



Subject:	Invite to compete in Britain in Bloom Awards 2020 and Ireland's Best Kept Awards in 2020.
Date:	14 January 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhoods Department
Contact Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of City and Neighbourhoods Department

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To inform Elected Members of invitations to enter the Finals of Britain in Bloom Competition and to enter the finals of Ireland's Best Kept Awards Scheme. Belfast will be entered in the City category of each awards competition.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">note the entry of the City of Belfast to the annual Britain in Bloom competition in August 2020 and the Ireland Best Kept Awards Competition in 2020
3.0	Main report
3.1	The City of Belfast was awarded Best Kept City in the Northern Ireland Amenity Council Awards Competition in 2019. The Northern Ireland Amenity Council, sponsored by George

Best City Airport have therefore invited the City of Belfast to be entered into Ireland's Best Kept Awards competition. Belfast will be entered in the City Category of the Awards Competition. This prestigious competition is held every year. The Awards Presentation will be held in Belfast City Council's Malone House on Tuesday 23 June 2020

3.2 In addition, Ulster in Bloom, organised by Northern Ireland Local Government Association and sponsored by Translink, have invited the City of Belfast to be entered into the finals of the national Britain in Bloom competition in 2020 (invitation at Appendix A). This prestigious competition is held every year. There are approximately 75 entrants who qualify for the final judging, based on different categories including Villages, Towns and Cities etc. There are four categories of awards - Bronze, Silver, Silver Gilt and Gold with Gold being the highest award achievable. The City of Belfast was awarded Silver Gilt in 2017, and received top awards of Gold in 2016 and 2018 – no entry to the 2019 competition was submitted.

3.3 Judges visit the City for over the summer period and judge the City.

Judging criteria is based on three elements:

- Horticulture 40%
- Community involvement 30%
- Environment 30%

3.4 As in previous years, a project team involving Council officers, statutory agencies, community groups and Friends Groups will be established to prepare the City for judging. An immense amount of work and organisation will be required to ensure the City is ready as a range of elements are taken into consideration by the judges. Areas being judged must be clean of graffiti and litter, have high quality horticulture on display in our Parks, have colourful and well maintained hanging baskets, and demonstrate recycling and eco-friendly policies to minimise any impact to the environment.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.5 Financial resource will be required in connection with attendance at the awards ceremony in 2020 at a cost of approximately £600. There will be other financial resources required to prepare the city for judging and this will be allocated from existing revenue budgets.

3.6	<u>Equality, Rural proofing or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality, rural proofing or good relations issues associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Request from NILGA to enter Britain in Bloom 2020 and competition guidelines