



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Letting of 62 Antrim Road
Date:	11 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager, Parks and Leisure

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>A number of houses are currently let to staff within Parks and Leisure Department. The rents payable on these properties were last revised by Committee in May 2010 and ratified by SP&R in August 2010.</p> <p>The rents on these dwellings have been based on equivalent Housing Executive rents for houses with equivalent facilities and have been adjusted by the Estate Management Unit to take into account the following factors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. location of the dwelling.2. condition of the dwelling3. dwellings are only offered to council employees under agreements which can be terminated at short notice or when the employee leaves the employment of the council.4. some of the tenancy agreements call on the occupier to take certain security duties in relation to adjoining council property. Where this is the case an allowance has been made.

2.	Key Issues
	<p>A number of criteria are applied to allocate the houses including: that the individual must be permanently employed by Belfast City Council and has to be bound by a tenancy agreement which is linked to their continuing employment. The tenancy agreement requires the individual to take on certain responsibilities specific to the property but in general they pertain to opening and closing gates, reporting incidents of antisocial behaviour to the police and some minor maintenance of the gardens.</p> <p>The property at the Zoo 62 Antrim Road includes duties in relation to dealing with escaped animals which requires experience of handling animals. Therefore this property was trawled for an expression of interest</p>

	to be let solely to the relevant zoo staff. The house was allocated to Mr Andrew Hope, Zoo curator in August 2008 however this was not formally reported to committee at that time.
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3. Resource Implications

	<p><u>Financial</u> A weekly rent of £74 per week plus rates has been set by SP&R in August 2010 and will be reviewed regularly.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional human resources required.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Occupation of the houses secures the asset and allows a presence on the site to provide a resource to open and close the site and report any incidents including those regarding anti social behaviour.</p>
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4. Equality and good relations considerations
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	None.
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5. Recommendations

	Committee is asked to retrospectively agree the allocation of 62 Antrim Road as detailed above subject to tenancy agreements and the rental rates as agreed previously.
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6. Decision Tracking

	Tenancy agreements to be drawn up and signed by Legal Services and Business Manager.
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7. Key to Abbreviations

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8. Documents Attached

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