



Subject:	Partner Agreements Council Grass Pitches – Transition support
Date:	13 October 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier , Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure Department
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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"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in June 2015 (refer to Appendix 1) the Committee :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the preferred partners for the seven sites and agreed the award of partner agreements subject to the acceptance of terms and conditions as set out by Council.• Agreed to receive annual monitoring reports on these partner agreements. <p>This report sets out additional arrangements to ensure a smooth transition to the new partnerships.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>Following consideration of this report the Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to a partnership transition fund, up to a maximum of £70,000, for one year which can be made available to the clubs signed up to the partnership agreements subject to the submission of a business case and evidence of appropriate expenditure.• Agree that the need for additional funds is reviewed to assess effectiveness and future need.

3.0	<p>Main report</p>
	<p><u>Key Issue</u></p> <p>The partnership arrangements are a significant change to the operation of the sites as set out in Appendix 1. After discussions with a number of clubs it was evident that support was needed for the establishment of the new partner agreements at the sites.</p> <p>Financial support would provide assurance to Belfast City Council that the club as its preferred partner is taking on key holding and/ other agreed responsibilities and to ensure both wider community and own club's access to the agreed area of the site in a safe and legal manner.</p> <p>It is proposed that a small amount of funding in Year One could be claimed by each of the new partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the partner club fulfils its responsibilities and duties as outlined in the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnership agreement 2. Associated service operations schedule 3. Key holding agreement 4. Conditions of hire as provided by Council • To assist in prohibiting illegal play at the location by providing council with bookings information and ensuring prompt payment in line with conditions of hire as outlined by Council. • To provide a presence on site as required by the demands of the partnership established with Council and prepare reports and relevant administration as requested. • To ensure the health and safety of all personnel present at the location at any given time. This will involve maintaining fire logs, carrying out checks, reporting defects and accidents in a timely manner <p>It is proposed that a fund of up to £10k is available to our preferred partners to ensure these key requirements are set up and mainstreamed within the club within the first year of operation. It is further proposed that the position is reviewed to assess the impact of the additional funding and future requirements.</p> <p>The funding can be provided on receipt of a business case setting out the approach for</p>

ensuring the above is delivered. Funding will be provided in the form of 4 equal quarterly payments, with 80% of each payment drawn down in advance. The remaining 20% of the funding will be paid upon submission of evidence of expenditure at the end of the year.

This Fund is subject to the signing and compliance with the partnership agreement and will be terminated on breach of that agreement.

Monitoring and Review

The partner agreements will be reviewed quarterly with clubs to assist in the delivery of their Sports Development Plans and this fund will be monitored in the same way.

Financial & Resource Implications

Financial:

This transition fund of up to £70k (£10k max per partner) will be funded from existing parks budgets due to income from bookings coming directly to BCC and the provision of many of the key holding duties being undertaken by the clubs rather than Parks resources.

Human Resources:

Ongoing officer time from a range of officers across the department will be dedicated to implementation and ongoing management in the medium to long term.

Asset and Other Implications:

The new partner agreements will impact on the future management of assets with Council legal services providing on-going advice.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The policy has being screened in line with the Council's existing equality screening process and has been screened out with mitigating actions. The mitigating actions are around increasing participation among underrepresented groups including females, people with disabilities and those from an ethnic minority background.

4.0	Appendices
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	Appendix 1 – Partner Agreements, Committee Paper June 2015
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