



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Feasibility of a Community Garden in Northlink Park
Date:	15 November 2012
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager, South and West Belfast.

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Committee is reminded of the successful community gardens that have been established across the City, including, amongst others, gardens at Ozone Leisure Centre, Shankill Leisure Centre and Musgrave Park.</p> <p>The community gardens have been very beneficial in creating a community led approach to learning new skills and growing healthy vegetables and fruit. All members of the community, including young and elderly, have been involved in this healthy activity.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>Committee is requested to note that Parks Officer's have received a request from residents within the area of North link to explore the option of establishing a community led garden in Northlink Park. Residents have expressed their interest after being involved and visiting other community gardens across the City.</p> <p>Preliminary work will be required to assess the risk of contamination of the area and the preparation of a draft landscape plan.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Staff time will be required to engage with the local community to prepare a</p>

	<p>draft drawing of the proposed garden and there will be a cost of £500- £1500 to provide a preliminary contamination risk assessment survey of the area. The cost can be met from the existing revenue budget for the area.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no Human Resource issues other than Officer time</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no Equality or Good relations issues.

5	Recommendations
	Committee is requested to grant permission to proceed with provisional plans and a contamination risk assessment survey with a view to establishing a community led garden at Northlink Park. A further report will be taken to Committee outlining results of the survey, plans and costs of establishing the community garden in Northlink Park.

6	Decision Tracking
	Responsible Officer: City Park Manager, South and West Belfast.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None