



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Electricity request to lay underground cables at Stewart Street</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24 February 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Belfast City Council occupies land at Stewart Street Belfast via two Leases one with Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) and the second with Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Both Leases are for a term of twenty five years commencing on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2000. The Lease between Belfast City Council and NIE permits use of the land for the purposes of a children's playground. The Lease from NIHE permits use of the land as an informal open space development. A copy of the relevant map illustrating the land ownership can be seen at Appendix 1.
1.2	A request has been received from NIE which involves the laying of approximately 75 metres and 15 metres of new low voltage underground cable in order to provide a new connection for Northern Ireland Railways (NIR) Translink. The cable will run from Stewart Street, crossing a small section of land owned by NIHE and over remaining land owned by NIE.
1.3	NIE require the Council to complete a standard wayleave agreement to facilitate the new arrangement. The wayleave agreement provides for the termination of the arrangement on 12 months' notice or if the council wishes to redevelop the land.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	NIE will be responsible for the works and cost of laying the cables and reinstatement.
2.2	The proposal from NIE involves laying 75 meters of low voltage underground cable from Stewart Street to the multi service joint and 15 meters low voltage underground cable from the multi service joint to NIR Translink property (service pillar). The proposed route for the underground cables is shown on the Wayleave map at Appendix 2.

2.3	Officers have sought NIHE approval for the part of the proposed wayleave which is located on NIHE lands leased to the Council at Stewart Street
2.4	A new play park is currently under construction by Belfast City Council at the site and NIE are aware that any works at the site will have to be closely coordinated with Parks and Leisure Department to ensure that the proposals do not affect the park.
2.5	A map of the proposed route for the underground cable has been provided along with the Wayleave documentation from NIE.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> No financial implications.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> Council officers from the Property and Projects Department (Estate Management Unit) and Parks and Leisure Department will liaise with the NIE organisers in relation to the proposed works and the completion of appropriate Wayleave Agreement.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Given the location of the proposed cable route, combined with the provisions for termination of the arrangement contained in the proposed wayleave agreement, the proposal will have minimal impact on the asset.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no equality or good relations issues at present.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the installation of an underground cable by Northern Ireland Electricity at the location identified on the attached map (Appendix 2) and authorises completion of wayleave agreement in respect of same, subject to NIHE having no objection to the proposal.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Wayleave Agreement to be approved by Estates Management Unit. NIE to liaise closely with Gary McNeill in Parks and Leisure to confirm that the operational programme does not affect the works on site to construct the new play park.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
NIE – Northern Ireland Electricity NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIR – Northern Ireland Railways	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Plans at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.	