

Report on	Invasive Species Control & Maintenance on Council Property
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 November 2018
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Grounds & Cemeteries Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update member's on Invasive Species control and maintenance on council property.
2.0	Background
2.1	Schedule 9 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985, as amended by Section 27 Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2016 lists 32 plants that are legally controlled.
2.2	The terrestrial species below are considered to pose the most significant problem in the Mid Ulster Council Area as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonberry (<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>) • Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) • Giant Knotweed (<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>) • Himalayan Knotweed (<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>) • Giant Hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>), and • Indian Balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>) (listed as Himalayan Balsam in the Order)
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Following the last Committee update in 2017 a range of staff including Grounds Maintenance participated in specialist training funding through a Landfill Communities Funded pilot scheme linked to a Council site at Trad Point, Ballyronan. The training provided staff with the knowledge on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a register of invasive species, • Identification of each target species,

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to record in the register, and • Treatment options <p>It was delivered in autumn 2017 and further training support provided in Spring 2018. The funding also helped provided equipment for the treatment and control of species.</p> <p>A register of invasive species on council property is regularly updated. Within the last 12 months there have been reports of invasive species at six new Council sites bringing the total to twenty eight. The additional sites include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Derryloran Old Cemetery (Cookstown area) 2. Abels Bridge (Dungannon area) 3. Donaghmore Playpark (Dungannon area) 4. Craigs bog (Dungannon area) 5. Windmill Wood (Dungannon area), and 6. Coalisland Canal Walk (Dungannon area) <p>See Appendix 1 for the full list of the 28 sites and the treatment record and Appendix 2 for an overview map of locations.</p> <p>The current inventory of Council sites continues to be monitored. Removal of young plants and herbicide treatment, or in line with alternative guidance from Biodiversity staff or other specialist expertise helps to restrict the establishment across Council sites. Whilst awareness and identification knowledge improves, the inventory of Council sites expands. Where it is identified near the boundary of Council property, every effort will be made to inform the adjacent landowner.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Removal of young plants and herbicide treatment is within existing resources. Extensive eradication would require additional financial resources for specialist third party expertise. The small scale LCF scheme has helped fund staff training and treatment equipment.</p> <p>Human: In house resources for routine maintenance, updating the register and liaising with other in house services. Third party expertise for refresher training in 2019 or new staff on specie identification, control and recording.</p> <p>Risk Management: There is a duty of care to ensure the control of invasive species on council property or knowingly remove it from council property leading to its further spread.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of the report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Invasive Species Register Summary
6.2	Appendix 2 – Map showing Specie Identification on Council property