



Subject:	GAA Joint Management Board Partnership Agreement
Date:	6 October 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number	
1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the reports is to ask members to consider; - a three-month extension to the existing Partnership Agreement with Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association. - A request from Antrim GAA and St Agnes GAC to place a storage container at Woodlands Playing Fields.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to: Approve a three-month extension of the Partnership Agreement to allow the conclusion of discussions on potential future investment. Approve the placement of a storage container in Woodlands Playing Fields.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background Information <u>Partnership Agreement</u> Belfast City Council entered into a Partnership Agreement with Ulster Council GAA which provided priority access to bookings in support of sports development outcomes. The Agreement covers floodlit synthetic GAA facilities at: • Cherryvale Playing Fields • Cliftonville Road Playing Fields • Woodlands Playing Fields • Sally Gardens
3.2	To oversee the Partnership agreement a quarterly Joint Management Board meeting takes place involving representatives from Ulster Council GAA, County Antrim GAA, County Down GAA and Belfast City Council. The role of the Joint Management Board is to regulate the use of the playing facilities and to oversee the proper use and sharing of the facilities to maximise the community benefit through the Sports Development Plans for each site. The Agreement holders present a six-monthly programme of use, which demonstrates the GAA sports development outcomes within each of the sites and these bookings are prioritised. Access to the sites outside the programme of use is in accordance with normal booking procedures.
3.3	At Committee on 7 October 2025 members approved a one-year extension to allow the booking/prioritisation model to continue until a future model was agreed through the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and the Pitches Strategy.
3.4	Officers have met with the Joint Management Board over the last few months and negotiations are nearing a conclusion. Expectation is that they will conclude within three months.

3.5	A request was received from Antrim GAA and St Agnes GAC seeking permission to locate a storage container on site adjacent to the storage unit that is already there. The existing unit belongs to BCC and sits on wasteland.
3.6	St Agnes GAC has a very significant and long-standing presence on site going back over 50 years. In recent years the Club as grown significantly and now has teams from Under 6 to senior in boys and men's football, U6 to senior in girls and ladies football and has started underage Hurling and already has Senior Hurling.
3.7	The club has significant levels of equipment that is currently brought back and forward to the site by its volunteer coaches for each of the many coaching and games events. This is a significant challenge for its volunteers and indeed has been a factor that has caused volunteers to walk away.
3.8	The container is 20 feet long, 8 feet high and 7 feet wide, the Club will store playing equipment and playing gear in it and it will be closed after every session. The contents will have no commercial value.
3.9	St. Agnes will take on the cost of the container and installation.
4.0	
4.1	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications within this report.
5.0	
5.1	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices - Documents Attached or None
	None