



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Use of Victoria Park in Bombardier Aerospace's Evacuation Plan
Date:	13 February 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	This report is to inform Members that the Council has received a request from Bombardier Aerospace Belfast for approval in principle to permit the inclusion of Victoria Park in their evacuation plan.

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Security Department at Bombardier Aerospace Belfast is currently reviewing the Emergency Evacuation Plan for their Queen's Island site at Airport Road. They have been working with statutory bodies and other agencies including Belfast Resilience Forum Programme Manager, Claire Carleton, to plan for a total site evacuation in the event of a major incident.</p> <p>If a total evacuation of the Queens Island site is required the Senior Officer of the Emergency Services will determine which offsite assembly point is to be used. A number of locations have been identified with the preferred options being in the vicinity of the Odyssey.</p> <p>Victoria Park has been identified as an alternative location with access via Connsbank Road and Sydenham By-Pass and/or the new footbridge at Airport Road directly opposite the main entrance to the Bombardier site.</p> <p>Bombardier recognise that in the short term the use of Victoria Park is subject to the footbridge being opened for use and the completion of the building works that are currently ongoing on the park.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council agree to the request from Bombardier and that a legal agreement be drawn up in relation to their use of Victoria</p>

	<p>Park in the event of an emergency. Advice from the Council's Emergency Planning Unit is that Victoria Park should not be used if the nature of the emergency incident is flooding and this will be reflected in the legal agreement.</p> <p>There is also an issue relating to the use of the park outside of normal opening hours. Discussions around the opening hours of the new footbridge are still ongoing and at this point it is not certain if it will be open 24 hours. It is suggested therefore that the legal agreement allows the use of Victoria Park as an evacuation area during normal park opening hours and that when a decision is reached around the opening hours of the new footbridge the agreement is updated to reflect this.</p> <p>If Members agree to this request Council officers will liaise with Bombardier staff around the practicalities of using Victoria Park as an evacuation point to minimise the impact on other park users.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial resource implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> A Council asset will be used in the event of a total site evacuation.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality implications associated with this report.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to agree to Bombardier Aerospace Belfast's request to include Victoria Park in their evacuation plan, subject to the signing of a formal agreement, that it will not be used if the emergency is a flooding incident and that it will not be used until the new footbridge is opened.

6.	Decision Tracking
	The Director will inform Bombardier of the Committee's decision.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	None