



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Land Acquisition Update
Date:	23rd November 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6214
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property & 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 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	The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on the 17 th June 2011 it approved the acquisition of the land outlined red on the attached plan from the Royal British Legion for £1250 plus reasonable agents and legal fees and at its meeting on the 24 th Aug 2012, it approved the acquisition of land outlined blue on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from the BMC to allow the Council to transfer said land as a compensatory strip to the Royal British Legion.
2.2	This arrangement is vital to allow the construction of the CCG at this location, without the additional land on the BMC side of their site the Trustees of the local British Legion Club could not have rebuilt their club premises without compromising the position of the CCG.
2.3	The route of the CCG adjacent to the Royal British Legion has proven difficult to agree and there is little scope for an alternative route at this location. Following further negotiations with the Royal British Legion and the Trustees of the local

	<p>British Legion club it has now been agreed that the Council will exchange the strip of land shown shaded blue on the plan attached at Appendix '1' for the Royal British Legion's land outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1'.</p> <p>As both areas of land are considered to be of equal value the Council will not now have to pay the Royal British Legion the £1250 as outlined in the report to the S&PR Committee on the 17th June 2011.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	The exchange of land with the Royal British Legion has no additional cost implications as the lands to be exchanged are considered to be of equal value. The Council will pay the Royal British Legion's reasonable professional and legal fees.

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	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the exchange of lands with the British Legion as shown outlined blue and red on the plan attached at Appendix '1'.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action by Estates Management Unit and Legal Services by 28 th Feb 2013.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	CCG. Connswater Community Greenway BMC. Belfast Metropolitan College

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plan attached at Appendix '1'.