



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway - Land Acquisition
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects, Ext: 3419

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 (CCG) 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.

2	Key Issues
2.1	An area of land adjacent to Village Green and off Ladas Drive consisting of 0.178 acres and shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' has been identified as being required for the CCG. Council officials have agreed to purchase this land from Cregagh Sports Club for £2670.
2.2	An area of land at Upper Knockbreda Road shown outlined red on the attached plan has been identified as being required for landscaping as part of the CCG. The land is owned by the DRD, Roads Service and while DRD cannot dispose of the land on a permanent basis they have agreed to grant the Council a licence at nil cost to allow the CCG contractor to landscape the area.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The proposal to acquire the lands at Linen Gardens from Cregagh Sports Club requires expenditure of £2,670 plus reasonable legal fees.
3.2	The purchase costs for all the land required for the CCG are included in the CCG budget of the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to the Council.
3.3	The proposal to take a licence to use the DRD land at Upper Knockbreda Road is at nil cost. Officers have agreed to pay DRD's reasonable legal fees if required.

3.4	<u>Human Resources</u> Staff resources required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
3.5	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The additional land will form part of the CCG which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Cregagh Sports Club for £2,670.
5.2	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to take a licence from DRD for the land outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '2'.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be complete by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong by 31 st March 2012

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	CCG Connswater Community Greenway
7.2	DRD Department for Regional Development

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