



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Donation to Societies for the Spring & Autumn Flower Shows in 2012
Date:	14 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alice Blennerhassett, Marketing Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Parks and Cemeteries Service is responsible for organising the annual Spring Fair in April at Barnett Demesne and the annual Autumn Fair in September at Botanic Gardens. Members of staff from the service work in partnership with two flower show committees during the year to organise the flower show elements of the Spring Fair and Autumn Fair. Altogether there are 13 Societies represented on the two committees.</p> <p>In previous years the Committee has authorised the making of a £100 donation to each of the horticultural Societies involved in the organisation of the spring and autumn flower shows, in recognition of their assistance throughout the year</p> <p>The Spring Fair took place at Barnett Demesne on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 April 2012. This event incorporated the annual spring flower show which had over 500 horticultural exhibits on display, with a mix of environmental activities, children's entertainment, displays of animals and birds, demonstrations and music. This year almost 8,000 visitors attended the Spring Fair over the two afternoons.</p> <p>The Autumn Fair will take place in Botanic Gardens 2012 on 15 and 16 September 2012. This is an inter-departmental event with staff from the Parks and Leisure Department working in conjunction with staff from the Events Unit in Development Department to stage it.</p> <p>The event incorporates the annual flower show with a small number of food</p>

	<p>stalls, a selection of plant and craft traders, children's entertainment, workshops and music. Last year at this event there were over 1,100 horticultural exhibits and 7,500 visitors. The Grand Finale Band Concert, which completes the Music in the Parks programme each year, will take place in Botanic Gardens as part of the Autumn Fair.</p>
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2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The planning of the spring flower and autumn show elements of the events in Barnett Demesne and Botanic Gardens involves staff in the Parks and Cemeteries Services Section meeting regularly with representatives from 13 horticultural societies. The spring and autumn flower show committees each meet three or four times a year to discuss and plan for the two events.</p> <p>A donation of £100 is being requested for each Society to demonstrate that Belfast City Council recognises the support shown by all the horticultural societies involved in the flower shows. The Societies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends of Bonsai ▪ Northern Ireland Daffodil Group ▪ Belfast and District Beekeepers' Association ▪ Belfast Winemakers' Circle ▪ British Cactus and Succulent Society ▪ Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland ▪ Irish Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society ▪ North of Ireland Dahlia Society ▪ Northern Ireland Bonsai Society ▪ Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies ▪ Northern Ireland Orchid Society ▪ Northern Ireland Vegetable Association ▪ Rose Society of Northern Ireland <p>The donations are normally sent out to the Societies involved after each event has taken place. The Societies involved with the Spring Fair would receive their donation now while those involved in the Autumn Fair would receive their donation after the September event.</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> £1,300 was allocated in the revenue estimates to cover the donations.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The support and presence of these societies provides additional horticultural interest for visitors to both shows.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None

5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the committee approves the making of a donation of £100 to each of the societies mentioned above in recognition of the continued support and assistance for the spring and autumn flower shows.

6	Decision Tracking
	The actions will be completed by the Marketing Officer by November 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None