



Subject:	Donations to Societies and Hospitality for Events & Meetings
Date:	5th June 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to continue the payment of donations to Horticultural Societies and for hospitality to be provided at events, ceremonies and meetings from 2018 - 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Note the contents of the report;▪ Approve an annual £200 contribution to each of the Societies listed below and the provision of hospitality from 2018 - 2021.

3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members are reminded that the Council has, in the past, authorised the payment of donations to Societies involved in the Spring Fair and Autumn Fair 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.
	<u>Payment of Donations</u>
3.2	The OS&AL Unit organises the Spring Fair and Autumn Fair which in 2017 was attended by almost 24,000 visitors and incorporated horticultural displays, children’s entertainment, food stalls, workshops and music. An integral part of both events are the flower show elements and the OS&AL Unit works in partnership with the two flower show committees during the year to plan the shows.
3.3	The committees now include representatives from: the 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 Vegetable Association and The Rose Society of Northern Ireland.
3.4	The annual individual £100 contributions are normally issued to each of the Societies involved after each event has taken place. It is proposed that the individual contribution is increased to £200 in recognition of their valuable role and significant level of voluntary involvement that will be required from them during the next three years.
	<u>Hospitality</u>
3.5	In relation to hospitality, the Council has provided hospitality at the Spring Fair, Primary Schools’ Athletics, Photographic Competition, Rose Week; Autumn Fair and at meetings with various stakeholder groups such as Belfast Hills Partnership, Lagan Valley Regional Park and Volunteers of the Mountain Bike Trails at Barnett Demesne.
3.6	The Council seeks to reinforce its partnerships with the various horticultural societies, organisations and stakeholders. Most of these partnerships have been forged over many years and without that support and goodwill, the continued success of such events could be undermined. Similar hospitality will be required from 2018 - 2021.

3.7	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> £7,600 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for donations and hospitality, the increase to £200 per representative is accommodated within this.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no known implications
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None