



<b>Subject:</b>	International Women's Day 2020
<b>Date:</b>	17 December 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer Bridgeen O'Neill, Equality and Diversity Support Officer

<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 Committee is requested to note the information regarding the International Women's Day event, which will be held on 7 March 2020.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Notes the contents of this report.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 2 December 2013 unanimously passed the following Notice of Motion: "International Women's Day on 8 <sup>th</sup> March is acknowledged globally as a day on which to celebrate the achievements of women across the world. For the past four years,

	<p>the women’s sector in Belfast has marked this special day with a public rally to the City Hall. This public event would be a simple way of demonstrating our acknowledgement of this special day and pledging our commitment to working towards greater equality of opportunity for all women in Belfast”.</p> <p>3.2 At a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24 January 2014 it was recognised that this was likely to be a recurring annual expenditure and approval for this expenditure has been agreed through the Gender Action Plan budget.</p> <p>3.3 The 2020 event will take place on 7 March, with the rally arriving at City Hall at 1pm for speeches, music etc on the cobbled area outside the front gates of the City Hall. The theme of the 2020 event is “Rights in Sight”. There will be a light lunch for 200 people in the City Hall at the close of the rally.</p> <p>3.4 The Women’s sector in Belfast should maintain its support for the International Women’s Day and has provided estimated costs for similar provision this year.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 It is expected that the Council funding contribution will be allocated to cover costs of a temporary stage and sound system for the public rally and a lunch for 200 participants in the City hall following the rally (similar to costs covered for the 2019 event). The budget of £6,500 will be provided through the Gender Action Plan budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.6 The purpose of the proposal in this report is to assist the Council to meet its equality and diversity aspirations. This proposal has been agreed following an initial meeting with the organisers of International Women’s Day. It is in line with the Council’s stated aims as set out in its gender equality action plan.</p> <p>We do not consider this initiative to have relevance to the social and economic needs of persons living in rural areas.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

