



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Green Flag Awards
Date:	11 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	John MacFarlane, Parks Equality Manager

1.0	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to advise members of the department's progress in achieving Green Flag accreditation and the proposals for the 2014 assessment round.</p> <p>Established in 1996, the Green Flag awards are managed by Keep Britain Tidy, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and GreenSpace.</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, Belmont Park, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, and Waterworks Park in 2012.</p> <p>As part of the Departmental Improvement Plan in 2012 / 2013 a further two sites were identified to be put forward for the 2013 assessment round which will take place in May / June 2013. The two sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grove Playing Fields• Lagan Meadows.

2.0	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 local communities to apply the</p>

	<p>standards to the 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 sixteen awards held in Northern Ireland</p> <p>It is proposed to put forward Knocknagoney Linear Park, Dunville Park and Woodvale Park for the 2014 assessment round.</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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3.0	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The estimated cost for submitting three additional sites in the 2014 assessment round is in the region of £2,100. 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>

4.0	Equality Implications
	There are no implications at this stage

5.0	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the achievement of the Green Flag awards by the department and the three additional sites to be submitted for accreditation in the 2014 assessment round.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	None

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.0	Documents Attached
	None