



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Replacement of Bridge at Clement Wilson Park
<b>Date:</b>	6 December 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Mngr

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Clement Wilson Park is located in the South of the city adjacent to Shaw's Bridge and forms part of the Lagan Valley Regional Park and is also part of the Sustrans Cycle Route. It can be accessed from a number of locations within the area. One of these is at the bottom of New Forge Lane where access to and from the park is via a bridge. The Committee is reminded that it received a report at its meeting on 16 June 2008 regarding the condition of the bridge. As a result the bridge was restricted to pedestrian and cycle access and it was agreed that it be recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the replacement of the bridge.</p> <p>Since June 2008 further reports on the condition of the bridge have been received. The replacement has been placed on the Committed list of the capital programme and work is now on going to undertake the construction of a new bridge. The current position is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A design team has been appointed and a planning application has been submitted in November 2012 to the Planning Service seeking the necessary consent;</li><li>2. Consultation with the Lagan Valley Regional Park Board and Sustrans have been commenced, letters will be sent to those living in the area in December 2012 and signage will be erected in the New Year to inform users of the proposals;</li><li>3. A photograph of the proposed new bridge is attached as Appendix 1 and a site map is attached as Appendix 2; a technical drawing of the structure is attached as Appendix 3.</li><li>4. It is anticipated that a select list will be drawn up during December</li></ol>

	<p>2012 from which tenders will be invited in the New year;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. To minimise the disruption to park users it is intended that the bridge will be constructed off site and will be delivered to the site and lifted by crane to its agreed position which is the site of the existing bridge; this will however require a licence agreement with the owner of the car park area;</li> <li>6. It is anticipated that it will be necessary to close this access point for approximately 8 weeks, this is to allow for the removal of the existing bridge (and the avoidance of any environmental damage), preparatory work for the new bridge and its installation; this is likely to be during the Spring of 2013.</li> </ol>
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<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note the following key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The bridge needs to be replaced on health and safety grounds;</li> <li>2. Repairs have been carried out to enable it to be used up to the construction time;</li> <li>3. The closure of the bridge and access point will be an inconvenience to some users;</li> <li>4. Discussions will continue with the main stakeholders;</li> <li>5. It will be necessary to use the existing car park area at New Forge Lane as a base for the bridge prior to its installation and for the necessary lifting equipment required to position the bridge. As the land is not owned by the Council it will be necessary to enter into an appropriate legal agreement with the land owner. Members are asked to note that without agreement it may be necessary to consider alternative construction methods which may mean the closure of the bridge for an extended period of time, perhaps up to 6 months;</li> <li>6. Early notification signs are currently being prepared and will be erected in the New Year to inform park users of the need for the works and of the need to close the access point, indicative timescales will be provided;</li> </ol>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Provision of £2,000,000 for the replacement bridge has been allowed for in the Council's Capital Programme.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The replacement is required on health and safety grounds. In addition,</p>

	the replacement will ensure the connectivity between the park and its environs and will support mobility and access for cyclists, pedestrians, runners for an estimated life of 40 years.
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<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no equality implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee note the issues and current position.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	None

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Photograph of similar bridge at Newcastle Appendix 2 – Site map Appendix 3 – Outline drawing showing bridge