



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Donations to Societies and Hospitality for Events & Meetings in 2015
Date:	11 December 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
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Members are reminded that at its meeting on the 5 December 2013, approval was obtained for the payment of donations to Societies involved in the Spring Fair and Autumn Flower Show and for hospitality to be provided at some of the annual events, award ceremonies and stakeholder meetings organised by the Open Spaces & Active Living (OS&AL) Unit in 2014.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to authorise the payment of donations to the Societies in 2015 and for hospitality to be provided at events, ceremonies and meetings in 2015.

The OS&AL Unit organises the Spring Fair and the Autumn Flower Show and work in partnership with the two flower show committees during the year to organise the flower show elements. In 2014, there were over 26,000 visitors to both events which incorporated horticultural displays, childrens' entertainment, food stalls, workshops and music.

In relation to hospitality, this year the Council provided hospitality at the Spring Fair, Primary Schools' Athletics, Photographic Competition, Rose Week; Autumn Flower Show and at meetings with various stakeholder groups such as Lagan Valley Regional Park, Belfast Hills Partnership and Volunteers of the Mountain Bike Trails at Barnett Demesne.

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The planning of the spring and autumn show elements of both events involves Officers meeting regularly with representatives from 14 horticultural societies on the two committees. These include: 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 and the Ulster Alpine Garden Society.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Orchid Society has indicated that they will not require their financial contribution for 2015 as they will be unable to enter exhibits in both events. The £100 contributions are normally issued to the Societies involved after each event has taken place.</p> <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 2015.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> £7,600 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for donations and hospitality.</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 and various groups provides additional assistance to the Council and helps to promote appreciation of the social value of parks.</p>

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

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to approve a £100 contribution to each of the Societies and to approve the provision of hospitality in 2015, as outlined above.

6.	Decision Tracking
	None

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	OS&AL – Open Spaces & Active Living

8.	Documents Attached
	None