



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Connswater Community Greenway Contract
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects Ciaran Quigley Director of Legal Services

### Purpose of the Report

The Committee is asked to endorse the strategy of the Council becoming the employer under the main Contract for the Connswater Community Greenway.

### Relevant Background Information

The Parks Committee at its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 agreed to provide £4.2 million capital funding to the Connswater Greenway Project, and agreed to the engagement of officers in the scheme.

Land Assembly for the Greenway has been led by the Director of Legal Services with the support of the Estates Team.

The East Belfast Partnership secured £32.5 million funding for the project. In addition to the Council's funding they have secured funding of £23.5 million from the Big Lottery Fund and £3.2 million from the Department of Social Development.

The Council has committed to manage and maintain the Greenway for a period of 40 years on its completion.

In 2009, as the Connswater Greenway is intrinsically linked with the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme, it was agreed that a joint design in respect of the capital works contract would be developed in connection with the Rivers Agency and one contractor would be appointed to deliver both the Greenway and the Flood Alleviation Scheme. The estimated cost of the associated Flood Alleviation Scheme is £7 -£14 million and the total estimated cost of the combined Connswater Greenway/Flood Alleviation Scheme Contract is £43 million.

### **Key Issues**

As project development has progressed, it has become clear that there could be a significant reduction in the overall project risk and simplification in many areas if the Council were to become the employer for the main Connswater Community Greenway Capital Works Contract.

The reasons are outlined in a report of the Director of Legal Services to the Parks and Leisure Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010, copy attached.

The Parks and Leisure Committee agreed to endorse the proposals in the Report to assume the role of 'Employer' under the Connswater Community Greenway contract.

Given that the Connswater Project also has significant expenditure implications for the Council, and given the linkage of the Project to the City Investment Fund, it is appropriate to further seek the endorsement of the strategic Policy and Resources Committee to the proposals.

### **Resource Implications**

The Connswater Greenway budget has been agreed at £4.2 million pounds capital expenditure to support the project, and legal and estates officers are currently engaged in the Land Acquisition. Adoption of the strategy as outlined in the Report will require resources from the Property and Projects department.

### **Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to endorse the strategy of the Council becoming the employer under the main Connswater Greenway Contract as previously agreed by the Parks Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. Committee is further asked to agree to officers continuing discussions with the East Belfast Partnership Board and other Funders of the Greenway to enable this to happen.

### **Decision Tracking**

The Director of Legal Services and Director of Property and Projects shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Committees decision.

### **Key to Abbreviations**

DSD – Department for Social Development.  
DRD – Department for Regional Development.

### **Documents Attached**

Director of Legal Services Report to the Parks and Leisure Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

