



Subject:	Location of a Sandbag Container at Mount Eagles Playground
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Davy Neill, Emergency Coordination Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Members to locate a sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground, on ground owned by Belfast City Council. The container will store sandbags and bags of rock salt, for use by the community during flooding and severe winter weather.
1.2	The Department for Infrastructure will stock the container with sandbags and salt. This will provide an additional Belfast resource under the regional Community Resilience Programme.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the location of the new sandbag container. A photograph showing the proposed location is attached to this report as Appendix A.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware there have been issues with flash flooding in the Lagmore area and the nearest sandbag container is located some considerable distance away at Finaghy Road North. In addition to the potential flooding issue, residents have raised concerns regarding lack of salt provision for local roads during icy conditions.</p>
3.2	<p>The roads in the area are unadopted and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is unable to provide grit boxes at this time. As an interim measure, the Department has agreed to locate a sandbag container in the area that can also be used to store bags of rock salt for use by the community. DfI will maintain and replenish the container and council staff will manage access to it in line with arrangements for other sandbag containers.</p>
3.3	<p>Although the 25Kg bags of rock salt are difficult to handle due to their size and weight and are not ideal in terms of providing salt to an area, the proposed use of the sandbag container offers an interim solution until the roads become formally adopted and other arrangements put in place.</p>
3.4	<p>The Council does not have a statutory requirement to salt roads and footpaths during severe winter weather and it has therefore been difficult to establish a single citywide solution to meet the needs of residents. A number of options for a more sustainable solution are being considered in consultation with DfI and Legal Services and a report will be brought to a future Committee meeting.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>DfI will provide the container and stock it with sandbags and salt.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix A – Proposed location of container.