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| Subject: | Comber Greenway Steering Group – Terms of Reference |
| Date: | 7 February 2018 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services |
| Contact Officer: | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director |

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| Is this report restricted? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The report provides Terms of Reference for a Steering Group to consider whether the Comber Greenway should be transferred into the ownership of the three councils through whose land it passes. It will also consider the terms upon which such a transfer might take place. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to agree to the Terms of Reference as outlined, subject to consideration and agreement by Legal Services. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The Comber Greenway was constructed in 2008 and is currently in the ownership of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). It is a 6½ mile shared use off-road (i.e. traffic-free) path almost entirely along the route of the former Belfast and County Down Railway mainline between Ravenscroft Avenue car park, Belfast and Belfast Road, Comber. The greenway passes through the areas of three councils: Belfast City Council (3 miles), Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council (2 miles) and Ards and North Down Borough Council (1½ miles). It is the only greenway in Northern Ireland in the ownership of DfI. |
| 3.2 | Following a Notice of Motion at the Council meeting on 1st November 2016, the People and Communities Committee in January 2017 was advised that officers wished to seek a Committee position in regard to the notice of motion. The Committee was reminded |

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| | <p>that it had been proposed that the Council would work collectively with the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) to develop a strategic political and costed plan for the Comber Greenway on part of the recently launched Strategic plan for Greenways within Northern Ireland. At the meeting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agreed that Council officers would request to meet with the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) officials to try and establish the Department’s commitment to the Comber Greenway within its strategy; • agreed that, if the approach was positive, officers would aim to create a Steering Group with the DoI and the other relevant Councils. Should the other Councils not be interested then the Steering Group would focus on the Belfast section of the Greenway only; • noted that the aim of the Steering Group would be to develop a costed plan for the Comber Greenway that would identify contributions and responsibilities; <p>3.3 Officers from the three Councils the Comber Greenway traverses have met with DoI Officials to discuss the way forward. The Comber Greenway Steering Group (CGSG) has been set up to consider options for the future ownership and future management arrangements for the Comber Greenway.</p> <p>3.4 The attached draft Terms of Reference for the CGSG is for Members’ consideration and agreement.</p> <p>3.5 The outcome of the project will be the production of an options appraisal for the future of the Comber Greenway. This options appraisal will be provided to the three Councils for consideration.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.6 There are currently no financial implications</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.7 There are currently no equality or good relation implications.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 Draft Terms of Reference for the Comber Greenway Steering Group (CGSG) |