



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Waterworks Community Garden
Date:	15 January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director
Contact Officer:	Donal Grant-Stevenson, Community Park Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Committee will recall that in February 2010 it approved a request from an organisation to create a community garden in the Waterworks. Grow is a non- profit organisation which has a mission to build community partnerships by increasing and enhancing community gardening. Grow works to promote and support all aspects of community food and gardening to improve people's lives by providing a catalyst for neighbourhood and community development and stimulating social interaction.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	With support from Council officers and with funding from the Peace III programme, Grow successfully established the community garden, recruited participants and has sustained participation. To date officers are satisfied that the garden has been well-managed and has further opportunity to develop its links in the local area.
2.2	<p>In January 2013 Committee gave consent for Grow to deliver a program of activities for the benefit of the local community, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of volunteers;• Ongoing maintenance and development of the present Waterworks site;• Recruitment of community participants to the project;• Regular community gardening sessions;• Regular garden cooking session;• Community engagement workshop;

2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring of participants; • Community days; • Exchange visits; and • Celebration and dissemination events. <p>Grow wish to drawdown funding from the NGO Challenge Fund 2015 to carry out a programme of basic site development to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground works (drainage works and path construction). • Access ramp • Seating (wooden benches) • Tree surgery and survey (protect native specimen trees). <p>The path construction will improve access around the garden site and drainage will make the lower elevation which is historically wet more usable all year round.</p> <p>Compliance with the Challenge Fund 2015 will require that Grow carryout a competitive quotation process to select the contractor for the development work. This may result in a non-council approved supplier being awarded the quote.</p> <p>The development work will be subject to a Licence Agreement with the Council to ensure that works carried out by a third party or contractor on Council land are carried out satisfactorily and that the appropriate insurances are in place. The Licence Agreement will also ensure that on completion of the works it will transfer to Belfast City Council.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Grow have been successful in attracting £5,968 funding from the challenge fund 2015 and are not seeking any other council contributions at this time.
3.2	<u>Human resources</u> None at this time.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Grow's request and the ongoing use of the community garden space within the Waterworks Park represent a use of the space as well as delivering on key Council outcomes such as helping people become more healthy, active, and more involved in their local communities and neighbourhoods.

4.	Equality Implications
	<p>The Grow organisation is a cross-community organisation with the promotion of positive community relations at its core.</p> <p>The installation of an access ramp and pathways will improve disability</p>

	access and have positive equality implications.
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5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to consider this request from Grow and grant approval for Grow to use funding from the Challenge Fund to carry out beneficial development of the community garden site, subject to the granting of a Licence Agreement and subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Community Parks Manager to communicate the decision of the Committee to Grow.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	NGO – Non Government Organisation

8.	Documents Attached
	None