



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Possible Flood Alleviation at Musgrave Park</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
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The purpose of this report is to make members aware of the possibility of flood alleviation measures at Musgrave Park.

Members will be aware of the recent sporadic flooding which has occurred across the city in recent years. One of the most affected areas has been Sicily Park and Marguerite Park which is located on the Upper Lisburn Road within the Balmoral Ward, in the South of the City. Members will also be aware that Northern Ireland Water (NIW) is engaged in developing a medium to long term strategy which seeks to improve the infrastructure and alleviate flooding through attenuating storm water and rationalising the existing systems.

Officers have met with representatives from NIW regarding the Glenmachan Sewerage Scheme which is targeted at South Belfast Flood Alleviation. As a medium term measure NIW is proposing the creation of an outlet flow control pond which would effectively retain the rainwater and enable it to be safely transported away from residential accommodation.

We have been advised that there are currently two options under consideration. One of the options involves the creation of the outlet flow control pond in Musgrave Park. The area being considered by NIW is adjacent to the existing playing fields, but it would not impact on the playing fields themselves, Appendix A is a depiction of the location.

	<p>At this point no final decision has been taken by NIW on the preferred location. A decision on this is expected in the coming months. It was agreed however that a short report would be presented to Members to make them aware of the possibility of using Musgrave Park as part of this flood alleviation scheme potentially under NIW's statutory powers.</p>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>There are a number of issues for the Council to consider.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flooding has become an issue across the city and it is important that there is a collaborative approach to seek to alleviate the problems;</li> <li>2. It is also important that we minimise the disruption to the Council assets;</li> <li>3. If Musgrave Park is deemed the most effective option the proposal will require the formation of a large outlet flow control pond to hold a significant volume of water;</li> <li>4. All efforts will be made to provide a landscaped area which will remain attractive and will be sympathetic to the environment around it;</li> <li>5. Musgrave Park was gifted to the council and there are covenants in place which require it to remain accessible. Further legal advice will be required on this matter in order to inform discussions moving forward;</li> <li>6. Other park users may raise opposition to any such proposal; however this is likely to be a matter for NIW and the Planning Service;</li> <li>7. Funding has been secured by NIW for this work to be undertaken. A provisional start date for the work is November 2014, however this is dependent on receiving the necessary approvals, such as planning.</li> </ol>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p> <p>There are no financial implications for Council.</p> <p><b>Human Resources</b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality implications

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that the Committee note that a further report will be brought to Committee as soon as a definite proposal has been received from NIW.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A report will be brought to the Committee at a later date.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	NIW – Northern Ireland Water

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix A – Diagram showing possible location of flood alleviation measure in Musgrave Park