



Subject:	Best Kept Awards – request for funding
Date:	4 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on a request from the Best Kept Awards for an uplift in their current funding allocation.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and approve provision of additional funding of £700 to the Best Kept Awards.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Best Kept Awards are administered by the Northern Ireland Amenity Council which was established to promote the protection, preservation and improvement of the physical environment in Northern Ireland and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.
3.2	The Best Kept Awards are an annual competition Best Kept Awards are an annual competition which cover several categories including Best Kept City, Best Kept Large/Small/Medium Town, Best Kept Large/Small Village, Best Kept Housing Area and Best Kept Community Achiever. Entries are generally made via local authorities, housing associations and residents' groups.
3.3	A recent letter from the Best Kept Awards (attached at Appendix 1) highlights that since the Covid pandemic, their charity has struggled to source funding following the conclusion of their previous sponsor's contract in 2023, which they have plans in hand to remedy.
3.4	Council currently provides annual affiliation fees of £2300, which were agreed in 2015 when the new councils were formed. The attached letter details that whilst inflation over this period would require such fees to increase by over 34%, Best Kept Awards state that their proposal is to be contained below this level at a revised fee of £3000. This would therefore result in an increase in Council funding of £700.
3.5	Committee are asked to consider and approve this request for additional funding.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Should Committee be minded to approve this request, the additional £700 per annum to fund the Best Kept Awards will be met from within existing budgets.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – Letter from Best Kept Awards Appendix 2 and 3 – Best Kept Awards 2024 photographs