

Report on	Correspondence to Committee
Reporting Officer	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Contact Officer	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property

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	<p>To seek the approval of Members in relation to:</p> <p>a) Request from NILGA to seek the support of the Council in nominating Castlecaulfield to represent Northern Ireland in the 'Village' category of the 2018 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition.</p> <p>b) To seek the Committee's views in relation to a request from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in relation to participate in a collaborative approach to the delivery of a Crematorium at Ballyearl, Doagh Road, Newtownabbey.</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council has received two items of correspondence pertaining to the remit of the Environment Committee as noted above. These are attached to this report as Appendix 1 in relation to the NILGA request and as Appendix 2 in relation to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council request.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>NILGA Request</p> <p>Members of the Environment Committee will be very familiar, from previous reports, with the success of Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society at competitions such as Ulster in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and more recently Communities in Bloom.</p> <p>As Members will note from the letter from Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA they are proposing with Council support to nominate Castlecaulfield to represent Northern Ireland in the Village category of the 2018 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition.</p>
3.2	<p>Antrim and Newtownabbey Request</p> <p>As Members will note from the letter received from Jacqui Dixon, the Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough they are seeking approval from Council to enter into a collaborative approach to the provision of as Crematorium within the confines of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area.</p>

	<p>Members will be aware that Belfast City Council currently provides the only Crematorium in Northern Ireland and that this facility is situated at Roselawn, on the outskirts of South Belfast.</p> <p>It is currently difficult, on the basis of the letter as received, for officers to provide Members with sufficient information on which to make a fully informed decision in relation to this request. Given the delicate nature of the subject matter and in the absence of supporting information it is difficult to determine the 'business case' for Council to enter into such a partnership arrangement.</p> <p>Further information is required on the format of the proposed arrangements in addition to trying to determine if there is a sufficient demand from the Mid Ulster area to support the Council becoming involved in such a venture.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: None at this juncture.</p> <p>Human: None at this juncture save for officer time.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Supporting the nomination of Castlecaulfield would be congruent with the Council's objectives in terms of Good Relations and in line with the Council's Community Plan.</p>
4.3	<p>Risk Management Implications</p> <p>None at this juncture</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To agree to support the request from NILGA to nominate Castlecaulfield to represent Northern Ireland in the 'Village' category of the 2018 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition.
5.2	That the Committee recommends to Council that the Director of Environment & Property seek further information in relation to the proposals of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and to bring back a detailed report on the matter to a future meeting of the Environment Committee.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1: Letter of 3 November 2017 from Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA
6.2	Appendix 2: Letter of 2 October 2017 from Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council