



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Acquisition of land at Blacks Road
Date:	21 March 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar - Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Ruth McClean, Estates Surveyor, 3495

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting on 13 March 2014 the Parks and Leisure Committee received a report on the acquisition of land at Blacks Road for the purposes of developing a park. A location map showing the extent of the land to be acquired is attached as Appendix A to this report. The Parks and Leisure report is attached as Appendix B to this report. The Director of Property and Projects will provide a verbal update on the outcome from the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting.
1.2	In accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60 the decision of the Parks and Leisure Committee requires the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

2	Key Issues
2.1	DRD Roads Service is to transfer a small site to DoE NIEA, forming the assembled site that Council is to acquire.
2.2	DoE NIEA will then permit Groundwork NI access to the site by way of a temporary licence for the purposes of carrying out its construction works. Groundwork NI is to turn this derelict site into a park for the use of the local community and has secured the necessary funding to carry out these works from "Sharing our Space" Peace III funding.
2.3	Following the completion of the construction works by Groundwork NI, Council will acquire the site from DoE NIEA at nil cost, subject to satisfactory title. NIEA has received Ministerial Approval to dispose of the entire site to Council at nil value.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>There is no acquisition cost payable to DoE NIEA for the acquisition of the assembled site.</p> <p>As set out in the Parks and Leisure Report, the maintenance and operational cost of the park is estimated to be in the region of £31,000 per annum. This amount is not currently budgeted for in Parks and Leisure budget and would need to be taken into account in the next budgeting round.</p> <p>NIEA has agreed to fund or treat Japanese knotweed. However, this is not substantial and is estimated to be in the region of £100 per annum.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Assets</u></p> <p>A 4.49 acre site will be added to the Council's assets. This site will be held by Parks & Leisure.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Continued resource from Estates and Legal Services is required in order to complete the acquisition. Thereafter Parks and Leisure staff resource will be required for ongoing management.</p>

4.	Recommendations
4.1	<p>Committee is recommended to approve the acquisition of land at Blacks Road as outlined in the Parks and Leisure Report dated 13 March 2014 and attached as Appendix B. This will be subject to the agreed terms being incorporated within appropriate legal agreements to be drawn up by Legal Services.</p>

5.	Key to Abbreviations
<p>NIEA – Northern Ireland Environment Agency DoE – Department of the Environment DRD – Department of Regional Development LPS – Land and Property Services</p>	

6.	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix A – Location Map Appendix B – Copy of Parks and Leisure Committee Report dated 13 March 2014</p>	