



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Sewer Installation at Ormeau Park – Impact on BMX Track
Date:	11 December 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext. 3400.
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext 3460.

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting on 11 September 2014 Committee approved allocation of £26,000 from within existing budgets in order to complete the current phase of development of the BMX Track at Ormeau Park.
1.2	In the interim the Council has been approached by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) with a proposal to install a new storm sewer across Ormeau Park. The storm sewer is designed to provide drainage for a recent housing development at Park Parade.
1.3	Council officers are working with NIW to minimise the impact of the sewer on the Council's landholding, however it appears likely the final route will run through the site of the BMX Track. In view of this and in order to avoid nugatory public expenditure it has been proposed that completion of the BMX Track be delayed until after completion of the NIW installations.
1.4	Based on current estimates it is envisaged NIW's works will be completed in Ormeau Park by mid March 2015 and that the Council's works to complete the BMX Track will therefore be deferred until April 2015.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Council is currently in the process of agreeing a 'least worst' route for the NIW sewer and will thereafter await service of a statutory notice by NIW in relation to the proposed works. Following an appropriate notice period NIW will carry out works thereafter, including reinstatement of the BMX Track to its current condition. Officers will work with NIW to allow their works to proceed as soon as possible.
2.2	Completion of the BMX Track will immediately follow completion of NIW works.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Finance None associated with this report. The Council will have an opportunity to make a claim for compensation from NIW in due course, including a claim in respect to any additional costs incurred by the Council as a result of the installation works.</p>
3.2	<p>Human Resources No human resource implications associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p>Asset and Other Implications Officers have endeavoured to reduce the impact on the Council's asset by suggesting a preferred sewer route as close as reasonably possible to the Park boundaries. Alternative routes, including part of the installation being sited along the public road and/or on nearby development land have been rejected by NIW as being too disruptive.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

6	Decision Tracking
None required.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
NIW – Northern Ireland Water	

8	Documents Attached
None.	