



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Land at Old Golf Course Road, Dunmurry
Date:	30 January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext. 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) currently own land at Old Golf Course Road, Dunmurry which they have recently declared surplus to their requirements. Land and Property Services (LPS) in accordance with the D1 Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Land procedures have notified the Council and other public sector bodies of the potential disposal and have sought expressions of interest in the land.
1.2	The land in question totals approximately 14 acres. It is made up of two plots which have been zoned as an area of existing Open Space and designated as an Urban Landscape Wedge and Community Greenway in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015. A map is attached at Appendix 1 showing the approximate extent of the portions of land outlined red.
1.3	The land is presently located within an area of Lisburn City Council that will transfer to Belfast City Council on 1 st April 2015 under Local Government Reform.

2	Key Issues
2.1	It is understood that locally elected Councillors had previously made representations to NIEA about a potential transfer of this land to the Council.
2.2	In accordance with LPS procedures any interested parties have 15 working days from the date of the letter from LPS (13 th January 2015) to register an interest in the subject land. It is unknown at this stage what the terms of any potential disposal will be, although Council Officers have asked LPS to advise further. It is also understood that NIEA are exploring the basis and terms of any potential transfer of the land to the Council.
2.3	Given the short time frame involved Council officers have advised LPS that the Council may have a potential interest in the land, subject to Committee approval and to the terms of any disposal. This preliminary expression of interest is not binding on the Council.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Finance</u> Currently unknown. LPS have however been asked to advise on the terms of the disposal & a report will be brought back to Committee when further information is available.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> Staff resources will be required to progress any subsequent acquisition.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> These will become clearer upon receipt of further information from LPS and NIEA.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no known equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Committee are asked to note that land at Old Golf Course Road, Dunmurry has recently been declared surplus by NIEA & that LPS, in accordance with the Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Land procedures, have notified the Council seeking expressions of interest in the potential acquisition of the land. LPS have been requested to advise further on the terms of any disposal and this information will be brought back to Committee when available. However in the interim and given the tight timeframe associated with the LPS process, officers have advised LPS to note a potential interest by the Council on the basis that further information will be required on the terms of the disposal and that a report is to be subsequently brought back to Committee seeking their direction on whether or not to proceed.

6	Decision Tracking
If Committee approval is forthcoming, Director of Property and Projects to ensure the matter is reported back to Committee when more detailed terms of disposal are made available.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>NIEA – Northern Ireland Environment Agency LPS – Land and Property Services</p>	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Map indicating outlined red the approximate area of land for disposal at Old Golf Course Road, Dunmurry.	