



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Allotments update – Woodvale Park</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>In the context of the 'Growing Communities' Strategy, Committee will be aware that it recommended that a review of the allocation of allotments was undertaken. An operational management group is currently developing an allocation process, updating management and inspection guidelines and compiling an up-to-date, accurate database. This will be presented to Committee in early autumn, to be in place by the growing season in Spring 2015.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Members will be aware that DSD co-funded the re-development and refurbishment of Woodvale Park, re-opened in 2013. DSD funded the re-development project within the context of Neighbourhood Renewal, under the local area action plan, with the aim of improving the quality of life of those within the catchment of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.</p> <p>As part of the community engagement programme, there are currently facilitated growing sessions taking place. These have been enthusiastically received by the local community, delivered by the Conservation Volunteers.</p> <p>In this context, a request has been made that an allocation of allotments at Woodvale Park is made available to local groups. While this would be outside of the current city-wide process, a precedent has already been established at Whiterock and Musgrave, as required by funders' conditions of offer.</p> <p>There are advantages to plots being ring-fenced for local groups in the Woodvale area, most notably, developing local ownership and frequent use of the site to protect it from potential vandalism and/or dereliction, as well as the normal health and well-being benefits.</p>

	<p>It is therefore requested that Committee considers the request to allocate the plots to residents/ community groups/ schools from the local residential area i.e. within 1.5km mile radius catchment area/ approx 10/15 min walk. This is similar to the criterion agreed for the Whiterock allotments.</p> <p>On this basis it is proposed that we undertake an exercise to identify current interest among local residents within the catchment area, using the existing list as a starting point. If there are a greater number of names than plots available, these will be added to the city master list.</p> <p>Officers will ensure that these types of local arrangements are 'regularised' within the strategy to come to Committee in autumn.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b>Financial</b> None</p> <p><b>Human Resources</b> Officer support and support from the Conservation Volunteers, as per existing contract</p> <p><b>Assets</b> Protection and community engagement in Woodvale Park.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	A full equality screening will be undertaken for the city-wide allotments strategy when it is presented to Committee in September.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Committee authorise officers to undertake an immediate local allocation process, as outlined above.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p><b>Officer Responsible</b> Paula Irvine, Parks Outreach Manager</p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8.</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
	None