



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update
Date:	8 May 2009.
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Core Improvement, Ext 3419

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to coordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land. The Greenway must be accessible for 40 years to comply with the Big Lottery Fund letter of offer, although the intention is to secure rights for longer if possible.

Key Issues

An area of 44.48 square metres immediately south of Mersey St bridge was identified as being required to provide the Greenway route along that part of the Connswater River. Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to purchase the freehold interest in land from the Neill family for £750.

The land being acquired from the Neill family forms a critical link from the Mersey St Bridge to existing Council owned open space and will enable the construction of a three metre wide path along this part of the Connswater River.

Resource Implications

Financial

The proposal requires an expenditure of £750 plus legal fees to purchase the land required. Land purchase costs are included within the Connswater Community Greenway budget included in the City Invest Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required

Asset and Other Implications

The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the purchase of the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 1

Decision Tracking

Action by Celine Dunlop to be completed by Sept 2009.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A.

Documents Attached

Plan at Appendix 1