



Subject:	Update on grass cutting at sites not owned by Belfast City Council
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The committee will recall an update paper presented at the meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2019.
1.2	After discussion, the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Noted the continued actions which were being undertaken as part of the ongoing review of grass cutting arrangements at sites not owned by the Council;</li></ul>

1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed that a further report in relation to the review of grass cutting arrangements would be submitted to a future meeting, and</li> <li>• Agreed to the inclusion of a site at McKinstry Road within the grass cutting arrangements that the Council currently operated with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI.</li> </ul> <p>This report provides an update for Members and outlines recent work undertaken by officers regarding the potential for sponsorship of roundabouts and verges, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the update information regarding grass cutting at sites not owned by Belfast City Council, and</li> <li>• if Members are content with the initial proposals regarding sponsorship, to endorse officers taking this work forward, with view to a report being brought to the Committee with full details.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will recall from the June 2019 report that since 2016/2017, the Council has supplemented grass cutting arrangements for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI, by providing five cuts per annum at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Ferguson roundabout;</li> <li>• Kingsway Embankment, Dunmurry;</li> <li>• Knock dual Carriageway, and</li> <li>• Cregagh Road with Knock dual carriageway.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Members will further be aware that the maintenance of these sites requires financial resources via the departmental budgets.</p>

3.3	In order to identify opportunities for the Council to help defray these costs, officers have undertaken preliminary research into opportunities to generate income via a sponsorship scheme.
3.4	As well as an opportunity to generate additional external funds to supplement existing maintenance budgets, sponsorship schemes can improve the appearance of roundabouts, improve the image of Belfast as a vibrant location for businesses and community groups, and promote the range of businesses already located locally.
3.5	Such schemes are widely used by other Councils, and a number of models for identifying suitable sites, including roundabouts and verges, and initiating such sponsorship schemes, including procurement options, are available. Officers have also met colleagues in the DfI Roads Service, whose Eastern Division work in partnership with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to implement a sponsorship scheme in their council area.
3.6	It is intended that with further benchmarking, and discussion with DfI Roads Service, a suitable scheme will be identified that could be applied in Belfast. Such a sponsorship scheme will need to be considered in the context of the wider, ongoing corporate initiative to develop a commercial framework and strategy, and officers will ensure that as the potential scheme develops, it will be reviewed by the Council's Commercial Working Group and Commercial Panel. Furthermore, officers will continue to engage with DfI in order to maximise the allocation of its resources with the Belfast City Council area.
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The development of a sponsorship scheme for roundabouts and verges provides an opportunity to generate additional external funds to supplement existing maintenance budgets.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None