



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Brown Square Development</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director Parks and Leisure

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The removal and replacement of the Department of Justice (DOJ) peace line at Brown Square has recently been under discussion with the DOJ and local community representatives.</p> <p>The layout of the Brown Square site is attached at Appendix 1 and contains a play area and an open green space. The boundary between the park and the Belfast Met estate is marked with two fences, a metal panelled 'tin' fence owned by the Council, shows a solid face into the park. It is approximately 210cm high. That fence is topped with a paladin style of fence panel, measuring approximately a further 210cm in height. The paladin section on that fence line is the fence controlled by DOJ.</p> <p>Proposals emerging from these discussions include the replacement of the tin fence and DOJ fence at the peace line with a more appropriate and aesthetically pleasing fence, a general improvement of the park area and the installation of a number of anti-social behaviour measures such as defensive planting to improve security.</p> <p>The community group has requested that the metal removed from the Peace line should be retained in storage for its use in a community artwork project to commemorate the former inhabitants of the area and its history.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brown Square is an interface which is abounded by fencing on three sides. The proposal refers to the removal of the fence at the back of the site adjoining the Belfast Met campus. The interface is not a live interface.</li><li>• The current tin fencing provides a canvas for graffiti and is unsightly.</li><li>• A perimeter fence of expanded metal weld mesh paladin to a minimum height of 2.4 meters is proposed as a fit for purpose boundary fence.</li><li>• The works will improve both security and the aesthetics of the Park.</li><li>• Community and key stakeholder engagement has taken place and there is support for the development.</li><li>• Further community engagement is required to fully develop the scheme.</li></ul>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> The cost for the removal of the existing fence will be borne by DoJ. The estimated cost of the enhancement of the open space including the cost of the new fence is estimated to be in the region of £10,000 which will be accommodated from the Grounds Maintenance budget over two years.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No implications</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The project will enhance Brown Square and provide improved amenity for the local community.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	The local community and key stakeholders will be included in the development and delivery of this project.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is asked to agree to the scheme to develop Brown Square.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	DOJ – Department of Justice
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Outline of Brown Square site

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The playground is highlighted by the yellow boundary shown in this image. The line of the DoJ fence is demonstrated by the blue line drawn onto the picture.