



<b>Subject:</b>	Tropical Ravine – Partnership Working
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	<p>To seek approval for development of partnerships with other horticultural institutions both in the United Kingdom and Ireland for Parks staff involved in horticultural development, in particular in association with work in Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>Approval is being requested for staff to receive training, exchange plant material and to acquire knowledge for improved service delivery and recognition of Botanic Gardens as a site of horticultural excellence.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>Committee is asked to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with other horticultural institutions for the purpose of training, knowledge and exchange of plants, both in the UK and Ireland;</li><li>• The development of partnerships for mutual gain with other horticultural bodies including exchange visits.</li></ul>

<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main report</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that an important collection of rare and endangered plants are to be conserved and developed as part of a new project to restore the Tropical Ravine in Belfast's Botanic Gardens. The project has received a £2.3million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to safeguard the future of the Tropical Ravine House and its significant plant collection and £1.5 million will provided as part of the Investment Programme. The HLF and BCC funding will be used to secure the structure of the building and safeguard the plant collection.</p> <p>The plant collection within Botanic Gardens and especially within the Tropical Ravine has been noted as worthy of preservation. Over many generations plants have been acquired from Glasnevin and Kew Botanical Gardens through informal partnerships. The outcomes of the refurbished Tropical Ravine shall include conservation of a listed building, preservation of a heritage plant collection and improved visitor experience for both citizens and tourists.</p> <p>Glasnevin Botanical Gardens has been supportive in producing a report identifying the heritage and horticultural importance of the plant collection within the Tropical Ravine which was the starting point for the application for funding process of the refurbishment of the building.</p> <p>To make the most of the investment and ensure that staff acquire the knowledge and skills to realise the potential that may be achieved in maintaining and enhancing the heritage status of the plant collection.</p>
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Travel expenses as required.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>