



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Hospitality for Events & Meetings in 2014
Date:	5 December 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for hospitality to be provided at some of the annual events, award ceremonies and stakeholder meetings organised by the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit in 2014.</p> <p>In the past the Council has provided hospitality at these occasions in the form of light refreshments or lunch and in 2013 these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Spring Fair;▪ Belfast Parks Primary Schools' Athletics;▪ Belfast Parks Photographic Competition;▪ Rose Week;▪ The City of Belfast Autumn Flower Show and▪ Meetings with various stakeholder groups such as Lagan Valley Regional Park, Belfast Hills Partnership etc. <p>Specifically, the type of hospitality provided this year was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Refreshments for the members of the Spring Fair and Autumn Flower Show committees; these committees each met with Officers on three occasions to discuss and assist with the planning for these events;▪ Morning coffee and lunch for members of the flower show committees, judges and invited guests during the Spring Fair, Rose

	<p>Week and the Autumn Flower Show. Many judges were local but several travelled from the Republic of Ireland, England and Scotland. During Rose Week an international panel of judges attended the International Rose Trials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A reception for international judges visiting Northern Ireland for the international rose trials at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, local judges, sponsors of the international awards and invited guests. ▪ Refreshments for the winners of the Belfast Parks photographic competition, the judges and the sponsor of the competition; ▪ Refreshments at various stakeholder meetings with Officers; these stakeholders included Belfast Hills Partnership, Lagan Valley Regional Park, Ulster Wildlife and a public consultation meeting regarding the mountain bike trails at Barnett Demesne.
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Council seeks to reinforce its partnerships with the various horticultural societies, organisations and stakeholders. Some of these partnerships have been forged over many years and continue to be successful. Throughout the year there is a significant level of voluntary involvement from some of these groups and without that support and goodwill, the continued success of such events and activities could be undermined. Similar hospitality will be required for 2014.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The estimated value of providing the hospitality is £ 6,100. In compiling estimates for 2014, Officers have asked that this amount be set aside in the Open Spaces and Active Living Unit's budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resource implications at this stage.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The partnerships formed with various groups and the provision of events and activities in parks helps to promote appreciation of the social value of parks, both at a local and international level.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	<p>There are no known equality implications.</p>

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5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to approve the provision of the hospitality in 2014 as outlined above.

6.	Decision Tracking
	None

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	None