



Title of Report:	Ulster History Circle Blue Plaques
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Museum Services Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Approx. £1500 per annum
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: 2016 CAH strategy
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members on the blue plaque installation for 2024 from the Ulster History Circle, in consultation with the Community & Culture team.

2.0 Background

The Ulster History Circle (UHC) is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for placing the blue circular plaques in public spaces across Ulster in honour of men and women who have contributed to the province's history. UHC is an entirely voluntary organisation that has no earning capacity or trust funds of any kind. Its erection of blue plaques is facilitated purely on the basis of partnerships with local government bodies and other local organisations.

In order to be nominated for UHC blue plaques, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Deceased at least 20 years, or be deceased but would have met their 100th birthday by the date of unveiling;
- Associated with one of the nine counties of Ulster by reason of birth, education, work, residence or vocation;
- Recognised for their significant contribution to education, industry, commerce, science, arts, literature, international affairs or other (non-political) calling anywhere in the world;
- Associated with a specific building within the nine counties of Ulster (i.e. place of birth, education, residence, work or similar).

The following decision process for determining the recipient of a blue plaque is outlined below:

- Formal nominations on behalf of Council would be determined by designated council officers within the Communities and Culture team.
- Nominations would be proposed to UHC at a formal meeting where UHC would also put forward additional nominations relating to the Causeway Coast and Glens.
- Nominations would be narrowed down to three – five names. These would then be taken to the Leisure and Development Committee and Council for approval.
- By mutual agreement, one individual would be identified each year for an UHC blue plaque. All other nominees will be included in the Dictionary of Ulster Biography and may be identified for the receipt of blue plaques in later years of the partnership.

Following an initial report in February 2023, a second report was taken to the Leisure & Development Committee in November 2023 in which it was recommended to Council that they engage in a partnership arrangement with the Ulster History Circle at a cost of circa £1,500 per annum and subsequent installation of one blue plaque per year for an initial term of three years, subject to review. This was with the understanding that the Community and Culture team would nominate James Sayers as a potential recipient for the first plaque. This was approved and ratified by full Council on 5th December 2023.

Officers met with representatives of the Ulster History Circle at the end of March 2024 and have confirmed that James Sayers will receive a plaque in 2024 as per Council's recommendation. A further report in terms of the details surrounding the installation and associated publicity of the 2024 plaque, as well as potential nominations for 2025 will be brought to committee in due course.