



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Flooding at Orchardville
Date:	14 March 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

1. Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware of the heavy rain on the night of 27 June 2012 which caused severe flooding across the city. One of the areas affected was Orchardville and surrounding areas.

Following a multi agency debrief and a range of other feedback including that from elected members, a 'June 2012 flooding report' was compiled by the Council's Emergency Planning Team. This report looked at the background to the flooding, the response of the agencies involved and made a number of recommendations to improve the response in the future.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee endorsed the findings of this report, including its recommendations at its meeting on 23 November 2012.

One of the recommendations was to conduct a review of flooding hotspots. This was to be taken forward on a collective basis across the agencies.

2. Key Issues

The Rivers Agency have now written to the Council (letter attached Appendix 1) indicating that they are proposing to undertake a study with others to identify sources of flooding in the Orchardville and surrounding areas, what can be done to manage these sources and who is best placed to take action.

	One of the sources identified by local residents is runoff from the Woodlands Playing Fields and while work has been carried out to improve the effectiveness of the drainage on the site, it is appropriate for the Council to be involved in the study.
--	---

3.	Resource Implications
	Financial - £5,000 together with staff time.

4.	Equality Implications
	None

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Council engage with the Rivers Agency and other partners in the study into flooding in the Orchardville area and agree to make a financial contribution of £5,000 towards the costs of appointing a specialist consultant to assist with the Study.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Director of Parks and Leisure

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Letter from the Rivers Agency.