



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update (Part II) – Sustrans Access
Date:	15 April 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council through the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Titanic Quarter is seeking to enhance access and connectivity to the wider city including connections to the Greenway and East Belfast. The Council has also been approached by Sustrans in relation to the potential for a Connect2 which focuses on overcoming barriers which prevent people cycling and walking by creating shorter routes for pedestrians, those with impaired mobility and cyclists.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Strategic Investment Board (SIB) has commissioned a study into the potential for enhanced pedestrian and cycle connections to Titanic Quarter as a contribution to broader approach to activity under the Memorandum of Understanding for Titanic Quarter. The Consultants have identified a number of existing and potential routes that could be enhanced including connections to the Connswater and Comber Community Greenways.
2.2	The proposal is to bring forward project plans for each route to be considered by the different stakeholders as the basis for potential partnerships. The SIB has agreed that the prioritisation of the activity and potential routes be considered by the Titanic Quarter Access Group.
2.3	Sustrans has approached the Council in relation to the potential for a Connect2 partnership project that would connect Titanic Quarter with the Connswater and Comber Greenways via a new route through Bridge End Halt, Fraser St (re-opened) and Sydenham Rd. Under the Connect2 project Sustrans would require a strategic partner to lead the project and have requested that the Council take on this role, with responsibility for the implementation and draw down the potential funding.
2.4	The proposed project, with the opening of Fraser Street, would complement

	proposed works to Bridge End Halt (Translink) and improve connections to Titanic Quarter from both the Connswater and Comber Greenways by enhancing the link from the station to the Holywood Arches area through a connection running along Island Street, across Dee St and onto the Ballymacarrett Walkway.
2.5	The proposed connection would enhance the function of the Connwater Community Greenway proposals and it is suggested that the Council accept the strategic leadership role for the Connect2 partnership project with Sustrans subject to details of the formal agreement and resource outline being reported back to the Committee.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The resource implications arising from the Connect2 potential project are currently unknown but will be reported back to Committee if indeed there are any direct resource issues for Council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The Connswater Community Greenway and improved access to Titanic Quarter will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the strategic leadership role for the Council in respect of the Coonect2 partnership project with Sustrans subject to details of the formal agreement and resource outline being reported back to the Committee.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations
N/A	

8	Documents Attached
None	