



<b>Subject:</b>	Provision of containers and other storage accommodation
<b>Date:</b>	4 April 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	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	The purpose of this report is to establish a management position in respect of the provision of containers and other storage accommodation (containers) on park land and open space owned and managed by Belfast City Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree that:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where containers are required by Council in the operation of a facility, Council will provide a container;</li><li>Where containers are required or requested by a third party the Council will not provide such but will consider granting permission for the third party to provide</li></ol>

	<p>containers in line with paragraph 3.7 below; and</p> <p>3. A protocol document be prepared based on this report and be used to inform future decisions</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The former Parks and Leisure Committee received and considered a number of reports between January 2011 and August 2012 relating to the installation of containers in parks for sports clubs and other organisations. The reports noted that over time a large number of containers had been located on Council owned park and open space land. The containers are in the main used for storage purposes for machinery, materials and equipment and on occasion merchandise. While most of the containers had been provided by the Council there was an increasing number of containers acquired for or by sports clubs and community organisations. In the intervening years the situation has largely been regularised. However, there remains a policy vacuum in that the Council does not have a clear position in relation to the provision of such facilities where requested. The purpose of this report is to set out such a position for consideration by elected Members and to reach agreement on same.</p>
3.2	<p>Owing to lack of space in Service Yards and other sites; and for convenience to avoid moving machinery and equipment from site to site containers may be acquired and utilised by the Council. These will normally be acquired where the Council has a need to provide safe and secure storage for machinery and / or equipment required for the operation of a facility. It is proposed that this practice continues based on need and on site requirements taking into account the operations and aesthetics of a site.</p>
3.3	<p>At other times however containers will be required by a sporting club or organisation who use Council facilities, this is normally associated with sport although there can be requests from non-sporting interests. These containers will normally be used for similar purposes. Council continues to receive requests to provide containers to support sporting clubs and organisations in the delivery of their aspirations and ambitions on Council land.</p>
3.4	<p>The purpose of this report is to set out a policy position in respect of the provision of containers for storage of machinery, materials and equipment.</p>
3.5	<p>The proposed policy does not relate to requests for containers to be used as temporary dry changing or meeting rooms. In such cases it is proposed that these are referred to Committee and that the Council refuses such requests unless there is external funding to</p>

	<p>meet the cost of installation, subject to a licence agreement for an agreed period and fee; such approval will be dependent on use, hours of use, access, appearance etc. and will be subject to statutory approvals.</p>
3.6	<p>Council will provide a container where it is considered necessary by the City Park Manager to store machinery or equipment necessary for the operation of a facility subject to approval by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services. If however the City Park Manager believes equipment etc can be safely accommodated on available land adjacent to the facility a container will not be provided. At its simplest the issue is whether or not the Council should be providing additional facilities for use by sport clubs and organisations who use existing facilities or whether it should be the responsibility of the individual clubs to do so.</p>
3.7	<p>It is recommended that Council should not provide a container in situations where a third party sports club or other organisation has requested such provision in relation to machinery, materials, machinery and equipment acquired or used by a third party (and not provided by the Council). In such a situation the third party should be informed that Council consent will be required to store property on the site and that proper measures must be put in place to ensure that it is safe and secure. The Council can consider such requests to locate property and/or containers on Council land and give consideration to same within the context of the proposed use, regularity of the use; appearance, size and access; in addition the third party would be responsible for maintenance; obtaining appropriate public liability and building/content insurance and for installation and subsequent removal as well as the cost of any reinstatement required.</p>
3.8	<p>In such circumstances Council may, upon agreement, grant a licence to the third party at an agreed fee and for an agreed period, either linked to a related occupation agreement or for a period deemed reasonable by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services which shall be no more than 2 years in length.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>There are no financial implications based on the recommendation.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>There has been no Equality Assessment carried out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>

	None
--	------