



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Refurbishment of Dunville and Woodvale Parks
<b>Date:</b>	16 September 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the Report is to update the Committee on the proposals to refurbish Dunville and Woodvale Parks.

### **Relevant Background Information**

The Committee will be aware that the emerging from the Parks Improvement Programme it was previously agreed that we would undertake the refurbishment of two parks. After consideration it was agreed that the parks would Dunville and Woodvale.

Over the course of the past two years there has been ongoing discussion with the respective communities and Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) with regards to the proposals.

Steady progress has been made and the purpose of this report is update the Committee on the key issues.

### **Key Issues**

#### Economic Appraisals

The Economic Appraisals for both Parks have now been completed and there is a recommended option for both parks. These appraisals were undertaken on behalf of the Belfast Regeneration Office to inform their decision making process. The Appraisals are now with the Department of Finance and Personnel and we await a decision from them.

The Committee will be aware of the ongoing budgetary constraints being applied to Government Departments and at this time, while we remain optimistic that funding will be forthcoming from BRO, we cannot be certain and must await

the decisions arising out of the comprehensive spending review. There is no timescale for the decision but it is hoped that there will be an indication from BRO after initial announcements on the spending review in October 2010.

#### Design work and Planning Approval

The Council has continued to work at a calculated risk and has prepared a design for Dunville Park. This will be submitted to the Planning Service by the end of September, following final consultation with representatives from the community.

Officers have met with the Planning Service and the NI Environment Agency to ensure that the planning application reflects any concerns the organisations might have. Planning approval might take between 6-8 months.

Work on the Woodvale proposal is marginally behind Dunville. There were a number of design options which required further discussion with the community representatives and this has delayed the more detailed work required for Planning. This work has now commenced and it is the intention to submit a planning application by the end of October.

#### Next Steps

##### *Design Work*

In relation to Dunville, it is intended to proceed with detailed design and contract documentation. This is necessary to facilitate getting on site in the summer 2011, subject to funding.

Once the Woodvale Planning Application has been submitted it is proposed that a similar approach be taken.

#### Involvement with the community

A governance structure involving BCC, BRO and the Community has been established for Dunville Park and this will be replicated for Woodvale. The purpose of this structure is to oversee progress in respect of both schemes and to secure the buy in of the main stakeholders.

These groups will meet every six to eight weeks, but frequency will depend on the stage of the project.

#### Funding

The Committee will be aware that the Council has agreed that both parks be included on its Capital Programme. This was agreed in February 2010 and ratified by Council in March 2010. The Council has included £1m for each park in the programme. The estimated cost of the refurbishment of each is £2m, the remaining £1m per park to come from BRO. As outlined above, given the financial constraints the decision from BRO has been delayed and we are awaiting a determination from them.

<b>Resource Implications</b>
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<u>Financial</u>
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There are no additional financial implications at this time.
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<u>Human Resources</u>
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There are no additional human resource implications.
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<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
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There are no implications from this report.
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<b>Recommendations</b>
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The Committee is asked to note the report.
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<b>Decision Tracking</b>
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There are no actions arising from this report.
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<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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None.
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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None.
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