



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Parks and Leisure Committee |
| Subject: | Green Flag Awards |
| Date: | 9 August 2012 |
| Reporting Officer: | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |
| Contact Officer: | John Macfarlane, Parks Quality Manager |

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| 1. | Relevant Background Information |
| | <p>The Green Flag awards were established in 1996 and are managed by Keep Britain Tidy, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Green Space.</p> <p>In 2009, the department achieved its first Green Flag Award for Cave Hill Country Park and subsequently gained the award for Musgrave Park in 2010 and Barnett Demesne, Botanic Gardens, Falls Park, Ormeau Park, and Roselawn Cemetery in 2011.</p> <p>In August 2011 Committee agreed as part of the Departmental Improvement Plan that a further three sites were identified to be put forward for the 2012 assessment round. The three sites were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belmont Park• Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park• Waterworks Park <p>This report is to advise Members that the external assessment has been completed using the criteria (Appendix 1) and that the Department has retained the seven Green Flags previously held and achieved the standard for the three new sites</p> |

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| 2. | Key Issues |
| | <p>Green Flag is a standard for quality management and in particular community engagement, with significant emphasis placed on the stakeholders experience and involvement in site development and improvements.</p> <p>Management and staff have worked with the local community to understand needs and priorities and to apply the standards to the three sites. This has included the development of an improvement framework which will be applied across all sites to raise standards.</p> <p>The Council now holds ten of the 15 awards held in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Members will be aware that in the report to Committee in August 2011 Lagan Meadows, Grove Playing Fields and Victoria Park were recommended to be entered for the award in 2013. However due to the development of the Connswater Community Greenway project officers recommend that only Lagan Meadows and Grove Playing Fields are entered in 2013. It is recommended that a Green Flag management plan is to be developed for the whole Connswater Greenway, including Victoria Park and the site is to be put forward for assessment on the completion of the development project.</p> <p>Considerable sustained effort, as well as ongoing developmental activities with local communities, will be required to ensure the award for the new sites identified as well as ensuring ongoing retention of the ten awards now held.</p> |

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| 3. | Resource Implications |
| | <p><u>Financial</u> The estimated cost for submitting two additional sites in the 2013 assessment round is in the region of £1,600. In addition, provision is made in the department's improvement budget for necessary improvement works.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resources required at this stage.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage</p> |

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| 4. | Equality Implications |
| | There are no implications at this stage |

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| 5.0 | Recommendations |
| | Committee is asked to note the achievement of the Green Flag awards by the department and the two additional sites to be put forward for accreditation in the 2013 assessment round. |

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| 6. | Decision Tracking |
| | N/A |

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| 7. | Key to Abbreviations |
| | None. |

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| 8. | Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1: Green Flag Criteria |