



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Flooding in East Belfast
Date:	13 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will be aware that heavy rain on the evening of Wednesday 27 June 2012 caused severe flooding across the city. Initial reports on the Council's response to the flooding was considered by the Health and Environmental Services Committee at its meeting on 1 August 2012 and by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on Friday 10 August 2012.</p> <p>A number of multiagency and internal reviews have taken place over the month of August 2012 and a flooding incident report will be produced with recommendations and actions for the Council to take forward over the upcoming months. This report will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course. In the interim a number of actions have been taken forward. Members will be aware that interim flood alleviation works are currently underway in Orangefield Park. These are being delivered jointly by the Council and the Rivers Agency. A report on the costs associated with this will be presented to the Committee in due course.</p> <p>East Belfast was particularly badly affected during the flooding emergency. Members will be aware that permission was granted to the Rivers Agency to place a container for storage of sand bags within Orangefield Park. During this most recent flooding incident it became clear that the positioning of this container was inappropriate in that it quickly became affected by the flooding and access was not easily obtained to the container by local residents.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Council is working closely with the Rivers Agency to find alternative arrangements for the storage of sand bags within the Orangefield Park area to assist residents in that street.</p> <p>As a result the Rivers Agency have made a request to the Council to remove the container at Orangefield Park and to reposition it in the grounds of Dixon Playing Fields to enable it to become a sand bag distribution centre for local residents. Appendix 1 identifies a possible location for this container within the playing fields. This would be seen as an interim measure until the flood alleviation works are completed within the Connswater Community Greenway.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> No financial implications for the Council.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> There are no significant implications for the Council's assets.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Committee are asked to authorise the relocation of the sand bag container from Orangefield Park to Dixon Playing Fields subject to all operational requirements being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and an appropriate legal agreement being in place between the Council and Rivers Agency.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
	The Director of Parks and Leisure.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Map of possible location for container