

<b>Report on</b>	Eco-Schools Programme Support 2020/21
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval to continue providing financial support to the Eco-Schools Programme
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Eco-Schools programme is the world's largest environmental education programme run by the Foundation for Environmental Education in 67 countries and reaching over 18 million pupils across the world. In Northern Ireland, the Eco-School programme is run by environmental charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB). It receives support from DAERA and all eleven local councils. In 2015, Northern Ireland became the first country in the international programme to achieve 100% registration of all schools.
2.2	The programme encourages and directs young people to think about litter, waste and recycling, energy saving, water conservation, transport options, biodiversity, the natural environment they are custodians of, and make positive choices for a better future.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Impacts that have already seen from the Eco-Schools programme in N Ireland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of schools signed up to Eco-Schools Programme which equates to 325,900 pupils in 1,134 schools here.</li> <li>• 323 schools currently have the Eco-Schools Green Flag which is an increase from 147 in 2016/17 to 176 in 2018/19 indicating the upward trends in interest in the programme.</li> <li>• 340,040 sustainable journeys have taken place since 2016 through the Translink Travel Challenge with 13,586 pupils getting involved</li> <li>• 46% raised knowledge and awareness of Healthy Living topic since 2015/16</li> <li>• 19% increase in awareness of Litter topic since 2015/16</li> <li>• 26% of schools in Northern Ireland are flying the internationally recognised Green Flag - ensuring a positive experience for our young people – through engaging them in actioned-based and socially-responsible learning.</li> </ul> <p>Mid Ulster Council's Recycling Officer team support schools wishing to gain Eco-School status as a means of assisting with the delivery of recycling and waste education in schools and the wider environmental message through a range of other topics e.g. litter.</p>

	<p>In 2019 Mid Ulster District Council had the highest percentage of Green Flag Schools of all eleven Council areas in N Ireland. Detailed metrics are provided as an appendix.</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council has financially supported the Eco-Schools programme in Northern Ireland since 2015. There is a small increase in requested funding (£50) compared to the contribution of £1,650 in 2019/20. The 2020/21 request of £1,700 equates to an investment of approximately 6 pence per pupil in Mid Ulster.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: The expenditure of £1,700 can be met from Environmental Services budget
	Human: The Recycling Officers assist in the delivery of the programme and are trained Eco Schools assessors
	Risk Management: None
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that approval is granted to continue providing financial support to the Eco Schools Programme in NI to the amount of £1,700 in 2020/21 as requested by KNIB
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Letter from KNIB outlining Eco-Schools Support Request for 2020/21
6.2	Mid Ulster District Council Eco-Schools Metrics