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| <b>Report on</b>         | Maghera Walled Garden Green Flag Award                  |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2022                         |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services |
| <b>Contact Officer</b>   | Eunan Murray, Grounds & Cemeteries Manager              |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>  |
| 1.1        | To update members on the success for Maghera Walled Garden at the Green Flag Awards.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>   |
| 2.1        | The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards well managed green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces.   |
| 2.2        | The Green Flag Awards are judged annually by green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant site sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, ranging from horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
| 3.1        | Council previously submitted Green Flag entries for four sites in the District, including Maghera Walled Garden and significant maintenance work was undertaken at the facility in preparation for the 2022 judging.  |
| 3.2        | It is very pleasing to report that Maghera Walled Garden has maintained its Green Flag status as announced at the awards event held on 26 July in Brownlow House Lurgan (photograph taken at award ceremony with Council Chair included at appendix 1).   |
| 3.3        | This standard has given external verification that good practice has been demonstrated by Council staff with evidence of this good practice having a positive effect on visitor experience to the garden over the summer period. For example on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August the facility hosted an environmentally friendly gardening event organised in conjunction with the Conservation Volunteers, Y.Z. 'Feels to be True' and Council's Bio Diversity Officer. |
| 3.4        | The event was a huge success and on the day participants were guided in small groups around a number of information stalls to:  |

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| 3.5        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about companion planting with herbs and edible flowers</li> <li>• Exchange ideas with fellow gardeners and tips/advice on later summer planting</li> <li>• Find out how to attract pollinators into the garden</li> <li>• Gather ideas for establishing simple bee and bug homes</li> </ul> <p>Feedback was very positive with one participant quoted as follows;</p> <p><i>“I just want to say thank you for a wonderful afternoon! I enjoyed it immensely. I learned so much from the wonderful experts. Please pass on my thanks to them and all who organised this event”.</i></p> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| <b>4.1</b> | <p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Within Environmental Services Budget.</p> <p>Human: Staff time in maintaining delivery standards.</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p>   |
| <b>4.2</b> | <p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | Members are requested to note the content of this report.   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |
| 6.1        | Appendix 1 – Photo of the presentation of the Green Flag Award in Lurgan on 26/07/22  |
| 6.2        | Appendix 2 – Photos of the Environmental Gardening Event at MWG on 23/08/22   |