



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Licence Agreement – Signage at Lagan Valley Regional Park
<b>Date:</b>	24 January 2014
<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 September 2012 the Parks and Leisure Committee received a report regarding the Laganscape Partnership Scheme Project (LPSP) managed by the Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP). LVRP had been successful in drawing down Heritage Lottery Funding for works, including interpretation development, at various locations with the Lagan Valley Regional Park.
1.2	As part of the above mentioned interpretation development, LVPR wish to erect new visitor signage at a number of locations including within the following Belfast City Council sites:  Lagan Meadows Clement Wilson Park Barnett Demesne Mary Peter's Track Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
1.3	In order to regulate the installation and subsequent maintenance of the proposed signage it is proposed a Licence Agreement be entered into between LVRP and the Council to document the responsibilities of the parties and to ensure there is a mechanism to allow the Council to approve the nature, position and upkeep of the relevant signage.
1.4	Lagan Valley Regional Park is a partnership which includes Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Lisburn City Council, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust, the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, and Outdoor Recreation NI.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Installation of the proposed signage at Council locations will be subject to its

	compliance with Council standards, the requirements of the Council's title to the sites and any other statutory or regulatory requirements. Future maintenance of the signage will be carried out by LVRP at LVRP expense.
2.2	It is understood the funding provider (Heritage Lottery Fund) have not specified a minimum period for the signage to be retained, however LVRP are seeking a 10 year agreement with the Council and officers from Parks and Leisure Department are content with this arrangement.
2.3	The design and specification of the proposed visitor signs and their locations will be agreed by officers within Parks and Leisure Department and will be incorporated within the proposed Licence Agreement.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Finance</u> No Council financial resources are required in the construction of the signage or in its installation or maintenance. As the signage is designed to benefit Council facilities no Licence Fee is appropriate in this case.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> Officers from Parks and Leisure Department involved in agreeing locations and specifications, officers from Parks and Leisure, Estates Management Unit and Legal Services involved in drawing up and agreeing the terms of the proposed Licence Agreement.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The introduction of these new installations is designed to enhance the attractiveness of the various parks by providing welcoming and informative signage which encourages users to develop their interest in the Council's facilities and the LVRP in general.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	Lagan Valley Regional Park have been through a consultation process with partner organisations and users. The signage takes account of DDA guidance. No good relations issue emerged during the consultation process.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Committee is recommended to approve the grant of a Licence Agreement of 10 year duration, to Lagan Valley Regional Park, to allow access to the Council sites listed in this report, for the installation and future maintenance of approved visitor signage.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Director of Property and Projects to ensure Licence Agreement is implemented prior to installation of any of the proposed signage.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
LPSP – Laganscape Partnership Scheme Project LVRP – Lagan Valley Regional Park	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
None	