



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Airport Request – Bird Strike Management at Victoria Park: Implications to Air Safety
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
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>	
<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	The purpose of the report is for Members to consider a request from The George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) to gain access to Victoria Park to continue habitat modifications to mitigate the risk of bird strike. This is part of an ongoing control programme in line with their Wildlife Hazard Assessment and the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the request from George Best Belfast City Airport to grant them access under licence to Victoria Park to facilitate rookery management in particular further winter nest removal and nest site discouragement in Mid-January 2023.  If agreed the licence will permit works to commence in early January and end on 31st January 2023 and permit GBBCA thereafter to carry out monitoring until 31st March 2023 (subject to the terms and conditions).

	Members are advised that any decision to grant this permission is subject to legal agreement that would be developed by the Councils Legal Services Department and will include a requirement to ensure that any works are permissible and the required NIEA licence and consents are in place.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members should be aware that control of birds in the flight path to the airport is a requirement of the airport's Civil Aviation Authority licence. In line with GBBCA's national aerodrome license requirements and associated guidance material presented in CAP772: Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes, the airport is required to identify sources of risk and to reduce and maintain risk to an acceptable level in compliance with the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.
	<u>Rooks</u>
3.2	Members will recall granting a similar request for rookery management at the December 2021 meeting of this committee. GBBCA report that post breeding rookery management conducted last year seen a further reduction in nesting rooks the following spring and a redistribution of nests to another location within Victoria Park. With progress made and still potential for the rookery to expand, the airport has identified the need to follow up with another session of winter nest removal and nest site discouragement. The proposed works to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The removal of old rook nests to take place during the Works Period;</li> <li>2. Any necessary thinning of sheltering pines, structural pruning of preferred nesting trees, and reducing shelter from ivy.</li> </ul>
3.3	GBBCA will appoint a suitable contractor with previous experience to undertake the work.
3.4	If members are content, officers will review the submitted risk assessment and insurance certificates in line with procedure and work with Legal Services to issue the requested licence. The licence will include relevant conditions to ensure that the airport confirm that all work is permissible, and any required licences are in place to allow work to take place within the required timescales. The licence will also place an onus on the airport to ensure that health and safety measures are implemented, essential signage is assembled, one-way systems are established where necessary.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.5	GBBCA will be responsible for any costs associated with the request.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None