

**Northern Ireland Amenity Council**  
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the charity are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Northern Ireland Amenity Council present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

### **Mission, Objectives and Strategy**

#### **Objectives**

To promote for public benefit, the protection, preservation and improvement of the physical environment in Northern Ireland through our five main categories; Best Kept Towns, Villages, Housing Areas, Healthcare Facilities and Schools.

To encourage civic pride in all the communities within the five categories, thus improving their local area. They are impartially judged using set criteria with the aim of being awarded the "Best Kept" title each year. The awards create great local interest in all the participating communities creating extensive coverage in all weekly and daily press.

Working with the support of local councils, the awards recognise and reward Northern Ireland's best community environmental projects including the promotion of recycling and conservation of resources. Civic pride is encouraged and communities are motivated to make the most of their outdoor spaces and built environment.

The competition encourages voluntary participation to encourage cleanliness of streets including the absence of litter, fly posting, graffiti, vandalism and dog fouling, care and presentation of natural environment and open spaces including new ideas to promote conservation. The unique nature of the Best Kept Awards is to challenge local communities to co-operate with councils in improving their environment, thus offering savings to councils and rate payers.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

#### **Strategy**

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

#### **Achievements and performance**

The Best Kept Awards are a much respected and established brand throughout Northern Ireland. By councils affiliating and supporting the programme, it encourages everyone within the categories to participate in raising the profile of the town/village/school/housing area/healthcare facility that they represent.

A wider economic benefit to Northern Ireland's economy is through attracting tourists to towns and villages that are extremely attractive, well maintained and nicely presented.

The Best Kept Awards programme continues to offer a long term positive impact for the environment. It is an organisation that delivers an important community based environmental message throughout the year and across the province, it plays a major role in the lives of the residents of many communities. Children from a very young age get involved, it is important that children who are our citizens of today, and more especially, of the future become more aware of the environment and its needs in which they live. It also offers opportunity for healthy exercise in fresh air and provides activity suitable for the less able.

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The Best Kept Awards help develop that sense of pride in those who take part, and this of course is a very positive move forward in the protection and improvement of our environment. The competition provides a positive contribution towards increasing awareness, knowledge and a better understanding of nature and the environment in which we live.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Structure**

Northern Ireland Amenity Council is an Environmental Charity administering the "BEST KEPT AWARDS" programme - established in 1957 and now in its 66th year.

NIAC consists of a Board of volunteers representing funding bodies and members of the public with suitable experience, offering freely their time and expertise to promote good community relations and an improved environment.

Northern Ireland Amenity Council is registered with the Charity Commission from January 2019, with registration number NIC107248.

**Financial Review**

The results for the financial year are set out on page 8 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

**Financial Results**

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £52,235 (2023 - £69,078) and liabilities of £1,448 (2023 - £1,314). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £(16,977).

**Trustees**

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Mr Smyth  
Miss Muskett MBE  
Mr Neill  
Mrs Little  
Mrs Henry  
Mr Lavery (Resigned 18 January 2024)  
Mr McEwen  
Mr Edwards  
Mr McClean

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

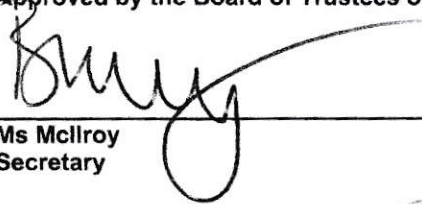
Ms McIlroy

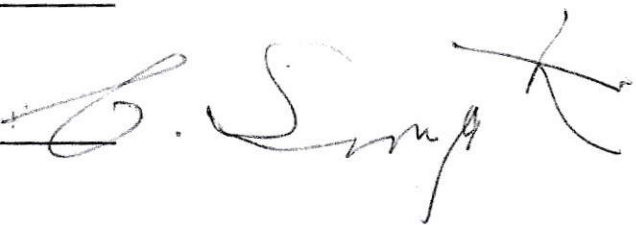
**Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards**

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Northern Ireland Amenity Council subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 26/11/24 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms McIlroy  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Smyth  
Trustee