



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Availability and usage of containers and multi-sectional facilities on Parks and Leisure land.
Date:	13 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Rose Crozier, Head of Parks and Leisure Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager

1	Purpose
	<p>The purpose of this report is to regularise the availability and use of containers and multi-sectional facilities by external organisations and groups on land managed by the Parks.</p> <p>Excluded from the report are containers and multi-sectional facilities that are owned and used by Belfast City Council only, or are used by Belfast City Council to provide changing or other accommodation and charged for as part of the service. Sheds erected by allotment holders on their allotments are not included in this report.</p>

2	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that our Parks and Open Spaces are used to accommodate and support a wide and varied range of recreational and leisure activities; many of these are sporting oriented and require access to equipment. However owing to the lack of internal space for storage of equipment and materials in yards, pavilions and bothies it has been necessary in the past to provide containers and multi-sectional facilities [the containers] to resolve this issue.</p> <p>In some instances the containers may be provided by and owned by the Council, in others the ownership will rest with an external organisation or group.</p>

	<p>Appendix 1 provides a list of those containers owned by the Council and which have been provided for storage purposes for all users of the facilities. Appendix 2 relates to those containers owned by the Council but which are used exclusively by a single group or organisation and which require an appropriate legal agreement. Appendix 3 provides a list of all those containers which are currently located on Council land, but which are owned by an external organisation or group for their own storage purposes and for which retrospective approval is required. Appendix 4 provides a list of recent requests for containers for storage purposes which also require Committee approval, 2 of which are to be purchased by the Council, one will be bought by the Club and the fourth will be funded by Peace 111.</p>
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3	Key Issues
	<p>The key issue for the Committee is to establish a consistent and regulated approach to the provision and use of containers.</p> <p>It is proposed that for the purposes of this report that a container is defined in terms of its use and in this regard it is suggested that a container be viewed as a storage medium, and that that storage may be for sporting or other authorised equipment and materials , or for merchandise or appropriate food stock as necessary.</p> <p>It is further suggested that containers are usually inappropriate for use as meeting places, office accommodation, changing facilities etc. In these latter cases, a more appropriate form of accommodation, temporary or permanent, would be considered and where necessary the appropriate statutory approvals sought together with an appropriate legal agreement.</p> <p>It is also proposed that as a legal agreement is required when the owner is not the Council then Committee approval will be sought.</p> <p>In relation to the list of containers in Appendix 1, Committee approval is not required as these are provided and owned by Belfast City Council for storage purposes for all staff and all users.</p>

4	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The provision of two additional containers at a cost of £2,000 each which will be met from the revenue budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The provision of containers for storage will support the delivery of services on sites. However, given the temporary nature of the containers it will be necessary to keep the situation under review.</p>

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5	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no identified equality or good relations matters associated with this issue.

6	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee adopt the working definition of a container as outlined in the report above; 2. Agree to Officers undertaking a review of storage and other facilities within the Parks estate; 3. The Committee conveys retrospective approvals in respect to the sites listed in Appendix 2 and 3 and authorise Officers to prepare an appropriate legal agreement in conjunction with Legal Services; 4. A policy is developed regarding the regulation, provision and usage of containers to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) delegated authority for the Director of Parks and Leisure to permit installation, purchase and usage of containers on Parks and Leisure lands. (ii) consideration of cost recovery/funding regarding containers where appropriate. (iii) supply of containers. 5. The Committee conveys consent to the provision of containers as listed in Appendix 4 and to enter into an appropriate legal agreement in conjunction with Legal Services; 6. The Committee agree that requests relating to the provision of accommodation other than for storage, such as for changing facilities or the provision of hospitality be brought as separate issues for consideration by Committee as appropriate.

7	Decision Tracking
	<p>Officer responsible: Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager. Access to new containers to be arranged by the end of March. Legal agreements to be put in place by April 2011. A facility review to be undertaken by July 2011, and a policy review by August 2011.</p>

8	Key to Abbreviations
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9	Documents Attached
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Appendix 1:	Containers owned and used by BCC for storage
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Appendix 2:	Containers for storage owned by BCC, used exclusively by a group or organisation requiring a legal agreement
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Appendix 3:	Containers for storage owned and used by a group or organisation, requiring retrospective approval
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Appendix 4:	Current requests for further containers for storage for exclusive use by a group or organisation requiring Committee approval
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