



**Belfast City Council**

**Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

**Subject: Connswater Community Greenway Update**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011**

**Reporting Officer:** Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
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 construction is due to commence late January 2011.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	(i) An area of land at Ladas Drive consisting of 0.190 acres 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 purchase these lands from Castlereagh Borough Council for £9500 and on the condition that the land shall be used only for amenity purposes.
2.2	(ii) An area of land at the Loop River and adjacent to the Police site at Ladas Drive consisting of 133.2 sq metres and shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix'2' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands from Castlereagh Borough Council for £1000.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<b>Financial</b>
3.1	(i) The proposal to acquire the land at Ladas Drive from Castlereagh Borough Council requires expenditure of £9500 to purchase the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.2	(iii) The proposal to purchase the small area of land adjoining the Loop River and the Police site off Ladas Drive requires expenditure of £1000 plus associated reasonable professional and legal costs.
3.3	The purchase costs for all of the land required for the Connswater Community Greenway are included in the Connswater Community Greenway budget of the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council.
	<b>Human Resources</b>
3.5	Staff resource required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
	<b>Asset and Other Implications</b>
	The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
4.1	The Connswater Community Greenway will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	(i) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Castlereagh Borough Council for £9500.
5.2	(ii) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands shown outlined red on the plans at Appendix '2', for £1000.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	Action by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong to be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2011.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
7.1	N/A

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