

Report on	Grounds Maintenance Awards Submissions 2018/19
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Nat Woodside, Grounds & Cemeteries Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek members approval for town and villages nominations to the NIAC Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom 2018.
2.0	Background
2.1	The annual awards promote achievement and excellence in Horticulture, Amenity and Environmental Sustainability. They also acknowledge the commitment of Council and local communities towards the improvement and presentation of towns and villages.
2.2	Entry into these awards helps benchmark amenity standards against settlements across Northern Ireland and success is a great boast for local civic pride.
2.3	Last year seen further success for both Castlecaulfield and Donaghmore, and a runner up award for Cookstown. As a result of success in 2017, Castlecaulfield are competing in Ireland's Best Kept Awards and Britain in Bloom later in 2018.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Nominations for the Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom 2018 are proposed as follows under the appropriate category for the five area largest areas based on population size: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dungannon, 2. Cookstown, 3. Magherafelt, 4. Coalisland, and 5. Maghera
3.2	Other nominations for both awards follows previous council nominations, and were local Community input was evident in the 2017 growing season: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tobermore, 2. Castlecaulfield, and 3. Donaghmore
3.3	See appendix 1 for a list of Grounds Maintenance Priority Settlements as per Council's agreed Grounds Maintenance Delivery Standards Outcomes, and appendix 2 for a comparable list of entries submitted in 2017.

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4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Entry to the NIAC Best Kept Awards is covered by an annual affiliation fee of £750 which is included in budget estimates for the 18/19 financial year. There is no fee for entry to Ulster in Bloom. Seasonal planting has also been included in budget estimates for 18/19.</p> <p>Human: Within existing resources, including seasonal staff resources.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of the report and approve the nominations as detailed to both the Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom 2018.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Settlement List of Council Grounds Maintenance priorities
6.2	Appendix 2 – Settlement Entry List for Awards in 2017