**PRESS RELEASE**

12th December 2018

**The results are in as the city centre’s top 3 Christmas windows are revealed!**

As City Centre Initiative’s annual Christmas window competition drew to a close on Monday 10th December, organisers have confirmed they had received a record number of entries and votes to this year’s competition.

Following a Mayoral reception for the competition winners at the Guildhall on Wednesday 12th December with the Mayor of Derry City & Strabane, Cllr John Boyle, CCI confirmed that the competition, which celebrates city centre businesses creative, colourful and luminous window creations has continued to grow and provides a unique opportunity for city centre businesses to gain recognition for their Christmas window efforts.

Mayor Boyle said: “I’m delighted that this year’s Christmas window competition was such a huge success.

“The competition has really been a great opportunity for local businesses to use their imagination and showcase their products and services in the run up to Christmas.

“Indeed, all of the participating businesses must be commended for their exceptionally creative and eye-catching displays that have embraced the festivities and really wowed the judges!”

Jim Roddy, City Centre Manager added; “We received 142 entries this year to the competition, which is fantastic and nearly 3,000 votes. It demonstrates not only the willingness of our city centre businesses to get involved in initiatives that seek to improve our city centre but also the publics support for our city centre businesses and it gives us an opportunity to reward them for their efforts.

“We decided this year to shortlist and reveal the city centre’s best ’12 Windows of Christmas’ to the public for voting as we struggled to select our own favourites. This gave us our top three – 1st Café Zest, 2nd Checkpoint Charlie, 3rd The Gift Box and some great competitive battles on Facebook.

“I know I say this every year but genuinely, this competition isn’t really about winners or losers - although it’s great to reward people for their efforts and we thank our sponsors - the Maldron Hotel, City Hotel and Foyleside Shopping Centre for once again supporting the initiative. This is about building momentum in the city centre and improving our city’s offering to shoppers and highlighting that we are a place that is unique and special. One of things we love doing in the office is walking around the city centre to see the efforts that have gone into many of the displays. Congratulation, primarily to our top three and our 12 finalists but also to all the businesses that entered this year - next year could be your year!”

ENDS

For further information contact City Centre Initiative on 028 (71) 360169, email aisling@cciderry.com or visit the City Centre Initiative facebook page.

**Notes:**

**CCI ’12 Windows of Christmas’ winners:.**

1st – Café Zest, Spencer Road

2nd – Checkpoint Charlie, Waterloo Street

3rd – The Gift Box, Shipquay Street

**The ’12 Windows of Christmas’ were:**

Quigg’s Florist - Great James Street, Checkpoint Charlie – Waterloo Street, The Gift Box – Shipquay Street, Café Zest – Spencer Road, The Quirky Raven – Spencer Road, The Black Tie Showroom – Strand Road, Sproules Jewellers – Carlisle Road, No19 Craft Design – The Craft Village, Mermaid Cove – Ferryquay Street, Douglas and Cobane – Spencer Road, Walled City Crafter’s – The Craft Village, Evolve Menswear – Foyle Street.

Captions:

181- The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Cllr John Boyle presenting Danielle and Catherine Kearney of ‘The Gift Box’ with the City Centre Initiative ’12 Windows of Christmas’ 3rd placed award for their window display. Also included is Jim Roddy, Chief Executive of CCI – competition organisers and competition sponsor Siobhan McDonald, Assistant Manager, Foyleside Shopping Centre.

182 - The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Cllr John Boyle presenting Stephanie English of ‘Checkpoint Charlie’ with the City Centre Initiative ’12 Windows of Christmas’ 2nd placed award for her window display. Also included is Jim Roddy, Chief Executive of CCI – competition organisers and competition sponsor Rory Cooke, Manager, City Hotel.

183 - The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Cllr John Boyle presenting Hugh O’Doherty of ‘Café Zest’ with the City Centre Initiative ’12 Windows of Christmas’ 1st placed award for their window display. Also included is Jim Roddy, Chief Executive of CCI – competition organisers and competition sponsor Taleesha Clarke and Amanda Moran, Managers, Maldron Hotel.

184 - - The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Cllr John Boyle with winners of the City Centre Initiative ’12 Windows of Christmas Competition’ and CCI staff including; Jim Roddy, Chief Executive and City Centre Manager, Stephanie English of Checkpoint Charlie - 2nd placed, Hugh O’Doherty of ‘Café Zest’ - 1st placed award and Catherine and Danielle Kearney of The Gift Box – 3rd placed. 2nd row: Competition sponsors Taleesha Clarke and Amanda Moran, Managers, Maldron Hotel, Rory Cooper, Manager, City Hotel, Siobhan McDonald, Assistant Manager, Foyleside. 3rd row: Lucia McCurley, Dermot McCrossan and Aisling Gallagher, CCI.