



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Connswater Community Greenway Update</b>
<b>Date:</b>	11th December, 2009
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext: 6217
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects, 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

1. The area of land off Ladas Drive outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' consisting of 0.67 acres has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to purchase a 99 year lease of this area of land from the Police Board for Northern Ireland for £10,000 and subject to a peppercorn rent.
2. The area of land on either side of the Connswater River and adjacent to Airport Road shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '2' consisting of 32.5 sq metres has been identified as being required in order to construct a pedestrian bridge from Victoria Park to Airport Road for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to purchase a 99 year lease of this area of land with an annual rent of 5 pence if demanded from the Belfast Harbour.

**Resource Implications**Financial

These proposals requires an expenditure of £10,000 plus legal and agents 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.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the purchase of the lands outlined red on the plans attached at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.

**Key to Abbreviations**

N/A

**Decision Tracking**

Action by Celine Dunlop to be completed by March 2009.

**Documents Attached**

Plans - Appendices '1' and '2'.