



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Connswater Community Greenway – Governance Review
<b>Date:</b>	23 March 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks &amp; Leisure</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks &amp; Leisure</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) Scheme is a £32 million investment in East Belfast. The project has been developed by the East Belfast Partnership (EPB) and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, Belfast City Council, Rivers Agency/DARD and the Department for Social Development.
1.2	In 2007 Belfast City Council (BCC) agreed to manage and maintain the CCG once delivered for a period of 40 years. In 2010, it was agreed that in order to reduce the financial risk to the project, BCC would become the grant holder, working in partnership with East Belfast Partnership (EBP) to deliver the scheme.
1.3	The governance structure for the scheme was adjusted in 2010 to reflect the Council becoming the grant holder as grant holder, supported by a management agreement between EBP and BCC. In 2011 the key stakeholders agreed to review the CCG programme governance structure, to better reflect accountability and risk, decision making and controls and the partnership relationship between BCC and EBP. The governance paper attached at Appendix 1 reflects the draft governance structure and if approved will supersede the 2010 structure. This will be supported by a revised management agreement between EBP and the Council. This will require approval from the Council, EBP, Big Lottery Fund, Rivers Agency/DARD and DSD.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Connswater Community Greenway programme will be delivered as an integral part of the Council's Investment Programme. The decision making authority will follow the Council's Scheme of Delegation with strategic direction and decisions being made by the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
2.2	At Officer level decisions will be made through the authority delegated to the Corporate Management Team of the Council and the Senior Responsible Owner

	of the CCG, the Director of Parks & Leisure.
2.3	Authority will also be delegated to the Programme Manager (the Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure) to oversee the operational management of the Greenway projects as chair of a programme board consisting of three strands managed by a Communication & Engagement Team, a Capital Works/ Land Assembly Team and a Management & Maintenance Coordination Team as is necessary for the successful completion of the Greenway project. Each level of delegated authority will be required to work within financial and project tolerances that will require exception reporting to the CCG Oversight Group should the project move outside these tolerances.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b> The review of governance does not impact on existing budgets established for the delivery of CCG. The proposals will provide robust financial management and risk management arrangements. Independent assurance on the proposals has been provided by CIPFA.</p> <p><b><u>Human Resources</u></b> No impact</p> <p><b><u>Assets</u></b> The Connswater Community Greenway will create a 9km linear park through East Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces and remediating the Connswater River itself. The Greenway will reconnect the communities of East Belfast and restore the rivers as community assets. It will create vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation and community events and activities</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	There are no equality implications.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is asked approve the new governance arrangements for the dedlivery of the Connswater Community Greenway and Flood Alleviation Scheme.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	The responsible officer for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations will be the Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	CCG Connswater Community Greenway EPB East Belfast Partnership DSD Department of Social Development DARD Department of Agriculture and Rural Development CIPFA Chartered Institute Public Finance and Accountancy

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Draft CCG Governance Arrangements