



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Grow request for further use of the Waterworks Community Garden
<b>Date:</b>	10 January 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Since 2010, the not for profit organisation <i>Grow</i> has managed the community garden in Waterworks Park. At present, <i>Grow</i> is engaged by the Council to manage the Waterworks site though a formal funding agreement which ended on 31 December 2012.
1.2	Members will be aware that in May 2012 <i>Grow</i> approached the Council seeking support for this application to Big Lottery Fund under the programme <i>Reaching Out: Connecting Older People</i> , for £200,000 to deliver a project to engage older people at various sites including the Waterworks garden. A request by <i>Grow</i> for further match funding and acquisition of Council land adjacent to the existing Waterworks garden in support of the application was considered by Committee at the August 2012 meeting but not approved.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Following success in its application to Big Lottery Fund, <i>Grow</i> wrote to the Council in November 2012 requesting use of the existing Waterworks site for a three year period to deliver activities under the new project. These would include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Training of volunteers;</li><li>– Ongoing maintenance and development of the present Waterworks site;</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment of community participants to the project;</li> <li>- Regular community gardening sessions;</li> <li>- Regular garden cooking session;</li> <li>- Community engagement workshop;</li> <li>- Mentoring of participants;</li> <li>- Community days;</li> <li>- Exchange visits; and</li> <li>- Celebration and dissemination events.</li> </ul> <p>The project is due to run for 3 years.</p>
2.2	The current funding agreement with Grow was established with the clear understanding and intent that, following expiry of the agreement, management of the Waterworks site would return to the Council for ongoing use in line with the newly developed Growing Communities Strategy.
2.3	Should the request for the use of the site by Grow be approved, it is proposed that it would be an “Agreement for Use” of the current Community Garden space, for the period of the “Reaching Out: Connecting Older People” project and that management and maintenance of the garden would revert back to the Council on completion of the project. It would further be proposed that the Council and Grow would work in partnership in order to use the site for other community growing programmes and activities as long as they are feasible and do not compromise Grow’s delivery of the Big Lottery project.
2.4	To this end, it is proposed that a formal Agreement for Use would be prepared by Legal Services affording Grow the use of the Waterworks community garden for the duration of the project funded by the Big Lottery (exact duration to be confirmed) .

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Grow have been successful in attracting £200,000 for a programme relating to the use of this space and are not seeking any other Council contribution at this time.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> None at this stage.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Grow’s request and the ongoing use of the community garden space within the Waterworks Park represent a use of the space as well as delivering on key Council outcomes such as helping people become more healthy, active, and more involved in their local communities and neighbourhoods.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
4.1	The Grow organisation is a cross-community organisation with the promotion of positive community relations at its core.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Committee is asked to consider this request from Grow and grant approval for use of the current Waterworks community garden for the duration of the Big Lottery funded application, subject to an 'Agreement for Use' being prepared by Legal Services.

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

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

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
None.	