



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 January 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No
Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services
Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	
Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

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:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	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

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration. The following is listed:

2.0 Prof. Dr. Hon. Rector Francis Van Loon, Baron - Ethos Universitas President (copy attached)

- 2.1 Correspondence received regarding the Ethos Universitas Partner Communities initiative which the first structured international framework dedicated to civic integrity and ethical local governance, led by Panathlon International, the Olympic ethics organisation which is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- 2.2 Currently 150 higher education institutions across 50 countries (including a number within the UK) are members of Ethos Universitas. Municipalities are invited to join Ethos Universitas as a partner community, to publicly affirm their commitment to ethical governance and to form a global alliance of municipalities committed to ethics, integrity, and social responsibility.
- 2.3 Members can use the Ethos Universitas Seal and Certificate as a mark of integrity in civic communications.
- 2.4 Partner Communities will also have the right to participate in the Ethos Universitas Awards, which recognise municipalities that bring ethical principles to life in public governance. Participation is optional and the Awarding Summit will take place in February 2027 in Antwerp, Belgium, in person and online.

It is not clear yet if any partner communities within the UK have signed up, although registration is possible any time during 2026. The first announcement of partner communities will be made at the end of February, when submissions for the Ethos Universitas Awards will also open in advance of the Awarding Summit in February 2027. To sustain the initiative, each partner community is asked to contribute a symbolic annual amount of €250.

Further information is available at <https://pcucommittee.com/communities>

3.0 Army Benevolent Fund – Belfast Blitz Concert (copy attached)

- 3.1 Correspondence received regarding a concert which is being organised by the Army Benevolent Fund (NI). The concert will be held on Saturday 21 March 2026 at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast and will feature the Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz.
- 3.2 VIP tickets are being offered to Council at a cost of £70 each to include top show seating, entry to the VIP lounge for a pre-show reception with

complimentary nibbles, wines and soft drinks, and a return to the VIP lounge to relax during the interval.

3.3 All proceeds from the concert will go to aid soldiers, veterans and army families in times of need.

4.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee note the correspondence and consider whether it wishes to:

- sign up to the Ethos Universitas Partner Communities initiative as detailed at Item 2 above
- purchase tickets for the Army Benevolent Fund's Belfast Blitz Concert as detailed at Item 3 above



OFFICIAL INVITATION



ETHOS UNIVERSITAS PARTNER COMMUNITIES



International Federation
recognised by the
International Olympic Committee





Official Invitation Ethos Universitas

Partner Community or City

Esteemed Mayor or Municipal Leadership,

Just as academic leaders guide universities, community leaders and mayors guide their communities through integrity and service to the public good. In this shared spirit, your municipality is invited to join Ethos Universitas as a Partner Community or City, publicly affirming its commitment to ethical governance, extending the Olympic spirit far beyond sport, from the smallest villages to the largest cities.

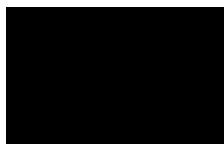
This distinction grants the right to use the Ethos Universitas Seal and Certificate as a mark of integrity in civic communications. To sustain the initiative, each partner contributes a purely symbolic annual amount of €250. No additional costs apply.

Partner Communities and Cities also have the right to participate in the Ethos Universitas Awards, which recognize municipalities that bring ethical principles to life in public governance. Participation is entirely optional. The Awarding Summit will take place in February 2027 in Antwerp, Belgium's Olympic city, live and online.

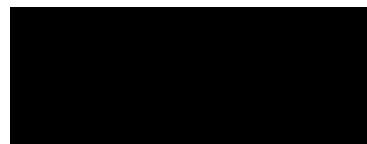
Universitas expresses the universal and Olympic character of ethics while also honoring a network of over 150 universities in more than 50 countries, which serve as the independent academic jury of the Awards, ensuring independence, credibility, and academic integrity.

Ethos Universitas offers municipalities a platform to affirm leadership through values, transparency, and responsibility in public life.

With highest regard and respect,



Prof. Dr. Hon. Rector Francis Van Loon, Baron
President Ethos Universitas



Co-signed Giorgio Chinellato
President Panathlon International

Appendix, About Us

Who we are and what drives us



PROF. DR. HON. RECTOR FRANCIS VAN LOON, BARON Initiator & Driving Force

Francis Van Loon (Photo) assumed the role of rector at the Confederated University Antwerp and later became the first rector of the unified University of Antwerp. In 2008, he was granted the title of Baron by King Albert II of Belgium. In 2016, he was appointed Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold. He has always been dedicated to civic and academic ethics.

PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL Global Leader Olympic Ethics

Panathlon International established in 1951 in Venice (Italy), is recognized by the International Olympic Committee with resolution 11/6/1982. Panathlon's main aim is the achievement of the Olympic ideal and the establishment of its cultural and moral values as a means towards the development and advancement of the individual and solidarity between men and people. The PCU Committee (PCU) is the university platform of Panathlon International.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ETHICS AND INTEGRITY Collaborating for Universal Values

Panathlon International promotes ethics in civic, academic, and sporting life through partnerships. It cooperates with public institutions and international organizations on initiatives that advance integrity, inclusion, and fair play, including within international frameworks such as the European Week of Sport. At the global level, Panathlon International works with partners across continents, including the International Fair Play Committee, and maintains structured cooperation with IOC-recognised bodies, reinforcing the universal values of fair play, inclusion, and institutional integrity.



Appendix, Your Benefits

Contributing to a global civic integrity network

Stand for ethics because you believe in it

Not for prestige, but out of commitment to ethical governance and civic values.

Freedom to choose your title

Be recognized as a Partner Community or Partner City, according to your local identity and character. Larger municipalities typically choose City designation.

Award eligibility and equal opportunity for recognition

Partner municipalities may take part in the Ethos Universitas Awards, recognising ethical governance initiatives; participation is optional. Awards are granted separately to Communities and Cities, ensuring equal chances regardless of size.

Institutional Recognition

Recognised Partner, with visibility in programme communications.

No significant financial commitment

Only a symbolic annual contribution of €250, deliberately accessible.

Partner Seal and Certificate of Recognition

Right to display the Partner Seal and Certificate in institutional communications.

Strengthened network

Engagement with like-minded municipalities and academic institutions worldwide.

Invitation to the Awarding Summit

Participation in the Awarding Summit in February 2027 in Antwerp, Belgium's Olympic city; attendance is optional and available both in person and online.



ETHOS UNIVERSITAS
PARTNER COMMUNITY

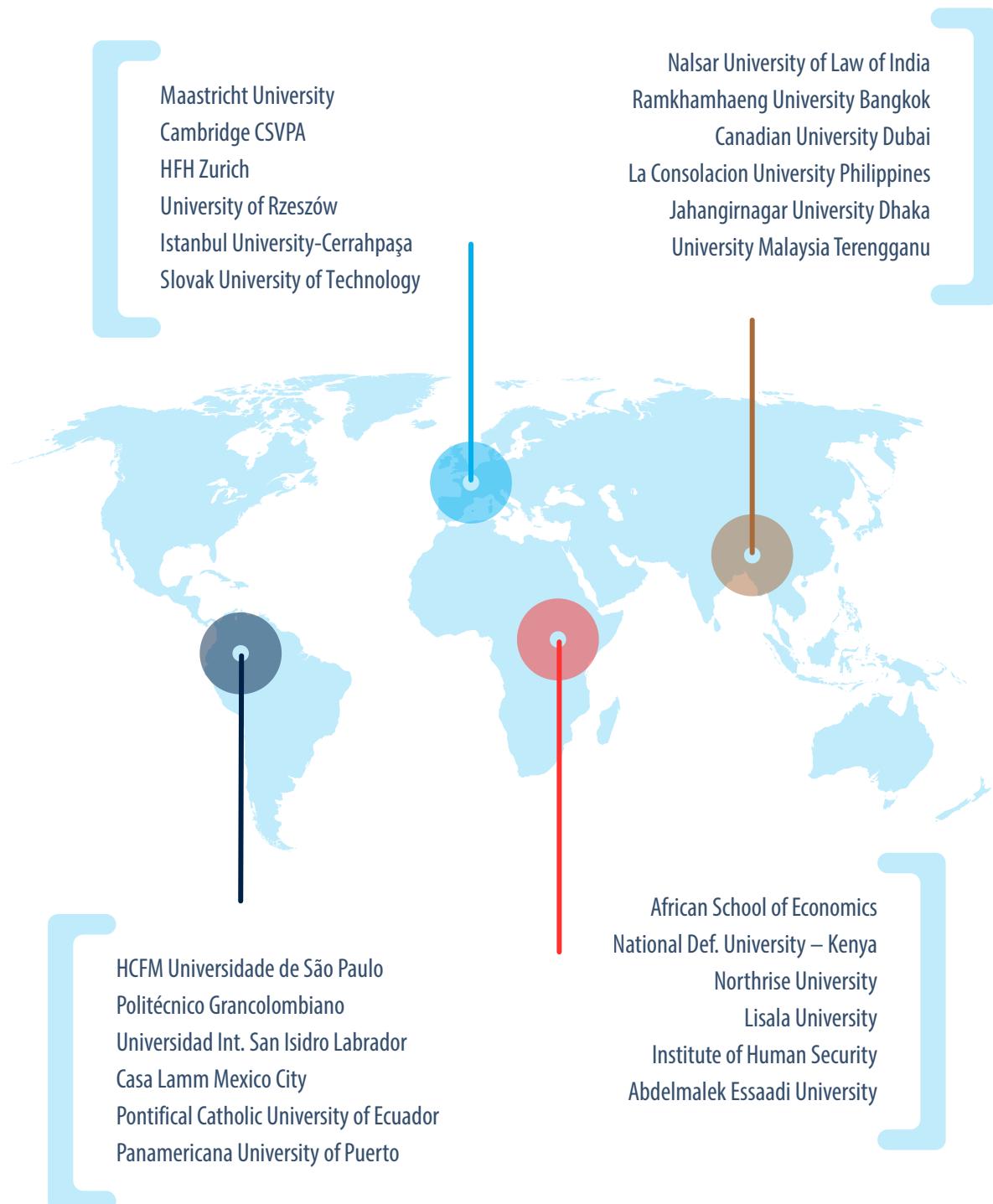


ETHOS UNIVERSITAS
PARTNER CITY



Appendix, Global Academic Jury

150 universities united for community integrity



This map highlights a selection of the jury universities. The full list of more than 150 institutions is available at pcucommittee.com.

Timeline

PARTNER COMMUNITIES

INVITATIONS - NOVEMBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

Global Information and Invitation Campaign
Partner Communities and Cities

REGISTRATIONS & VISIBILITY

Registrations possible at any time in 2026.

- | In the Spotlight section currently available on the website with some already registered Partner Communities
- | End February 2026, first presentation of all Partner Communities registered at that time

AWARD PROJECTS - FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER 2026

Activation Award Project Helpdesk
Award project submissions (Optional)

AWARDING SUMMIT - FEBRUARY 2027

Attendance optional (Also available online)
One-day event, details February 2026

More info & registration modalities
pcucommittee.com/communities



communities@pcucommittee.com
+32 476 255 004 (Belgium)
www.pcucommittee.com/communities

PCU Committee, Panathlon University Platform ©
Ethos Universitas Partner Communities



International Federation
recognised by the



International
Olympic
Committee

DS 41700 ~ 260109

7th January 2026

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND – BELFAST BLITZ CONCERT

Dear David,

On Saturday 21st March 2026, the Army Benevolent Fund (NI) is to hold a concert at the Waterfront Hall featuring the Band, Bugles, Pipes & Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment, to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz. The evening will be hosted by popular UTV News Anchor, Paul Clark MBE. Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Belfast, has been invited as guest of honour.

There are a limited number of VIP tickets that we would like to offer to your Councillors, Executives and Support Staff. Tickets are £70 each and include in the price, top show seating, entry to the VIP lounge for a pre-show reception with complimentary nibbles, wines and soft drinks, and a return to the VIP lounge to relax during the interval.

Dress for the event will be business attire - Mayoral parties are encouraged to wear chains of office. Timings will be issued at a later date when bookings are confirmed.

Please confirm any attendance by calling me on [REDACTED] or by emailing [REDACTED]@armybenevolentfund.org Please include guest names, any food intolerances and if any of your party have difficulty with stairs.

All proceeds from the concert will go to aid soldiers, veterans and army families in times of need. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

David Forsey

Director (NI)

Distribution :

NI Councils List A