



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update
Date:	21 st Jan 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to coordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land. The Greenway must be accessible for 40 years to comply with the Big Lottery Fund letter of offer, although the intention is to secure rights for longer if possible.
1.2	The Council have awarded the contract for the construction of the Greenway to SIAC/Galliford Try and construction of the first phase is currently programmed to commence in Jan 2011.

2	Key Issues
2.1	(i) An area of land at Elmgrove consisting of some 0.137 acres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands from the Belfast Education and Library Board for £4000.
2.2	(ii) An area of land at Orangefield and Grosvenor schools consisting of 6.38 acres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '2' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands from the Belfast

	Education and Library Board for £245,000.
--	---

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Financial
	(i) The proposal to acquire the land at Elmgrove from the Belfast Education and Library Board requires expenditure of £4000 to purchase the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.2	(ii) The proposal to acquire the land at Orangefield and Grosvenor schools from the Belfast Education and Library Board requires expenditure of £245,000 to purchase the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.3	The purchase costs for all of the land required for the Connswater Community Greenway are included in the Connswater Community Greenway budget of the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council.
3.4	Human Resources Staff resource required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
	Asset and Other Implications The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The Connswater Community Greenway will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	(i) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands at Elmgrove outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Belfast Education and Library Board for £4000.
5.2	(ii) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands at Orangefield and Grosvenor Schools outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '2' from Belfast Education and Library Board for £245,000.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be complete by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong by 22 nd March 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	N/A

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plans at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.