



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and leisure Committee
Subject:	Reservoir Supervision and Maintenance
Date:	16 January 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure Department
Contact Officer:	Ian Bowden, Senior Civil Engineering Officer, Parks and Leisure Department. Ext 4784

1.0	Relevant Background Information
	<p>At its meeting on 10th November 2011, Committee agreed to the establishment of an inspection process in line with current best practice for all appropriate water retaining structures.</p> <p>Northern Ireland is currently in the process of developing a Reservoirs Bill similar to the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011. The Bill will have its First Stage / Introduction on 20th January 2014, when a copy of the Bill will be made public and is expected to become an Act in 2015.</p> <p>Under the terms of current Rivers Agency classification, Belfast City Council have five Reservoirs that require Inspection and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waterworks Upper Pond• Waterworks Lower Pond• Alexandra Park• Boodles Dam, Ligoniel Park• Half Moon Lake, Suffolk Road <p>The current “best practice” is the Reservoirs Act 1975 and council commissioned Section 10 Reports for each of the above structures. These reports were carried out by URS Infrastructure and Environment Ltd.</p>

2.0	Key Issues
	<p>The reports make a series of recommendations for each site. Some of these are maintenance issues e.g. cutting grass, tree pruning and general clearance which are carried out as part of everyday duties.</p> <p>Council have already carried out some of the recommendations at both Waterworks Upper & Lower but there are still some works to carry out at all sites. See Appendix 1.</p> <p>The most significant recommendation however relates to Boodles Dam, were it is</p>

	<p>recommended that this impoundment be abandoned because of the nature of the ground above it. In 1996 Doran Consulting produced a report on ground movement within Ligoniel Country Park. Remedial work was undertaken at that time which included reducing the water stored in the impoundment and the installation of deep seated drainage throughout the park. Doran Consulting monitor the park on an annual basis and it remains relatively stable. However given the history and the nature of the ground above the impoundment it is now proposed that it be abandoned and the area landscaped. A proposal and costing will be presented to Committee in due course.</p> <p>In addition the Act places a responsibility on Reservoir owners to carry out monthly and six monthly inspections. The Supervising Engineer is to carry out 6 monthly inspections until the remedial works in have been completed The other inspections can be incorporated alongside existing inspections by Council staff. Further, Inspections must be carried out by the Supervising Engineer once a year, and a Panel Engineer every ten years. The dates for these repeat inspections by the Panel Engineer are set in the various reports and vary from June 2021 to April 2023.</p>
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3.0	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u> At present there is only one Panel Engineer in Northern Ireland (see explanation below), URS. Therefore Council will use URS for any further annual and 10 yearly inspections. At current rates, each of these inspections is £3000 per inspection per site. Council are currently costing the work recommended in Appendix 1 and will report back to Committee in due course.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Staff from the Landscape Planning and Development Unit within the Parks and Leisure Department will be required to engage and liaise with URS during the procurement and execution of the works recommended in Appendix 1</p>

4.0	Equality Implications
	None

5.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to give authority to the Director of Parks and Leisure to proceed with works and associated expenditure to implement the various recommendations in the Reservoir Reports

6.0	Decision Tracking
	Committee decision to be implemented by the Director of Parks and Leisure

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	Panel Engineer – Member of All Reservoirs Panel, as constituted under Section 4 of the Reservoirs Act 1975. Current Appointment valid until 17 th November 2015 URS – URS Infrastructure and Environment Limited.

8.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Recommendations extracted from Reports