



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Refurbishment of Dunville Park and Woodvale Park – Update Report
Date:	15 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager, Parks and Leisure

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will recall that the refurbishment of these two parks was identified as an action within the Parks Improvement Agenda. The schemes were advanced to the 'committed' section of the council's capital programme in March 2010. The Department for Social Development (Belfast Regeneration Office) approved matched funding for the schemes in March 2011. In April 2011 the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the preferred options as identified through the economic appraisal process.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The key issues for the Committee to note are:</p> <p>1. <u>Planning</u> Planning applications have been lodged in respect of both projects.</p> <p>The planning application in respect of Dunville Park was submitted in October 2010 and approval is pending. The application in relation to Woodvale was submitted in March 2011 and is currently under consultation. A decision is expected by the end of the year.</p> <p>2. <u>Detailed Design and Tender</u> Officers have continued to work at risk, in advance of planning approval, to prepare detailed designs for the refurbishment works. Consultants are due to be appointed mid September to complete the detailed design work and to undertake detailed costing of the work for tender purposes.</p> <p>3. <u>Commencement of work</u> It is anticipated that tenders will be invited towards the end of the year with contractors appointed and work due to commence in the first quarter of 2012.</p>

	<p>4. <u>Closure of the parks during construction</u> It will be necessary to close the parks during construction for health and safety reasons. The construction period is estimated to be in the region of 9-12 months for each project. Discussions will take place with the local community and their representatives in advance of the closure. Consideration will be given to the need for appropriate measures to adequately secure the sites and to tackle any antisocial behaviour which may occur during the construction works.</p> <p>A communication plan will be developed to ensure a flow of information during the process.</p> <p>5. <u>Post completion</u> From the outset it has been recognised that the improvements in the two parks must go beyond the physical refurbishment. Discussions have been ongoing and will be escalated in the coming months regarding how the projects can contribute to improvements in the quality of life in the neighbourhoods in which they are located. It will be necessary to develop an approach to integrated working both within the council, with other agencies and local people to ensure the best outcomes.</p> <p>It is intended that a benefits plan be produced which will set out how we will deliver these. This should be completed by the end of the year.</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> The two projects have been included on the capital programme.</p> <p>At this time no additional revenue implications have been identified. It is noted that the estimating process for 2012/13 will be no growth.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Whilst it is not anticipated that there will be additional human resource implications, it is anticipated that Officers will be required to focus on these projects in the run up to the completion of the works and in the months immediately post completion. This will need to be accommodated within existing work schedules.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The refurbishment of the two parks provides the opportunity to make a positive contribution to improving the quality of life of people living in the neighbourhoods in which they are located.</p>
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4	<p>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</p> <p>There are no equality implications.</p>
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5	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee note the report.</p>
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6	Decision Tracking
	A further update report will be brought to committee in December 2011 to update on progress.

7	Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None.