



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Public Path Creation Agreement at Ligoniel</b>
<b>Date:</b>	23 August 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext: 6217
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext: 3493

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At its meeting on 13 June 2013 the Parks and Leisure Committee agreed to enter into a 10 year, Public Path Creation Agreement with Northern Ireland Water (NIW) to utilise an existing path located on NIW land at Ligoniel. An extract from the minute of Parks and Leisure Committee is attached as Appendix 1.
1.2	On completion of the Agreement the Council will become responsible for maintenance of the path. New access provision at either end of the path (either stiles and/or way marking) is being externally funded by the Belfast Hills Partnership Trust. This will provide access to the NIW land from Ligoniel Park through to the Crumlin Road, approximately 1 kilometre above the Horseshoe Bend. The location of the subject path is shown coloured green on the attached map.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The creation of public access across this portion of NIW land opens up a semi-rural walking route from Ligoniel to the Upper Crumlin Road and is aimed at providing potential walking links to Cavehill Country Park via other improved access arrangements (also funded by Belfast Hills Partnership Trust) located at the Horseshoe Bend. Jointly these new facilities are aimed at improving important access and recreation opportunities across the Belfast Hills.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<b>Finance</b> No capital resources required. Council will become responsible for on-going maintenance of the stiles and/or way marking and for approximately 90 metres of tarmac path within existing Parks and Leisure budget provision for a period of 10 years.

3.2	<b><u>Human Resources</u></b> Resources in Parks and Leisure and Legal Services involved in drawing up and completing Public Path Creation Agreement.
3.3	<b><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></b> The path will benefit users of the Council's adjoining Ligoniel Park, Cavehill Country Park and the wider Belfast Hills.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No known equality or good relations issues.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Committee is recommended to authorise a Public Path Creation Agreement in respect of the path coloured green on the attached map.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Director of Parks and Leisure to ensure completion of Public Path Creation Agreement within three months.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
NIW – Northern Ireland Water	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 – Extract from the Parks and Leisure Committee minute of 13 June 2013 together with associated map showing route of proposed Public Path Creation Agreement coloured green, Council land at Ligoniel Park, shaded yellow and proposed new path at Ligoniel Park coloured red.	