

Title of Report:	RATIONALISATION OF BOROUGH FLORAL PRESENTATION
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Date of Meeting:	12th November 2019
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Continued Provision of Floral Displays
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£30,000 saving
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

Following the recent finance sub-committee meeting it was suggested that a report be brought to committee outlining how savings can be made in the provision of floral displays throughout the Borough.

2.0 Background

For many years Borough towns and villages have been recognised for their vibrant and colourful floral displays. These displays have resulted in success at competitions such as Britain In Bloom and Ulster In Bloom. They have also added to the positive experience of both visitors and local rate payers. However, changes to this provision can be achieved that both maintains the colour/variety of display and offers a financial saving. This would build on work carried out in recent years to reduce cost.

3.0 Proposals

1. Reduce the quantity of flowerbeds. There are some low profile locations that could revert to grass. There are also some locations which were previously maintained by local communities with flowers provided by Council. As communities no longer maintain them Council can reduce the number of plants purchased.
2. Continue re-modelling larger flowerbeds which can have an element of permanent planting in the middle with seasonal planting confined to the periphery of the bed.
3. Re-design of tiered planters to reduce plant numbers
4. Continue with replacing ground planting with planters which, in the case of small roundabouts, improves safety of operatives working in selected locations.
5. Continue reducing winter planting.
6. Reduce size of hanging baskets
7. Restrict support to community groups to the provision of summer bedding plants when requested well in advance of the planting season.
8. Charge for the provision of additional town centre baskets over and above those supplied by Council.

4.0 Savings

The above changes can provide savings of approximately £30,000 per annum. This is achieved predominantly by reducing the number of plants purchased, reduction in compost etc and reduced manpower time. A small revenue stream can be created by charging £25 for additional baskets requested in town centres.

5.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee acknowledge the steps taken to date to reduce costs and implement the steps outlined above to make further savings including charging for additional baskets.