



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Strategic Policy and Resources Committee                       |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Connswater Community Greenway Update</b>                    |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 20 September 2013  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217       |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property & Projects, Ext:3419 |

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| <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. |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | The SP&R Committee at its meeting on the 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2010 approved a recommendation to acquire the lands shaded yellow and take a licence for the use of the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from CBM Developments Ltd for £21, 500.  |
| 2.2      | Following prolonged detailed negotiations with CBM Developments Ltd it became apparent that they would require the CCG path outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix'1' fenced on either side. The result would have created a tunnel affect for a long stretch of the Greenway and following further discussions with CBM Development Ltd, Parks & Leisure, the CCG Programme & Project Managers, the Estates Management Unit have now agreed to also acquire the area of land shaded green on the plan attached at Appendix '1'. The additional land will provide scope for landscaping along the north and eastern boundaries of Laburnum playing fields and greatly enhance the greenway at this location. |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | <b>FINANCE</b><br>The proposal to acquire the additional land from CBM Developments Ltd will require expenditure of £ 48,500 plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees. |

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| 3.2 | The purchase costs for all of the land required for the Connswater Community Greenway are included in the Connswater Community Greenway budget of the Belfast Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to the Council. |
| 3.3 | <b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b><br>Staff resource from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services to complete the acquisition.  |
| 3.4 | <b>ASSET AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS</b><br>The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.  |

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

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 5.1      | It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the additional lands shaded green on the attached plan for £48,500. |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
| 6.1      | Action to be completed by Estates Management Unit and Legal Services by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013. |

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>        |
| 7.1      | CCG Connswater Community Greenway. |

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| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| 8.1      | Appendix '1'.             |