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| Report on | Grounds Maintenance – Towns and Villages Awards Feedback |
| Reporting Officer | Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services |
| Contact Officer | Nat Woodside, Grounds and Cemetery Manager |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To update members of local success at the 2017 town and village awards. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Council submitted entries for the five largest settlements and a range of other villages to both the NIAC Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom in 2017. |
| 2.2 | Both are annual awards that promote achievement and excellence in Horticulture, Amenity and Environmental Sustainability and is important in recognising high quality environments to live and work. Both horticultural awards encourage cities, towns and villages right across Northern Ireland to look their best, boosting civic pride through beautiful plant and floral displays. Both competitions continue to attract great interest. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Notably for Council in the 2017 Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition winner for the 'Village category' was Castlecaulfield, with Donaghmore in a very close second place. While this achievement is a repeat of the results in 2015 and 2016, it is recognition of the efforts of Council, local businesses and local communities. The awards presentation for this event will be held in Spring 2018. |
| 3.2 | In the Best Kept Awards 2017 there was success again for Castlecaulfield winning the Best Kept Small Village category, with Donaghmore in second position and success for one the housing developments in the village. Cookstown was runner up in the town category. |
| 3.3 | The results of the 2017 Royal Horticultural Society Britain In Bloom Awards in Wales were announced in October 2017. Donaghmore achieved a Gold award in the overall Village Category. This is a significant achievement for the Council and for the village on a first entry to Britain in Bloom. |
| 3.4 | Results and judges comments are included in the appendices for the Best Kept Awards. There is lots of useful feedback to consider for areas throughout the district to develop for 2018. |

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| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | <u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: Within existing resources. Human: Within existing resources. |
| 4.2 | <u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A |
| 4.3 | <u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to note the contents of this report and appendix. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix 1 – Best Kept Awards Feedback 2017 |