



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Community Garden in Grove Park
<b>Date:</b>	14 April 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The council received an initial interest from the Friends of Grove Park in July 2010 to establish a community garden within Grove Park. Since that time there have been a series of meetings with the friends group and other stakeholders to develop the idea and to establish its deliverability.
1.2	The friends group have since partnered with Groundwork NI to assist them in bringing the community garden to fruition.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Friends of Grove Park have been in existence since January 2009 and have delivered many events and activities in the park such as tea dances in the bowling pavilion and family festivals in the park to encourage active participation thus increasing the health and wellbeing of park users. The friends group have secured many funding grants to assist with the delivery of events, activities and initiatives in Grove Park.
2.2	The friends of Grove Park have identified a community garden project for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• encourages community involvement and participation through the medium of growing fruit and vegetables;</li><li>• promotes health and wellbeing;</li><li>• encourages physical activity;</li><li>• raises awareness of healthy eating;</li><li>• provides home grown sustainable food;</li><li>• promotes shared space; and</li><li>• addresses and tackles health related illness.</li></ul>
2.3	The friends of Grove Park have been working with Groundwork NI to address several key issues when considering a community garden project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• supply and demand;</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sustainability;</li> <li>• identifying a suitable and secure area in the park for the garden;</li> <li>• access to essential facilities such as water and shelter;</li> <li>• drawing up landscape plans and costs; and</li> <li>• designing a project plan for delivery and a community plan for inclusion and participation.</li> </ul>
2.4	If the friends group is successful in their application to the Alpha fund the community garden will be managed in accordance with the developing community garden and allotment strategy.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The group is currently working on an application that will be submitted in June 2011 to the Alpha Fund.
3.2	The total amount applied for is £50,000 and the council must contribute 10% of the amount received.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	The community garden will promote shared space and links will be made with participants at other gardens throughout the city to promote and share good practice.
4.2	The garden will be developed and enjoyed by everyone from the community and will provide opportunities for both cross community and intergenerational working.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to support the Friends of Grove application to the Alpha programme to secure the funds to be able to develop a community garden in Grove Park.</li> <li>2. Give approval for the construction of the community garden within the identified area of Grove Park.</li> </ol>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Community Parks Outreach Manager to communicate the decision of the Committee to Friends of Grove.

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.