublin, and Glasgow.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.3	There are currently plans for a procession to take place from Centenary House to the Morning Star Hostel on the Falls Road which is run by the Legion of Mary to install a further statue. A date for this event has yet to be organised.
3.4	Council’s support is being sought for a procession from the Morning Star Hostel to the City Hall during the week of 10 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> November which has been designated as an annual event to highlight homelessness with a culmination of the sculpture being placed on a bench outside City Hall. The procession would involve representatives from the four main churches as well as the Salvation Army.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.5	Officers have been advised that costs regarding the sculpture are already covered. If Committee agrees that options can be explored, any other potential cost expectations will be identified and brought back to Committee.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.6	Implications will be considered in the development of options and brought back to Committee in a further report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	N/A