



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Grow Wild Funding opportunity
Date:	15 January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Orla Maguire, Biodiversity Officer Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a potential opportunity for funding for biodiversity projects under the Grow Wild Project. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Grow Wild inspires communities across the UK to come together to transform local spaces, by sowing, growing and enjoying native wild flowers.</p> <p>Grow Wild is awarding funding of £120,000 to a Northern Ireland flagship site, one of four across each of the UK's countries, that bring people together to create an inspiring and exciting communal space by growing Northern Irish native plants.</p> <p>Northern Ireland's flagship site will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be fun and innovative, with activities to reach a mass audience through partnerships with nearby community groups• tells a local story that resonates locally, regionally and nationally, with the potential to be replicated in other communities <p>The Northern Ireland Flagship site will launch in summer 2016 after a public vote in Autumn 2015.</p>
2	Key Issues
	<p>It is proposed that an Expression of Interest for funding a biodiversity project including the development of a seed bank of native wildflowers is</p>

	<p>submitted. The project will include sites and communities across the city for seed collection and the development of species rich grassland sites. Training and upskilling of community groups and council staff will form an integral part of the project.</p> <p>This fund does not require any match funding from the Council. Expressions of interest are due by the 2 February 2015. Following the Expression of Interest process if successful the Council will be invited to submit a full application by mid May 2015. Funding of £4,000 is provided to assist in developing the application.</p> <p>If Members agree, officers will submit an expression of interest by the closing date. If the Council is successful and invited to submit a full application a further report will be brought to Committee outlining the project details including proposed sites and partners.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Grow Wild offers 100% site costs. Match funding is not requested or scored as part of the application process. Staff time will be required to implement the project which can contribute to in-kind contribution.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	Not applicable

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to approve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the submission of an expression of interest if selected to submit a funding application under this fund.

6	Decision Tracking
	Biodiversity Officer to submit funding bid by the deadline.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None