



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Connswater Community Greenway Update – Sustrans Access
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Council was approached by Sustrans 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.
1.2	The proposed project, with the opening of Fraser Street, would complement planned 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 Hollywood Arches area through a connection running along Island Street, across Dee St and onto the Ballymacarrett Walkway.
1.3	On the basis that the proposed connection would enhance the function of the Connswater Community Greenway and contribute to Titanic Quarter connectivity it was previously agreed 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.
1.4	The bid for the Big Lottery/Sustrans funding support under the Connect2 programme has been approved subject to the Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding. The Connect2 application outlining the bid is appended to this report for information ( <b>Appendix 1</b> ).

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The funding support from Connect2 has been provisionally agreed by the funders on the basis of the Council, as lead partner, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding and match funding being available from the project partners as detailed in the application. A copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is included with this report ( <b>Appendix 2</b> ).
2.2	The proposed partners (Belfast Harbour Commissioners, DRD Roads Service) have committed to provide the match funding or carry out the related projects (Translink) as part of project delivery. The project also includes the identification

	of a contribution from the Council of £24,750 which comprises eligible signage costs from initiatives either already carried out identified as part of the heritage and tourism interpretative work for Titanic Quarter.
2.3	The role of the Council as lead partner is set out in the MoU and in effect will be to ensure the completion of the three broad work packages that make up the overall project. The three elements are: (1) the highway crossing and potential traffic calming between the Bridge End Halt and Kings Road; (2) the improvements around Bridge End Halt; and (3) the re-opening of Fraser Street and connection into Titanic Quarter via Sydenham Road.
2.4	The proposal is for the majority of the works to be carried out by the identified partners with the coordination and grant administration to be carried out by the Council. Under this proposed arrangement the majority of the works will be carried out by the partner organisations, where possible through the use of existing contracts. Where existing contracts cannot be utilised the Council may be required to procure and deliver the proposed activity in partnership with the identified partner and on the basis of the agreed contributions.
2.5	Committee approval is now sought for the Council to act as the Lead Partner and in consultation with Legal Services enter into the required Memorandum of Understanding with Sustrans to deliver the Connect2 project proposal.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no additional resource implications arising from the Connect2 project

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
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

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee support the Council taking on the Lead Partner role for the Connect2 partnership project and approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in consultation with Legal Services.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	DRD: Department for Regional Development MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Connect2 funding application <b>Appendix 2:</b> Memorandum of Understanding

