



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway land assembly update
Date:	21 st June 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
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 co-ordinate 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.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The area of land adjacent to the entrance to Victoria Park outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' consisting of 0.074 acres has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway.
2.2	The land is owned by NITHCO and as the land forms an integral part of the support to the railway line at this location, NITHCO cannot dispose of the land outright. Council officials have therefore agreed to take a licence for these lands from NITHCO to allow the area to be landscaped as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project to improve the aesthetics at the entrance to Victoria Park.
2.3	NITHCO have agreed to grant the licence rent free.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> This proposal requires expenditure of reasonable legal fees to complete the licence document. NITHCO do not require a rent for the land. All costs for the acquisition of land and associated professional fees for the Connswater Community Greenway are included in the CCG budget of the Belfast Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to the Council.

3.2	Human Resources Resources in Estates Management Unit and Legal Services involved in agreeing detailed terms and drawing up the proposed licence.
3.3	Asset and Other Implications The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
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 acquisition of the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' by way of licence from the NITHCO.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action by the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services by the 30 th June 2013.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	NITHCO Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plan at Appendix '1'