



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Contribution to Societies for the Spring and Autumn Flower Shows in 2013
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Brian McKinley, Events Co-ordinator

1.0	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to pay £100 contribution to each Society involved in the spring and autumn flower shows.</p> <p>The Parks and Cemeteries Services Section organises the annual Spring Fair in April at Barnett Demesne and the annual Autumn Fair in September at Botanic Gardens. Council Officers work in partnership with two flower show committees during the year to organise the flower show elements of the Spring Fair and Autumn Fair.</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 these flower shows, in recognition of their assistance throughout the year</p> <p>In 2012 the Spring Fair at Barnett Demesne incorporated the annual spring flower show and 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>Also in 2012 the Autumn Fair took place in Botanic Gardens. This inter-departmental event between Parks and Leisure and Development, combined the annual autumn flower show with a number of food stalls, a selection of plant and craft traders, children's entertainment, workshops</p>

	and music. Almost 1,000 horticultural exhibits were on display at the flower show and the event attracted 15,000 visitors. The Grand Finale Band Concert, which completed the Music in the Parks programme for 2012 took place in Botanic Gardens as part of the Autumn Fair.
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2.0	Key Issues
	<p>Council Officers meet with each of the spring and autumn flower show committees three times a year to discuss and plan for the two events. Altogether there are 13 Societies represented on the two committees.</p> <p>A contribution of £100 is being requested for each Society to demonstrate that the 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 £100 contributions 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 in April while those involved in the Autumn Fair receive their donation after the September event.</p>

3.0	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> £1,300 was allocated in the revenue estimates to cover the contributions.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resources implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Working in partnership with the horticultural societies provides additional assistance to the Council. Also their presence at shows and events offers additional interest for visitors and adds an educational element to the events.</p>

4.0	Equality Implications
	There are no known equality implications

5.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to approve a £100 contribution to each of the Societies outlined above.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	None

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.0	Documents Attached
	None