



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: Connswater Community Greenway Update

Date: 10th Dec 2010

Reporting Officer: Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

Contact Officer: Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

Relevant Background Information	
1.1	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.
1.2	The Council have awarded the contract for the construction of the Greenway to SIAC/Galliford Try and the Project Manager is currently finalising the programme of work with the contractor.

Key Issues	
2.1	(i) An area of land at the Knock dual carriageway adjacent to Laburnum playing fields consisting of 26 square metres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to take an easement to create access over these lands for the Greenway from Andrew Millar and Co Ltd in consideration of five pence if demanded.
2.2	(ii) An area of land at Glen Road to the south-east of the Knock Dual carriageway consisting of 0.98 acres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '2' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands

	from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for £5.00. The purchase is subject to NIHE Board approval which is currently being sought by staff from the NIHE's Craigavon offices.
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	Resource Implications
	Financial
3.1	(i) The proposal to acquire the land from Andrew Millar and Co Ltd requires expenditure of £0.05 if demanded to acquire the easement over the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.2	(ii) The proposal to acquire the land from the NIHE requires expenditure of £5.00 to purchase the land plus reasonable professional and legal fees.
	Human Resources
3.3	Staff resource required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
	Asset and Other Implications
3.4	The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The Connswater Community Greenway will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

	Recommendations
5.1	(i) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to acquire an easement over the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Andrew Millar & Co Ltd for £0.05 if demanded.
5.2	(ii) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the land shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '2' from the NIHE for £5.00.

	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action by Celine Dunlop and Legal Services to be completed by June 2011.

	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	N/A

	Documents Attached
8.1	Plans at Appendix '1' and '2'.