



<b>Subject:</b>	Google Trekker Mapping and Imaging Project
<b>Date:</b>	7 June 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To highlight the advantages that Google Trekker can provide to attract visitors to Belfast by viewing on line path walking options of the City.
1.2	To request permission for Goggle Trekker to map and record Belfast City Council locations, primarily throughout the Lagan Valley Regional Park. See Appendix 1 (list of locations).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide permission for Lagan Valley Regional Park staff to use the Google Trekker system to map and record Belfast City Council locations as per Appendix 1.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Google Trekker is similar to Google street map and provides 360 degree images of pathways, towpaths etc and will be available to be viewed through the Google Street View Mapping System.
3.2	Google Trekker uses a 4ft, 40lb backpack fitted with a 15-angle lens camera to take 360-degree pictures every 2 seconds in public places that the Street View cars and Trike cannot get to, with the images added to Street View on Google Maps.

3.3	Mount Everest and the Grand Canyon are among some of the most significant destinations that can already be viewed online.
3.4	Lagan Valley Regional Park staff will record the routes within the Lagan Valley Regional Park which incorporates Belfast City Council parks such as Sir Thomas and lady Dixon Park, Lagan Meadows and Barnett Demesne.
3.5	The Lagan Tow path has recorded over 300,000 visits per year and this mapping system will provide better access to view a trip prior to making a visit. A survey completed by Google in 2014 revealed that 56% of people use the internet as a source of inspiration before deciding to travel.
3.6	The Google Trekker will encourage people to access off road paths and provide them with assurance about what to expect when they travel off the 'beaten track'.
	<u>Key Issue</u>
3.7	To seek permission for Lagan Valley Regional Park staff to use the Google Trekker on Belfast City Council Parks and Open Spaces as per attached Appendix 1.
	<u>Monitoring and Review</u>
3.8	The images gathered are the property of Google and monitored and reviewed by Google.
	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b>
3.9	<u>Financial</u>
	There are no financial implications for Belfast City Council.
3.10	<u>Human Resources</u>
	The proposal has no Human Resource Implications for Belfast City Council.
	It will be the responsibility of the Park Manager to advise members of the public when there is recording going on at specific locations.
3.11	<u>Asset and Other Implications:</u>
	None
3.12	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
	Google Trekker will make accessing the outdoors more equitable by allowing disabled

	people or people with health or mobility difficulties to establish how access would be gained to any recorded paths and tracks
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	Appendix 1- list of sites to be mapped.