



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Acquisition of Land at Slievegallion Drive
<b>Date:</b>	16 September 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ken Anderson, Estates Management, Property and Projects Department Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive Committee approval to proceed with the acquisition of land at Slievegallion open space.

### Relevant Background Information

The Committee is asked to note that the Council currently holds 4.975 acres of land at Slievegallion Drive (shown shaded green on the attached map (Appendix 1). The land is held on a 10,000 year lease, dated 20 February 1984, from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The lease restricts use of the site to open space.

A small portion of land at the northern end of the site was omitted from the original transfer and remains in NIHE ownership. To allow rationalisation of the site boundary Council officers contacted the NIHE and requested the transfer of the previously omitted portion to the Council. The transfer would be on terms similar to those of the original lease i.e. a long lease at nominal rent. The NIHE has agreed to this request.

The land to be acquired comprises approximately 0.173 acres and is shown hatched black on the attached map (Appendix 1). The land is currently in grass. A Preliminary Risk Assessment to increase understanding of any potential contamination on the site indicates there are no greater contamination risks associated with the portion being acquired than with the other portions of the site which are already held by the Council.

## **Key Issues**

The key issue for the committee to note is that the transfer of the portion of land hatched black on Appendix 1 would rationalise the existing site boundaries and 'square off' the Council's land holding. This would simplify any future pitch or other recreational development at this location. Acquisition of the land would be at no cost to the Council.

## **Resource Implications**

### Financial

The acquisition would be at no capital costs to the Council. Minimal additional revenue costs incurred for grass cutting of the additional portion of land which measures approximately 20 metres x 30 metres.

### Human Resources

There are no additional human resources required.

### Asset and Other Implications

Acquisition would rationalise site boundaries which are currently undefined around this portion of land. i.e. there are currently no fences or other structures which separate the Council's existing land from the portion to be acquired.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee approve the acquisition from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive of approximately 0.173 acres of land shown hatched black on Appendix 1 to this report, on the basis of a long lease at a nominal rent, with use restricted to open space, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 60 and appropriate legal documentation to be approved by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor.

## **Decision Tracking**

The Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager will monitor acquisition to ensure completion by 31 March 2011.

## **Key to Abbreviations**

NIHE: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

## **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Map showing the land to be acquired hatched black. The Council's existing land holding at Slievegallion Drive Open Space is shaded green.