

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



3 May 2012

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Thursday, 10th May, 2012 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Growing Communities - next steps (Pages 1 - 48)
3. Support for Sport Development Grants (Pages 49 - 60)
4. Tropical Ravine – Procurement of Professional Services (Pages 61 - 64)
5. Boost Membership Scheme – Corporate Membership (Pages 65 - 68)
6. Botanic Sculpture – Belfast Bloom (Pages 69 - 82)

7. Facility Management Agreement - Annual Evaluation Report 2011 -12
(Pages 83 - 86)
8. Parks Events Small Grants Scheme (Pages 87 - 94)
9. Enchanted Evenings - Ulster Bank Festival at Queens event at Botanic Gardens,
October 2012 (Pages 95 - 100)
10. Use of Car Park at City of Belfast Playing Fields for Queen's Jubilee event at
Sentry Hill (Pages 101 - 102)
11. Feile an Phobail – request for use of Council facilities (Pages 103 - 104)
12. Use of sports pavilions by stakeholders – Victoria Park and Orangefield Park
(Pages 105 - 112)
13. Bike Clubs in Parks - Ormeau, Orangefield and Waterworks Parks
(Pages 113 - 116)
14. Titanic Memorial Garden (Pages 117 - 118)
15. Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Challenge 2012 – Celebratory events in
Orangefield Park (Pages 119 - 128)
16. Cow Parade Art Work in Parks (Pages 129 - 132)
17. Belfast Zoo, NI Opera and the Cultural Olympiad (Pages 133 - 136)
18. Summer Intervention Programme Activities (Pages 137 - 138)
19. Mary Peters Track (Pages 139 - 140)
20. Dunville Park and Woodvale Park Refurbishment (Pages 141 - 144)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Growing Communities - next steps
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) update Members on the development of the Public Health Agency (PHA) funded allotments and community gardens at Musgrave Park; (ii) present a draft "Growing Communities" strategy for information and review, which will be tabled for agreement at next month's Committee meeting; (iii) seek Member attendance at an event to mark the opening of the PHA funded demonstration project and launch of the project under the Active Belfast - Active Living theme, at Musgrave Park in June. <p>Following a seminar held in March 2011, the Council took the lead on the development of a strategic citywide approach to growing activities – including allotments, community gardens, and Grow-It-Yourself initiatives.</p> <p>The wider health and wellbeing benefits of 'growing your own' are well documented. The 'Growing Communities' strategy is one of a number of projects from across Northern Ireland being used to demonstrate how Health Equity in All Policy (HEIAP) works in practice by using it to help align the strategy with the Council's wider remit to improve the quality of life for all its citizens.</p> <p>In February 2012 Committee received an update report on the developing Growing Communities Strategy, the proposed sites for new community gardens and a process for the allocation of allotments. Since February</p>

	<p>with assistance from our partner organisations, the Public Health Agency, Belfast Healthy Cities and the Belfast Health Development Unit, work has continued to complete a draft strategy and action plan for the city.</p> <p>The current draft of the strategy is attached as Appendix I for your information and review and it is hoped that we can bring this back to Committee in June for final Committee approval and endorsement. Officers would welcome feedback or input from Members on the draft strategy prior to the June meeting and are happy to make themselves available to meet with groups or individual members should that be required.</p>
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<p>2.</p>	<p>Key Issues</p>
	<p>On 21 June this year, there will be an event at Musgrave Park to open a new community garden and allotment section funded through PHA's investment under Active Belfast (Active Living sub- theme). The event will also provide an opportunity to launch the final draft strategy for public consultation, which will run over the following 12 weeks.</p> <p>The draft Growing Communities Strategy has the following vision:</p> <p><i>All people in Belfast will have the opportunity for improved health and wellbeing through involvement in growing activities throughout their lifetimes and within their local neighbourhoods</i></p> <p>The objectives of the strategy are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To support healthier lifestyles by providing growing opportunities to people of all ages; – To support and develop communities by building and encouraging ownership of and pride in the cities growing spaces; – To work to support environmental sustainability by ensuring that growing spaces and activities contribute positively to the local environment and support the attainment of sustainable development targets set for local government; – To improve communication and models of management by providing growing communities and allotment holders with timely advice and guidance including site management protocols; – To engage the wider community through inclusiveness in the development of shared growing spaces; and – To encourage the development of the social economy in local neighbourhoods and suitable training and skills development for employability. <p>Based on key priorities identified in the strategy, a full action plan has been developed for the coming ten years which sets out to; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop information and facilitate communication on growing – Link with existing, related programmes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide financial and other resources as well as practical support for growing - Identify and support development of sustainable sites for growing - Support new models of delivery and management of community growing - Promote the benefits of growing to all sections of the community. <p>The effectiveness of the strategy in meeting its aims and objectives will be monitored and reviewed through a range of performance indicators which we hope over time will address both provision of opportunity and impact on participants in growing.</p> <p><u>Operational Change and Modernisation</u></p> <p>Following on from the February Committee report which outlined a proposed procedure for the allocation of new allotments, the development of the draft strategy has highlighted the fact that there are a number of operational practices which would merit re-examination and modernisation.</p> <p>In line with the strategy, the following are additional areas of work which the department will undertake in the next year which should complement the strategy implementation and improve the service provided to Belfast citizens interested in getting involved in growing activities and allotments, namely;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a revision of the existing allotment handbook / regulations, bringing them up to date and written in “plain English” - a review of charges for allotments - a review of sizes of allotment “plots” and whether this should be linked to charges - central management of all requests for allotments and management of the waiting list (site specific and city-wide)
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3.	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> The ongoing development of the community gardens as agreed by committee in February is funded from the corporate monies. However the ongoing maintenance needs of these sites once developed will need to be factored into the 2013-14 as an area of growth for the department. Work is underway to identify what these are and this will be reported back through the estimate setting process.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> It is our ambition that existing gardeners will be involved in the planned facilitation work in the gardens over the next number of months, with a view to expanding departmental expertise in this area.</p>
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	<p><u>Asset and other Implications</u> This draft strategy and approach will enhance existing council assets and will inevitably require ongoing input, oversight and maintenance by the council.</p>
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4.	<p>Equality and good relations implications</p> <p>There are no implications at this stage. However, Equality and Good Relations factors will be taken into account in any activities being delivered in line with the strategy. The draft strategy will be equality screened in line with the council's existing equality screening process.</p>
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5.	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Committee is asked to;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the update on the development of the PHA funded allotments and community gardens at Musgrave Park and the request to attend the opening event in June under the Active Belfast - Active Living theme on Thursday 21 June; and (ii) note the draft "Growing Communities" strategy for information and review, which will be tabled for agreement at next month's Committee meeting subject to any feedback or comments Members may wish to make in the interim.
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6.	<p>Decision Tracking</p> <p>Final draft strategy to be returned to Committee in June 2012- Policy & Business Development Manager.</p>
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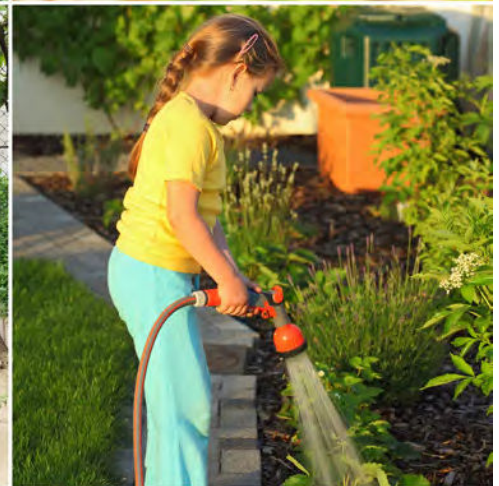
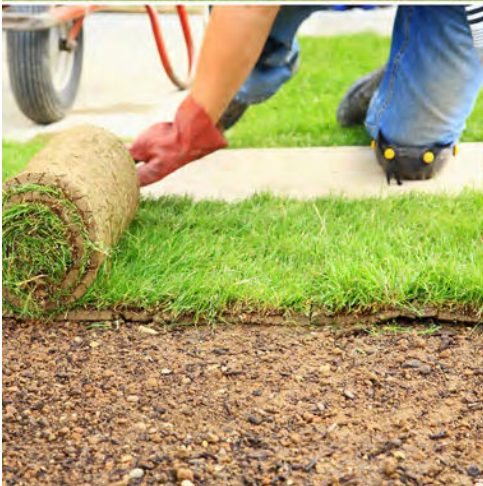
7.	<p>Key to Abbreviations</p> <p>HEIAP – Health equity in all policies PHA – Public Health Agency</p>
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8.	<p>Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Draft "Growing Communities" strategy</p>
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Growing Communities

A Citywide Strategy for Belfast
2012 – 2022



Contents

Page

- Foreword
- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Introduction
- 3. Setting the Scene
- 4. Strategic Context
- 5. Where we are now
- 6. What we aim to achieve
- 7. Action Plan
- 8. Monitoring and evaluation
- 9. Key Terms Used
- 10. Appendices

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FOREWORD

As Chair of Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure Committee, I am delighted to be able to present this Growing Communities Strategy to the people of Belfast.

Community growing is not new to the city, and areas within Belfast's parks were provided to residents as allotments as far back as World War 1. However, there is a newfound, public awareness of a range of issues from health and wellbeing to the environment, coupled with an increasing recognition of the potential of community growing to positively contribute to these issues.

The challenge to the Council and its partners is to ensure that adequate means are in place to allow all people in Belfast the opportunity to benefit in terms of physical and mental wellbeing, from growing activities throughout their lives. The strategy aims to meet that challenge by providing a basis for enhancing current provision, developing further sites for community use, and supporting new and varied approaches to growing which meet the needs of the widest possible range of groups and individuals across the City.

However, above and beyond this, the strategy represents the commitment of Belfast City Council, the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Strategic Partnership to working together to ensure continued investment in community growing as a key contribution to the sustainable prosperity of the City of Belfast.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those who have contributed to the development of the Growing Communities Strategy.



Councillor Stephen Corr

Chair, Belfast City Council Parks & Leisure Committee

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Whilst urban cultivation of plants has a long history including traditional allotments and home vegetable plots, a renewed interest in community growing which reflects developing public awareness of health, environmental and food security issues, has led to the advent of modern, often community-focused approaches such as community gardens and garden sharing.

Recognition of this by Belfast City Council, Belfast Healthy Cities, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Development Unit has led to the development of the Growing Communities Strategy which aims to ensure that all parts of the community in Belfast have the opportunity to participate in and experience the benefits of growing.

Strategy Development

Following establishment in September 2011 of a steering group drawn from the private, community and voluntary, and statutory sectors, a baseline study of current allotment and community garden provision in Belfast was undertaken followed by a series of workshops and consultation with local elected representatives. This process led to the development of this Growing Communities Strategy, which has the following vision:

All people in Belfast will have the opportunity for improved health and wellbeing through involvement in growing activities throughout their lifetimes and within their local neighbourhoods

and the following strategic objectives:

- To support healthier lifestyles by providing growing opportunities to people of all ages;
- To support and develop communities by building and encouraging ownership of and pride in the cities growing spaces;
- To work to support environmental sustainability by ensuring that growing spaces and activities contribute positively to the local environment and support the attainment of sustainable development targets set for local government;
- To improve communication and models of management by providing growing communities and allotment holders with timely advice and guidance including site management protocols;
- To engage the wider community through inclusiveness in the development of shared growing spaces; and
- To encourage the development of the social economy in local neighbourhoods and suitable training and skills development for employability.

Action

Based on key priorities identified in the strategy, a full action plan has been developed for the coming ten years which, in summary, sets out to -

- Develop information and facilitate communication on growing
- Link with existing, related programmes
- Provide financial and other resources as well as practical support for growing
- Identify and support development of sustainable sites for growing
- Support new models of delivery and management of community growing
- Promote the benefits of growing to all sections of the community.

The effectiveness of the strategy in meeting its aims and objectives will be monitored and reviewed through a range of performance indicators which address both provision of opportunity and impact on participants in growing.

2. INTRODUCTION

This Draft Strategy aims to consider community growing in its widest sense. Aside from private gardens, urban cultivation of fruit, vegetables and flowers has traditionally been in allotments. However, recent years have seen the development of community gardens - areas where people from a community come together to participate in the cultivation of plants, and today growing can take place in many other settings including school gardens, vegetable plots at home, planters and pots on porches and window sills, even on grass verges and roundabouts. In fact, the possibilities for community growing are endless, and as varied as the individuals who take part.

Interest in community growing is increasing, and its benefits for health and wellbeing are widely recognised, as well as its potential to contribute to environmental sustainability and local economic development. The Growing Communities Strategy aims to ensure that there is greater opportunity in Belfast for engagement in growing in all its forms, and that all parts of the community are able to experience the benefits of this involvement.

Development of the Growing Communities Strategy has been led by Belfast City Council, Belfast Healthy Cities, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Development Unit. From the beginning, we have engaged with a wide range of local organisations and individuals, representatives of which have formed the Steering Group that has shaped the development of the Strategy – in other words, the Strategy is based upon what people who live and work in Belfast have said is important to them, both now and in the future.

Belfast City Council and its partners are committed to health equity and to the Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP)¹ approach being led by Belfast Healthy Cities partnership. Applying the HEiAP process to the Growing Communities Strategy ensures that we have systematically identified implications for community growing on health inequality, and have addressed these within the Strategy.

¹ Belfast Healthy Cities, *Equity from the Start: Health Equity in all Policies - Health Lens Approach*, June 2011

3. SETTING THE SCENE

Urban cultivation of plants by members of the community takes place in a wide variety of settings for a wide variety of reasons. The following describes some approaches to growing – some already practised in Belfast, others representing potential models for future growing in the City.

Allotments

Allotments are plots of land for non-professional gardening which, for a small fee, are made available to individuals, usually by local authorities or private associations. Plots are formed by subdividing an area of land into a few or many parcels generally ranging between 50 and 400 square metres each. Each is cultivated by an individual person or family who has sole responsibility for maintaining their plot, which may include a shed for tools and shelter. Plot holders are also required to abide by rules or bye-laws established by the local authority or an allotment association.

Belfast currently provides around 170 plots across four sites in the City, for which demand is high (currently, the waiting list is around 285 people).



Belfast City Council's Belmont Allotments

Community Gardens

Generally, community gardens are urban areas where people from the local community come together to participate in growing. There is no standard model of community garden, and their purpose can vary widely from recreation to market gardening. Activities beyond food production are common, and many gardens perform a social or educational function as well – either informally or through community development programmes. In the United Kingdom, community gardens are usually viewed as distinct from allotments in that gardens are run on a communal basis, although plots within gardens may be allocated to individuals or groups depending on the purpose of the garden.

The many purposes and/or benefits of community gardens include -

Health and wellbeing – providing a form of physical activity, access to nutritious fresh food, and peace and relaxation. For example, specially designed facilities such as sensory gardens may be established for therapeutic reasons, to meet the needs of those with physical disabilities and learning difficulties.

Social – performing a role in community development, building community capacity and increasing social cohesion. For example, gardens may be established with the primary aim of breaking down barriers between different cultural groups.

Food and economic security – providing access to inexpensive, locally grown, healthy food. In some cases, gardens are established with the specific aim of addressing food security issues in disadvantaged areas, or as community enterprises selling produce for profit.

Education and skills development – to create opportunities for learning across a wide range of areas including plant cultivation, social and management skills.

Sustainable land use – protecting and developing publicly accessible urban green spaces often utilising derelict land.



Wheelchair-friendly planters at Belfast City Council's Musgrave Therapy Garden

Suffolk Community Garden, Belfast – a European funded peace and reconciliation project



Growing around Town

Whilst much growing is carried out in clearly defined, pre-determined areas such as community gardens, there may be scope for less formal activity, and there are many examples, both official and unofficial, of using smaller, 'spare' spaces in towns and cities for community growing.

The term guerrilla gardening (generally referring to gardening on another person's land without permission) was coined in the 1970s, although the activity was recognised long before this. It covers a wide range of motivations, from horticultural to political, and involves taking over land abandoned or neglected by its owner. Examples in the UK include organised groups illicitly 'reclaiming' neglected green spaces, beds etc, and planting flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Whilst normally outside the law, some aspects of this practice have become accepted, gaining the support of public bodies and private companies who allow use of their land, and attracting considerable media interest. With appropriate support and management, verges, roundabouts, company car parks, public flower beds, river banks, tow paths and vacant lots all provide potential for community growing.



Herbs planted in pots at Todmorden Railway Station, West Yorks (courtesy of Incredible Edible)



Potatoes growing by a car park

Growing at home

The possibilities for growing at home are endless, and most homes in Belfast will probably have at least an indoor potted plant. Whilst not everyone will have the space, money or motivation to, for example, cultivate a large vegetable patch or build a greenhouse, there may be an opportunity to dig a small bed, build a planter or fill a container for the window sill.

To encourage people, it will be vital to communicate the key benefits of growing at home, whether from exercise working in the garden, healthy home grown fruit and vegetables, or social interaction through clubs, other groups or neighbours. Home gardening support projects may provide people with assistance and resources for growing at home - in Portland, Oregon, for example, the *Home Gardening Project Foundation*² assists disadvantaged individuals by providing raised vegetable beds and support and advice, to ensure access to healthy food.



Vegetable competition at Belfast City Council's Garden Gourmet event



The possibilities for growing at home...

² The Home Gardening Project Foundation (<http://www.jeffnet.org/~hgpf/>)

Garden Sharing

Garden sharing refers to arrangements wherein landowners allow others access to their gardens or other suitable space to grow food. Ranging from informal relationships between neighbours to web-based schemes to match owners with growers, garden sharing provides an opportunity to satisfy demand when waiting lists for local allotments or community gardens are long. In the UK, schemes such as *Landshare*³ and *yours2share*⁴ have been successful in meeting community needs.

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³ Landshare (<http://www.landshare.net/>)

⁴ Yours2share (<http://www.yours2share.com/>)

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Growing Communities Strategy relates both directly and indirectly to a wide range of European, central and local government policies and strategies including those shown below.



A description of each of the above is provided in Appendix 1, with a summary of the relationship to the Growing Communities Strategy, to illustrate the context in which the Strategy has been developed.

5. WHERE WE ARE NOW

Process

The process of developing a strategy for community growing formally began in March 2011 when Belfast City Council, Belfast Healthy Cities, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Development Unit in partnership delivered a Community Gardens and Allotments seminar, to consider opportunities for working with the community in developing future provision in the City.

Following this, the following key activities have taken place:

- In September 2011, a **Steering Group** of 40 representatives drawn from the private, community and voluntary, and statutory sectors was established to shape the development of a strategy for future community growing provision in Belfast;
- In December 2011, an independent **baseline study** (below) was completed, which looked at current allotment and community garden provision in Belfast, and made recommendations for future action; and
- From September 2011 to March 2012, the Steering Group undertook a series of **workshops** which, alongside the outcomes of the baseline study and consultation with local elected representatives, have informed the development of the draft Growing Communities Strategy.

Baseline Study

A baseline study was commissioned by Belfast City Council and undertaken by Sustainable NI, in order to inform the development of a community gardens and allotments vision and strategy for the City. In summary, the study included the following:

- Research into the development of community gardens and allotments locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- A baseline analysis of community gardens and allotments provision within Belfast; and
- Initial consultation with a range of stakeholders in Belfast, including current allotment/community garden users and interested community and voluntary sector organisations.

The executive summary of Sustainable NI's report on the study - *GROW YOUR OWN – A Review of Allotment Provision, Community Gardens and Demand for 'Grow Your Own' Initiatives within Belfast* - is provided at Appendix 2.

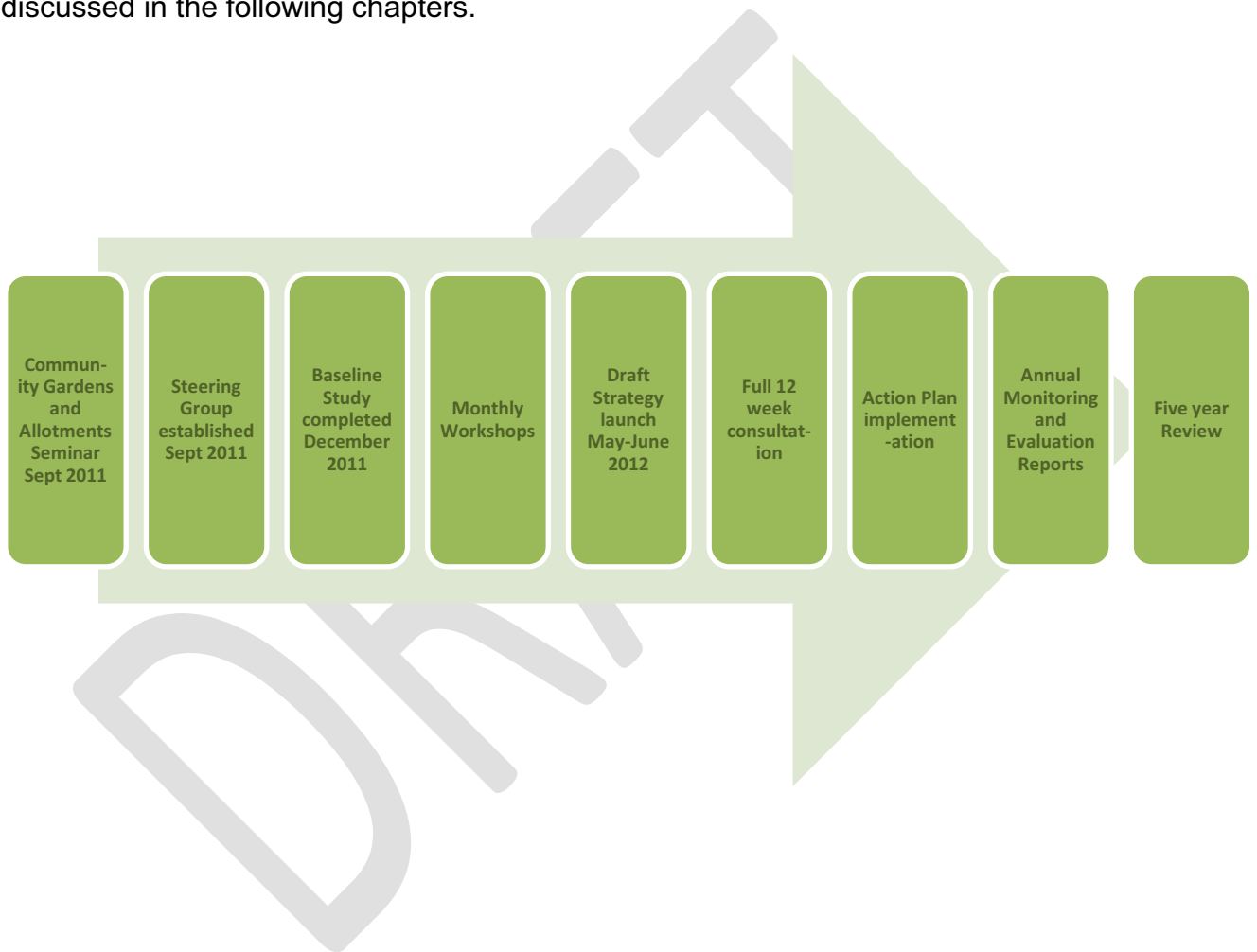
Full details of the study's findings are included in the report. In summary however, the study identifies that there is considerable interest in development of a strategy for Belfast and makes a range of recommendations for consideration the context of a new city-wide approach. These can be separated into recommendations for

allotments, for the ongoing management of community gardens, and for alternative ways of developing participation in community growing activities.

The recommendations have been fully taken into consideration in developing this draft Strategy, and will be further taken into account in the delivery of actions resulting from implementation of the Strategy.

Where do we go from here?

The diagram below illustrates the stage we are at currently in developing the Growing Communities Strategy and summarises the planned next steps, as discussed in the following chapters.



6. WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

Vision

It is the vision of Belfast City Council and its partners that, through implementation of the Growing Communities Strategy -

All people in Belfast will have the opportunity for improved health and wellbeing through involvement in growing activities throughout their lifetimes and within their local neighbourhoods.

The following diagram summarises ways in which we envisage that this lifelong engagement in community growing will be realised.



We are committed to ensuring lifelong engagement for all – through, wherever possible, encouraging and providing guidance, resources and opportunities for participation in growing for all ages.

Key Priorities

We recognise that in order to ensure effective provision which meets the vision stated above, commitment is required from all those involved in implementing the Growing Communities Strategy.

Through the work undertaken to develop this Strategy, a number of key priorities have been identified. The following section outlines these, highlights key health equity considerations identified through the HEiAP approach, and sets out our commitment to addressing each key priority.

1. Supporting Healthier Lifestyles

Active Lifestyles – regular participation in physical activity including gardening has direct health benefits including improved fitness levels, reduced overall mortality,

reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease, reduced high blood pressure, reduced risk of colon cancer, reduced obesity levels, and reduced risk of developing type II diabetes. Physical activity also provides mental health benefits such as improved mood and improved health-related quality of life, and there is also evidence of mental health benefits from more passive use of gardens, through social interaction, relaxation and stress reduction.

Case Study - Green Gyms

An emerging method of encouraging physical activity in the UK is the 'green gym' – run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers as a way of integrating health promotion and the natural environment. Green gyms allow people to get outdoors and take part in environmental conservation and improvement of the local surroundings. Experienced leaders guide participants through a range of practical projects, giving them the opportunity to tackle physical jobs in the outdoors. Potential benefits of such activities include improving strength and stamina, boosting practical skills and confidence, and improving local green spaces.

Diet - 'Grow your own' can give people the opportunity to access and benefit from fresh, organic, local, seasonal (and inexpensive) vegetables. Increasing evidence of the health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption have emerged in recent years, and encouraging children from an early age to eat fresh fruit and vegetables has been shown to help them establish healthy choices and improve their long term health – potentially enhanced by active engagement in growing activities.

Green Space - access to green space provides important health benefits for the local community, with evidence indicating that those living close to green space are more likely to be physically active, for example through opportunities for exercise and free play.

Active Travel - locating community gardens close to public transport networks or within the local community can have a positive impact on health by encouraging active travel, which can be particularly effective for tackling obesity and depression. Active travel in the form of walking and cycling are the best way to increase levels of physical activity at a population level, since active travel can be incorporated into daily routines and is therefore relatively easy to sustain. In addition, people walking to or from a community garden or allotment offers important opportunities for social interaction, which can in turn support mental wellbeing.

Health Equity Considerations

- Associations between green space and stress relief are particularly strongly made by people living with deprivation and disadvantage
- In deprived areas, lack of control over shared space can have a negative impact on mental health
- Those with dementia as well as learning difficulties benefit from natural environments such as sensory gardens
- Some findings indicate that people recover faster from surgery if they have a view of nature
- Encouraging children from an early age to eat fresh fruit and vegetables has been shown to help them establish healthy choices and improve their long term health
- The contribution by community gardens and allotments to improve access to inexpensive, healthy food is particularly important for those on lower incomes and limited access to other sources
- Evidence shows that access to green space encourages physical activity and supports the wellbeing of children, particularly in disadvantaged areas
- Older people may be vulnerable due to a lack of footpaths or safe road crossings – which may affect their ability to participate in growing activities

Our Commitment – to provide opportunities for all people in Belfast to benefit from community growing activities

2. Empowering Communities and Building Capacity

Social Inclusion - community growing and the development of green space is of benefit when tackling social exclusion (ie when people's opportunities to connect with others are limited). A community garden can foster a sense of community among the residents of a neighbourhood, and the presence of shared activity in well-maintained green spaces can offer opportunities for inclusion and connectedness, in turn increasing perceptions of safety and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Social Interaction – skill-based activities, combined with opportunities for social interaction, can help build community capacity and civic pride. Even when growing

at home there may be opportunities to develop social networks with those who are keen gardeners, and sharing of produce between neighbours can strengthen relationships.

Social Capital - community gardens can help build social capital (ie the value and impact that relationships between people create). Community gardening is reported to serve as a 'bridge' between diverse groups, for example, forging relationships between people from different cultures and backgrounds, and addressing conflict.

Case Study - Growing Together – Peace III Gardens

Belfast City Council's Growing Together project began in 2009, funded through the Peace III Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan (Peace Plan). The project focused on building three community gardens in areas representing contested space in Belfast, along with a series of events bringing cross-community groups together to work on gardening initiatives, to promote sharing and interaction.

The gardens – at Suffolk and Lenadoon in the west of the City, and Glenbank in the north – were completed in June 2011 and have involved over 100 local residents from a wide range of backgrounds in growing flowers and vegetables, including regular visits by school and summer scheme groups.

In 2010, the Growing Together project was extended to include activities at the Council's newly-developed Therapy Garden in Musgrave Park in the south of the City, also partly Peace III-funded. The Therapy Garden was developed specifically for the needs of local children with physical disabilities and severe learning difficulties, including an innovative, custom-built, wheelchair friendly, raised planter. The project has allowed these children to work with groups from the other gardens, further broadening the opportunity for shared learning and understanding.

In 2012, the Peace Plan provided funding for the Council's Growing Respect project promoting anti-sectarianism and anti-racism in young people. This includes a cross-community sports-based programme in Council Leisure Centres, coupled with intergenerational horticultural activities delivered with participants in the original Growing Together community gardens and beyond.

Skills, Knowledge Transfer and Employment - community growing provides the opportunity to share gardening and horticultural skills. Importantly, this includes sharing of knowledge between older people and younger people – of particular value in ensuring 'traditional' skills are not lost, and supporting positive intergenerational relationships. Employment prospects may be improved by developing transferable skills - many gardens can involve volunteers in administration and management tasks, offering opportunities to hold positions of responsibility and gain experience of running projects.

Health Equity Considerations

Developing a sense of pride in residents for their area can significantly support the mental wellbeing of individuals and the wider community

The degree to which individuals are involved in their community is vital to health and wellbeing

Well developed community capacity increases the effectiveness of community health interventions

In deprived areas, lack of control over opportunity for social interaction can have a negative impact on mental health

Our Commitment – to empower communities by encouraging ownership of growing spaces in Belfast

3. Environmental Sustainability

Biodiversity – the term ‘biodiversity’ refers to the variety of life on earth. Green spaces are crucial for supporting urban biodiversity, providing valuable habitats for a wide range of species including insects and other invertebrates, amphibians and smaller mammals. This includes ‘pollinators’, such as birds, bees and butterflies, that transfer pollen and seeds between plants. This cross-pollination process helps at least 30% of the world’s crops and 90% of wild plants to thrive. Green spaces of all sizes also provide ‘islands’ of habitat, which may be connected by ‘corridors’ such as hedges, verges, and river or canal banks – allowing wildlife to disperse and migrate across the landscape, preventing isolation of species populations. Community growing can also provide the opportunity to grow ‘heritage’ fruit and vegetables, ensuring that varieties from the past are not lost.

Climate Change – green spaces can help to deal with climate change and support energy policy goals by contributing to lower energy demand, and reducing carbon emissions. All plants absorb carbon dioxide (as well as absorbing other pollutants affecting local air quality). Trees provide shade and act as natural coolants, thus reducing the need for mechanical cooling. Locally produced fruit and vegetables reduce the impact of machinery and transportation associated with much commercially produced food. Green spaces, including gardens and verges, all contribute to natural drainage, reducing the risk of localised flooding.

Case Study - GIY Ireland

GIY's vision is for a healthier, more sustainable and more connected world where people grow their own food.

Founded in Ireland by Michael Kelly in 2009 there are now over 12,000 people involved and over 100 GIY groups. The organisation started in Australia in 2010 and will launch in the UK in May 2012.

GIY recognises that the way the food chain currently operates has implications for our health, community, the environment, the economy and jobs. Local supermarket shelves are full of imports of highly-processed, unseasonal produce - broccoli from Kenya, mangetout from Senegal, carrots from Guatemala and so on.

GIY encourages people to grow their own vegetables, and transform the food chain and bring some common sense back in to our relationship with food. This is achieved by bringing people together in community groups and online to inspire and empower them to grow their own and to help each other by to sharing tips, advice and expertise.

Food Security – this has been a key reason for the development of community growing since the earliest recorded allotments in the seventeenth century. Community gardens and allotments can provide those involved with inexpensive, healthy produce. Increasingly, strategic approaches are being taken to the use of community gardening as a means of addressing wider food supply issues in areas of urban deprivation.

Land Use – whilst there may be limitations to the amount of urban land available for allotments or community gardens, emerging regional development policy offers opportunities to protect and develop urban green space in Belfast, particularly as commercially less attractive land may be cost-effectively transformed into green space. However, there is a need to overcome the perception that a significant areas of land are required to 'grow your own' food. Where people are limited for space, use of planters, containers and pots may be alternatives to ground planting.

Sustainable Travel – effective public transport is vital to minimising the environmental impacts of travel and ensuring people of all social groups and backgrounds can access jobs and services, and participate in social and leisure activities including growing activities. It is important that safe connections on foot, bicycle and public transport are taken into account when siting community gardens.

Health Equity Considerations

- Creating an attractive environment, for example planting on verges and roundabouts, can boost pride in place and wellbeing
- Land use and planning approaches that support green spaces can underpin improved health and wellbeing
- Effective public transport links are important to ensure access to growing activities, particularly for low-income and less mobile individuals and groups

Our Commitment – to ensure growing spaces and activities contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the City

4. Engaging the Wider Community

The following groups were identified by the Growing Communities Steering Group as those on which growing has the most impact:

Children and Young People - young people are often keen to support and participate in environmentally-related projects and it is important they are given the opportunity and skills necessary to do so. Schools are vital to ensuring children are educated about the growing process, as well as the environmental, ethical and health issues surrounding food. In Northern Ireland there is currently no formal growing programme being implemented in schools. However, many primary schools in particular have growing spaces on their grounds, and visits to sustainable farms and educational programmes in food procurement and nutrition can also support learning in this area. Community gardening and youth gardening programmes can significantly and positively influence healthy development and lifestyle choices including intake of fruit and vegetables, and in addition provide a source of meaningful activity.

Case study – Echo-Schools at St. Patrick’s Primary School, Belfast

Eco-Schools is an international programme guiding schools towards sustainability, administered in Northern Ireland by Tidy NI. The primary aim of Eco-Schools is to combine learning and action to improve the environmental performance of participating schools. St. Patrick’s was awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag in April 2011 in recognition of their great work.

After an initial litter clean up, the pupils felt that a number of areas in the grounds could do with a makeover. With a little help from parents and Conservation Volunteers NI, the children worked their magic on neglected patches of land and created a number of raised beds and growing areas. The school wrote letters to local businesses asking for help and the response was encouraging with donations ranging from gardening tools to plants and seeds. The entire school enjoyed planting a range of fruit, vegetables and flowers, nurturing these from seedlings right up to full grown plants, taking turns to do the weekly gardening and composting. Before long, a good season of fruit and vegetables was ready for harvesting, from potatoes, cabbage and lettuce to beans and herbs.

The school uses its organic produce in the canteen, creating many seasonal and tasty feasts - all grown in the school grounds. Developing young enterprise, they sell the fresh produce to parents and teachers, and now hope to follow in the footsteps of other Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland and set up their very own farm shop.

Tackling the topic of biodiversity in the grounds head on, the school was transformed into a haven for nature and wildlife. Following the success of their market garden, the school decided to turn an area of waste ground into a conservation area. With the help of the Council and Education and Library Board, the school designed the new garden and helped build it from scratch complete with pond and picnic tables to give the children the opportunity to enjoy all their hard work.

The whole school community has been involved in the Eco-Schools Programme and its continued success had allowed the children to become ‘greener’ while having fun along the way!

Older People - there are approximately 53,000 older people (60+ years) living in Belfast at present. Whilst there are many benefits to engaging in growing, some older people may feel unable to participate. For example, limited mobility can affect transport options and lead to a fear of falls or trips. Older people should be supported to overcome any barriers or perceived barriers through the provision of accessible services and opportunities for growing in a safe environment.

People with Mental Health Problems - due to its potential mental health benefits, growing can particularly benefit those living with a mental health problem, however

many face social exclusion because they do not have equal access to opportunities in society. Fostering social inclusion to enhance quality of life is a driver for public service provision, and many people with mental health problems could benefit from participation in community growing, if provided with appropriate support and access.

People with Disabilities- around one in five of the population of Northern Ireland has a disability. People with a disability may face particular barriers to growing, including limited transport options, limited mobility and sensory difficulties. In addition, certain types of supported living schemes may not have gardens or space for growing. Many people with disabilities can participate, with appropriate support, and enjoy the associated benefits.

Disadvantaged/Low Income Groups – not everyone will have the capacity to engage in community gardens or allotments, and growing at home on a small scale, for example in beds or containers, may be a more affordable option for some. In addition to the importance of community gardening as a source of inexpensive, healthy food, formal and informal community gardening and horticultural volunteering and training opportunities are particularly valuable to unemployed people or those from low income groups. These opportunities can enhance their skills and employability, and can act as a stepping stone to higher education and/or employment.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups - BME groups can benefit from growing opportunities in various ways including improved integration with local people along with increased confidence in becoming part of a new community, and improved language and communication skills. However evidence points to low levels of inclusion for these groups who may be disadvantaged due to language barriers. Advocate workers for such groups can encourage participation in community growing opportunities locally.

Case Study – Ballysillan Community Garden

The Ballysillan Community Allotment Project is a partnership between Conservation Volunteers NI, the Salvation Army, Belfast City Council and the Ballysillan Allotment Holders Association. In 2010, the Salvation Army contacted Conservation Volunteers about running a project to engage men from a homeless hostel in the centre of Belfast with activities aimed at improving their physical and mental wellbeing. Following discussions with the Council, a section of land within Ballysillan Allotments once used as a nursery was made available.

The disused site was heavily overgrown, taking a team of volunteers over six months to clear vegetation and waste to uncover old paths and structures. Following this, extensive work was undertaken to transform the site into a community allotment garden with a series of raised beds for volunteers to grow their own vegetables and a wildlife garden for education visits from local schools.

Through engagement with the local allotment holders, site visits to other conservation projects and ongoing dialogue, positive relationships were

developed to ensure shared learning and creation of a sustainable presence on the site.

Since the project started, Conservation Volunteers NI has delivered hundreds of volunteer work days involving over 600 people with the work on the site. Volunteers have come from all different backgrounds including intergenerational, ethnic minority, disability, and young people at risk groups. The project has also become a centre for the delivery of NVQ training and shorty courses in practical environmental skills with formal training being delivered on site, increasing employability skills within the area.

Health Equity Considerations

- Providing equal access to opportunities for everyone including vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and communities is important to support participation in growing
- Promoting engagement between groups and communities in growing can improve social interaction and good relations
- People with a disability may face particular problems regarding access to growing opportunities
- Youth gardening opportunities can significantly influence healthy development and lifestyle choices
- Intergenerational activity can provide the opportunity to pass on skills and knowledge as well as improve relations
- Research has shown that, in schools that encourage gardening, children live healthier lives

Our Commitment –to engage the wider community in the development of shared growing spaces

5. Communication and Management

Communication - it is important that all groups in the community have the opportunity to access information on using sites such as community gardens or allotments or to support activities at home, to allow them to put growing into action. A range of methods including training, publications, websites and social media may be effective in providing people with information, whilst opportunities to learn from others already

engaged in growing, for example through practical workshops, may be effective in involving the wider community and strengthening social networks.

Management - management requirements will differ greatly according to the nature and purpose of community growing activities. Arrangements at established allotment sites are likely to require individual plot holders to take sole responsibility for managing their plots and following local rules set out to ensure adherence to legal requirements, control of weeds and pests, sustainable practices etc. Allotment sites are likely to be overseen by elected management committees whose responsibilities will range from ensuring the overall site is properly maintained to organising events for plot holders and visitors. Management approaches for establishing and maintaining community gardens or other less formal activities are likely to vary. Generally, the establishment of a community garden will take one of two forms. The first is the top-down approach where the local authority (or other agency) leads the process of establishing the garden then invites residents to use it, often handing over management to an appropriate community group. This approach is typical when a garden is established specifically to address particular health and wellbeing or social issues, perhaps as part of a wider programme. The second is the bottom-up approach where the community approaches the local authority to propose a community garden, then, once a site is agreed, takes on design, construction, cultivation and management themselves (with a greater or lesser amount of assistance from the local authority, as required). As much of the work is done by the community, this may minimise the amount of local authority resources required whilst maximising community 'ownership'. Sustaining finances to run a community gardening project can be a challenge, especially from low-income or disadvantaged groups for whom projects may be of particular importance. Sharing knowledge, skills and resources in securing funding across communities, and Council support in this area, will play a vital role.

Health Equity Considerations

- **Communication and management approaches which take account of the specific needs of disadvantaged groups will help prevent exclusion from access to the health benefits of growing**

***Our Commitment* – to ensure effective communication and encourage and support models of management which contribute to the development of growing opportunities**

6. Social Economy

Income generation – whilst community gardens and allotments can make a considerable contribution to urban food production, as well as contributing to a range of social issues, some are also able to derive significant income from the sale of produce. Opportunities exist to promote and support the establishment of

community-run businesses based on growing activities, which generate funds to provide additional income to disadvantaged groups, with the opportunity for re-investment and further development of projects.

Social enterprise – as well as the possibility of generating income, there is great potential for community gardens in particular to be run as means of addressing social needs. As already outlined, community gardens are able address a wide range of issues from social inclusion to employability, and offer ideal opportunities for social entrepreneurship. The physical aspect of a community garden can allow a group to present a project proposal with ‘tangible’ outputs that can be easily visualised by potential partners and funders.

Health Equity Considerations

- **Social entrepreneurship presents an opportunity for communities to drive projects which can address local issues including health and wellbeing**

***Our Commitment* – to encourage the development of the social economy and improve employability through growing activities**

Strategic Objectives

Based on our commitments for each of the key priorities set out above, we have set strategic objectives for the Growing Communities Strategy. These are described in the following table:

Key Priority Areas	Strategic Objective	What this will include
Supporting Healthier Lifestyles	Support healthier lifestyles by providing growing opportunities to people of all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing information on the health benefits of growing Linking with existing health and wellbeing programmes Promoting active travel to allotments and community gardens Promoting links with community growing and healthy eating and physical activity Providing support for growing at home
Empowering Communities and Building Capacity	To support and develop communities by building and encouraging ownership of and pride in the cities growing spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an information resource for local communities Providing information and practical support for schools Promoting funding opportunities Delivering events to promote growing Facilitating interaction between gardeners Promoting volunteering

Key Priority Areas	Strategic Objective	What this will include
		Supporting skills development
Environmental Sustainability	Work to support environmental sustainability by ensuring that growing spaces and activities contribute positively to the local environment and support the attainment of sustainable development targets set for local government	<p>Identifying new, sustainable sites for growing</p> <p>Promoting integration of green space provision in planning</p> <p>Promoting sustainable practices in growing projects</p>
Communication and Management	Improve communication and models of management by providing growing communities and allotment holders with timely advice and guidance including site management protocols	<p>Developing innovative means of sharing information on growing</p> <p>Supporting new models of management which meet community needs</p>
Engaging the Wider Community	Engage the wider community through inclusiveness in the development of shared growing spaces	<p>Establishing a stakeholder forum</p> <p>Supporting intergenerational activities</p> <p>Demonstrating benefits to those with mental health problems</p> <p>Reviewing access arrangements at Council sites</p> <p>Engaging with the Council's Children and Young Peoples' Forum</p>

Key Priority Areas	Strategic Objective	What this will include
		<p>Promoting projects aimed at low-income groups</p> <p>Providing placement opportunities at Council sites</p>
Social Economy	<p>Encourage the development of the social economy in local neighbourhoods and suitable training and skills development for employability</p>	<p>Identifying social enterprise opportunities for growing</p>

Effective Partnership Working

Partnership working and community collaboration has been a fundamental part of the process which has developed this Strategy, and will be vital for its future implementation.

The partnership of Belfast City Council, Belfast Healthy Cities, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Development Unit will continue as we work to achieve the Strategic Objectives described above. However, we will rely on wider partnerships to make this happen.

We will undertake to work with partners across Belfast from all sectors – community and voluntary, statutory, private sector, education and beyond, including drawing from the expertise of those already using allotments and community gardens. This collaborative approach will be vital to ensuring the effective development of community growing in the City, and we will encourage and where possible support those involved in partnerships at a local level working on specific growing projects.

7. ACTION PLAN

Through the work undertaken to develop this Strategy, a set of strategic actions have been agreed, in line with the key priority areas and strategic objectives, as described above. The action plan is provided in Appendix 3.

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8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Growing Communities Strategy focuses on six strategic objectives and an action plan covering 28 targeted activities over the next 10 years. In addition, we propose to monitor effectiveness of the strategy through the following performance indicators:

Performance Indicator	Proposed Data Source
Number of allotment plots provided in Belfast	Belfast City Council/non-Council allotment records
Percentage of council land allocated for growing	Belfast City Council data
Average Council allotment charges per m ² across Belfast	Belfast City Council financial data
Length of Council allotments waiting list relative to total number of plots provided	Belfast City Council allotment user data
Number of community garden facilities in Belfast	Belfast City Council/non-Council community garden records
Number of participants in Council community gardens	Belfast City Council community garden user data
Percentage of satisfactory site inspections (Council allotments/community gardens)	Belfast City Council inspection records
Perceived health and wellbeing of participants	Pre- and post- participation surveys at selected projects
Number and percentage of people engaged in growing (by group/geographical area)	Belfast City Council data
Number and percentage of people who report benefits of growing	Pre- and post- participation surveys at selected projects
Percentage of Government department land allocated for growing	Departmental data
Percentage of land allocated for growing/community gardens/allotments within disadvantaged areas	Departmental data
Amount of investment for developing, creating and maintaining land for growing as a percentage of total spend	Departmental data
Amount of investment for supporting people in growing activities	Departmental/Belfast City Council data

Number and percentage of people who feel they are knowledgeable in the area of growing	Pre- and post- participation surveys at selected projects
Number and percentage of people who can access opportunities to growing	Belfast City Council data

Progress against objectives and performance against indicators will be reported on an annual basis, where possible.

However, achievement of the overall vision of the will not be evident in the short term, and we propose to undertake a comprehensive strategic review in five years' time to consider how successful the approach taken has been, and to agree further action.

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9. KEY TERMS USED

Allotment

A plot of land made available for non-professional gardening, formed by subdividing a larger area of land into smaller parcels that are assigned to individuals – either commercially or by local authorities and other agencies.

Community Garden

A single area of land cultivated, communally, by a group of people.

Health and Wellbeing

A positive physical, social and mental state, requiring not only the absence of disease, pain, discomfort and incapacity, but also requiring that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, and that they feel able to achieve goals and participate in society.

Health Equity

A measure of difference or disparity in the quality of health and health care across the population, including differences across, socio-economic, racial, ethnic or groups.

Social Capital

The value of social relations and the role of cooperation in achieving collective or economic results.

Sustainable Development

Development which ensures that people today can satisfy their basic needs, whilst making sure that future generations can also look forward to the same quality of life. It normally takes into account three inter-dependent 'pillars'- economy, society and the environment.

Environmental Sustainability

A state in which the demands placed on the environment can be met without reducing its capacity to meet people's needs, now and in the future – ie the environmental 'pillar' of sustainable development.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

10. APPENDICES

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Appendix 1 – Strategic Context

This table summarises policy related to The Growing Communities Strategy to illustrate the context in which the Strategy has been developed.

<i>Policy area</i>	<i>Implications</i>
European	
<p>The European Union's Sixth Environment Action Programme was adopted in 2002, establishing a framework for action on the environment focusing on the following four key thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate change; ▪ Nature and biodiversity; ▪ Environment, health and quality of life; and ▪ Natural resources and wastes 	<p>Through adherence to and alignment with relevant regional and local policy, Growing Communities will contribute to EU environmental thematic priorities.</p>
<p>The EU Sustainable Development Strategy aims to identify and develop actions to achieve a continuous long-term improvement of quality of life through the creation of sustainable communities. It sets out objectives and actions for seven key priority challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate change and clean energy; ▪ Sustainable transport; ▪ Sustainable consumption & production; ▪ Conservation and management of natural resources; ▪ Public Health; ▪ Social inclusion, demography and migration; and ▪ Global poverty and sustainable development challenges. 	<p>Through adherence to and alignment with relevant regional and local policy, Growing Communities will contribute to EU sustainable development priority challenges.</p>

National	
<p>The Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives, which reported on the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010, is a key driver of public health policy development. The review proposes a range of policy objectives including to: <i>Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities</i>. Specifically, this includes the following policy recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving the availability of good quality open and green spaces across the social gradient, and ▪ Improving the food environment in local areas across the social gradient 	<p>Growing Communities has a significant part to play in developing healthy and sustainable places.</p>
Regional	
<p>The Allotments Act (Northern Ireland) 1932 enables certain local authorities to provide allotments of land.</p>	<p>The Act provides the original framework within which Belfast City Council provides, manages and regulates its allotments.</p>
<p>The Draft Programme for Government 2011-2015 Building a Better Future has been published by the First Minister and deputy First Minister. This sets out a range of priorities including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Priority 2 - Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Wellbeing;</i> ▪ <i>Priority 3 - Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities; and</i> ▪ <i>Priority 4 - Building a Strong and Shared Community.</i> 	<p>The Growing Communities Strategy will contribute directly to the Northern Ireland Executive's aims across these key priorities.</p>
<p>The Draft Revised Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2025 considers, inter alia, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts on population health and wellbeing, the effect of physical places, quality of the living and neighbourhood environment, and access to services and green spaces, and ▪ The potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological areas and 	<p>The Growing Communities Strategy has potential to contribute to the RDS with respect to providing access to green spaces and to supporting biodiversity</p>

<p>creating a network of existing green spaces throughout the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area</p>	
<p>Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy - <i>Everyone's Involved</i>, published in 2010, and the associated Sustainable Development Implementation Plan 2011-14 – <i>Focus on the Future</i>, focus on the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building a dynamic innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty; ▪ Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone; ▪ Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development; ▪ Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment; ▪ Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint; and ▪ Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government. 	<p>By addressing a range of environmental, social, and economic factors issues, the Growing Communities Strategy has a key role in meeting Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development aims</p>
<p>The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 places a Statutory Sustainable Development Duty on public bodies, stating that "a public authority must, in exercising its functions, act in a way it considers best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland ..."</p>	<p>Work is underway by OFMDFM to formally define the ways in which public authorities (including Belfast city Council and its public sector partners) are expected to enact the Sustainable Development Duty. It is expected that development of the Growing Communities Strategy and the actions which come from this will align with the Duty.</p>
<p>The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 places a Statutory Biodiversity Duty on public bodies, stating "It is the duty of every public body, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of</p>	<p>The Growing Communities Strategy recognises and takes into account the ways in which community growing can have an impact on biodiversity – ranging from enhancement of</p>

<p>biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”.</p>	<p>habitats to conservation of heritage vegetable varieties.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation sets out the Department of the Environment’s planning policies on open space and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation. It reflects the Government’s consideration that everyone, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities, should have easy access to open space and the opportunity to participate in sport and outdoor recreational pursuits.</p>	<p>PPS8’s definition of open space includes gardens, amenity green space, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, and allotments – attaching importance to the creation of these.</p>
<p>Following a recent review of the 2002 Northern Ireland public health strategy <i>Investing for Health</i>, the process is underway for developing a new Public Health Strategy for the coming 10 years. This will -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on improving the overall health and well being of the population whilst aiming to reduce health inequalities; ▪ Focus on those determinants which are most powerful in reducing health inequalities; ▪ Adopt a life-course approach, focusing on effective interventions for key life stages; ▪ Seek to align with and enhance other strategies and government policies to make the best use of available resources. 	<p>It is likely that the new strategy will have a strong focus on building sustainable communities. The Growing Communities Strategy will have a key role to play in this regard.</p>
<p>DHSSPS’s draft Obesity Prevention Framework for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 - A Fitter Future For All has the overarching aim to –</p> <p><i>Empower the population of Northern Ireland to make healthy choices, and reduce the level of harm related to overweight and obesity, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet.</i></p>	<p>The Growing Communities Strategy seeks to address a number of the factors considered to contribute to obesity, including healthy eating and activity.</p>

Local	
<p>The Belfast Strategic Partnership (which includes Belfast City Council, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust) has developed a Framework for Action to Address Life Inequalities, identifying a range of key priorities including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing mental health and emotional wellbeing; ▪ Addressing lifelong learning-related issues; and ▪ Regenerating living spaces and healthy places. 	<p>The Growing Communities Strategy will contribute to these priorities by: promoting the benefits and importance of being physically active; developing community skills and knowledge; and providing opportunities for participation in safe, healthy and well maintained places.</p>
<p>Belfast City Council's draft Investment Programme 2012-2015 sets out a commitment to investing £213m on capital projects, local economic growth, people communities and neighbourhoods, and ensuring value for money.</p>	<p>The Investment Programme commits to the creation of more community gardens and allotments in the city, and the development of a Growing Your Own food programme.</p>

Appendix 2 - *GROW YOUR OWN*: Executive Summary

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Appendix 3 – Action Plan

Short term = one to three years

Medium term = three to five years

Long term = five to ten years

Supporting Healthier Lifestyles	Timeframe	Owner
Develop an electronic leaflet on the health benefits of growing for use by the community and health professionals	Short term	Growing Communities Steering Group
Ensure links with existing health initiatives including health referrals to community gardening projects	Short term	Belfast Health Development Unit
Promote active travel to community growing sites	Short term	Belfast City Council
Promote and support the development of healthy cooking skills at a community level	Short term	Growing Communities Steering Group
Explore links between Outdoor Gym activities and community growing sites	Medium term	Belfast City Council
Supply low cost starter packs for growing at home	Short term	Belfast City Council/NIHE
Empowering Communities and Building Capacity		
Develop a “growing” web resource including an online forum	Short term	Belfast City Council
Produce a range of leaflets on ‘growing’ for distribution to the public	Short	Belfast City Council
Run an annual event/information day on growing	Ongoing	Belfast City Council/ Steering Group
Provide guidance and practical support for schools and children interested in growing	Short term	Eco-schools / Belfast City Council
Provide accredited training on ‘growing’ - four sessions per year across Belfast	Ongoing	CVNI/ Belfast City Council
Provide training to support communities in the self management of sites	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council
Provide information on volunteering opportunities at community growing sites and relevant courses for further skills development for volunteers	Short term	Volunteer Now/ Belfast City Council /NICVA/ Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership
Environmental Sustainability		
Identify new areas of land that could be converted to sustainable community growing sites	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council / Government Depts/Landowners
Develop recommendations/guidance for planners to encourage integration of green space in all developments	Short term	Belfast City Council

Engaging the Wider Community		
Establish a stakeholder forum to support people in growing	Short term	Belfast City Council
Support supervised intergenerational activity through demonstration projects/activities	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council /BELB/Eco- schools
Deliver the SEUPB funded Growing Respect Programme (intergenerational)	Medium term	Belfast City Council
Utilise the expertise of volunteers to develop projects which demonstrate the benefits of growing to mental health	Short term	Belfast City Council / Growing Communities Steering Group / Volunteers
Review access arrangements/pathways at allotment sites and community gardens as part of planned maintenance	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council
Engage with representatives from the Children and Young Peoples Forum on the delivery of the strategy	Short to long term	Belfast City Council
Promote existing projects aimed at engaging the wider community	Short to long term	Belfast City Council/CVNI/Volunteer Now
Promote potential funding sources such as Belfast City Council Good Relations Grants for growing activities	Short term	Belfast City Council
Further engage with Belfast City Council's Consultative Forum on the strategy	Short term	Belfast City Council
Communication and Management		
Develop starter packs on community gardens/allotments/home growing	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council/NIHE/ CVNI
Promote new models of management to meet community needs	Short to medium term	Belfast City Council
Develop a communications plan for the strategy	Short term	Belfast City Council
Social Economy		
Provide web-based information on new or existing council and non-council funding, social enterprise, and employment opportunities which support growing communities	Short term	Belfast City Council



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Support for Sport Development Grants
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	Members will be aware that delegated authority was given to the Director of Parks and Leisure for Hospitality and Development applications requesting up to £3,000 and £1,250 respectively – including a one off equipment grant of £250.

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Director and relevant officer met on Monday 30 April to discuss Small Development and Hospitality applications under delegated authority. 22 Small Development applications were received for April and 7 Hospitality applications.</p> <p>The Small Development applications are listed in Appendix 1. Hospitality applications are listed in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Detailed applications are held in the Parks and Leisure Department and can be forwarded to Members on request.</p> <p>A copy of each application will be available at Committee.</p>

3	Resource Implications															
	<p><u>Financial</u> The table below indicates the amounts allocated from the 2012/2013 budget.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Total available</th> <th>Allocated to date</th> <th>Proposed allocation for May 2012</th> <th>Remaining after allocation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small Development</td> <td>£120,000</td> <td>£18,707</td> <td>£15,293</td> <td>£86,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospitality</td> <td>£25,000*</td> <td>£6,285</td> <td>£4,450</td> <td>£14,265</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*following review hospitality reduced to from £31,000 to £25,000 (P&L Committee 12 April 2012)</i></p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications other than officer time to process the applications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Not Applicable.</p>	Area	Total available	Allocated to date	Proposed allocation for May 2012	Remaining after allocation	Small Development	£120,000	£18,707	£15,293	£86,000	Hospitality	£25,000*	£6,285	£4,450	£14,265
Area	Total available	Allocated to date	Proposed allocation for May 2012	Remaining after allocation												
Small Development	£120,000	£18,707	£15,293	£86,000												
Hospitality	£25,000*	£6,285	£4,450	£14,265												

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<p>All applications have been assessed in line with the current Support for Sport scheme.</p> <p>The Support for Sport Scheme has been completed, the revised Scheme and award framework will be screened through the Council's equality screening process.</p>

5	Recommendations
	That members note the content of this report with regard to Support for Sport development applications.

6	Decision Tracking
	The Sports Development Officer to arrange the award of all Support for Sport Small Grants by 31 May 2012.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
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	Table of Recommendations Appendix 1: Small Development Applications May 2012. Appendix 2: Hospitality Applications May 2012.
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ID	Club/Organisation	Activity details	Recommendation	Amount recommended	Recommendation and reason	Breakdown
D-799-13	Albert Street Community Centre Limited	Try it surfing/beach and water safety event for adults with learning disabilities. Costs to cover 3 coaches, changing facilities at water sports centre and certificates	Do not recommend	-	Do not support	Group wish to surf in Portrush. We do not fund travel outside Belfast. SDO will work with group to establish needs.
D-800-13	Patrick Pearse GAC	Gaelic games camp for 70 boys and girls at Cliftonville pitches from the 2-6th July	Recommend	£1000	Support up to a maximum of £1000 of eligible costs.	Coach education:£720 Facility hire: £345 Coaching costs:£268 Total: £1333-75%=£1000
D-801-13	Falls Bowling Club	Taster days and in-house coaching aimed at males and females of all ages aimed at attracting new members	Recommend	£608	Support up to a maximum of £608 of eligible costs.	Coaching Costs: £720 Medals/Certs: £90 Total: £810-75%=£608
D-802-13	Romanian Roma Community Assoc NI	Summer/Autumn physical activity programme and coach training aimed at 30-40 adults and children at Lower Ormeau Action Group 3G facility over the month of June 2012. Four volunteers to attend first aid in sport and child protection coach education courses.	Recommend	£987 + £250	Support up to a maximum of £987 of eligible costs + £250 equipment grant	Coach Education: £528 Facility Hire: £788 Total: £1316-75%=£987 +£250 Equipment grant

D-803-13	Suffolk Swifts Youth Academy	Funding for 3 volunteers to attend Grassroots introductory coaching and 2 volunteers to attend 2 IFA Level 1 coaching with the main aim of setting up an academy of excellence for club members. Soccer coaching programme to run from the start of May to Oct.	Recommend	£1000 + £250 equipment	Support up to a maximum of £1000 of eligible costs + £250 equipment	Coach Education: £560 Facility Hire:£653 Certificates:£120 Total:£1333-75%=£1000 +£250 equipment
D-804-13	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Ladies fitness and health awareness programme including Pilates, smoking cessation, cook it healthy eating aimed at ladies within the local area aged 20-60 years at Carrick Hill Community centre. Requesting equipment only.	Recommend	£250	Support with £250 equipment grant.	Equipment Grant: £250.
D-805-13	Bloomfield Presbyterian Church Bowling Club	In complete application. no activity details, bank details etc. SDO has made contact to assist club.	Deferred	-		
D-806-13	Bloomfield Presbyterian Church Ladies Bowling Club	In complete application. Programme appears to have happened. SDO has made contact to assist club.	Deferred	-		
D-807-13	Queen's University Belfast	Funding for IFA Level 1, IFA Advanced Goalkeeping Diploma and UEFA B Licence to help develop the club and improve standards.	Recommend	£754	Support up to a maximum of £754 of eligible costs.	Coach Education: £1005 Total: £1005-75%=£754

D-808-13	Newington Football Club	Establishment of Newington Girls Soccer Academy. Aimed at attracting 55+ female participants aged up to 16 yrs. Costs to cover IFA Level 1 coaching badge for 6 volunteers plus equipment grant.	Recommend	£990 +£250 equipment grant	Support up to a maximum of £990 of eligible costs.	Coach Education:£1320 Total:£1320-75%=£990 + £250 equipment grant
D-809-13	Bloomfield Football Club	Funding for Youth Football Tournament consisting of U10's, U11's and U12's at Orangefield playing fields. Approx 320 children from Ballycastle, Short strand, Ardoyne, Comber and Carnmoney expected to attend.	Recommend	£998	Support up to a maximum of £998 of eligible costs.	Medals:£200 Staffing costs:£960 Officials Costs: £120 First Aid:£50 Total: £1330-75%= £998
D-810-13	Ligoniel Amateur Boxing Club	Develop and deliver training programmes in a range of sporting activities at Ligoniel over 10 weeks. Aiming to offer alternatives to exercise. They hope to attract 120 participants aged 5-14 and over 25 both male and female.	Recommend	£979 +£250 equipment grant	Support up to a maximum of £979 of eligible costs.	Coaching Costs:£1280 Marketing: £25 Total:£1305-75%=£979 +£250 equipment grant.
D-811-13	Belmont Bowling Club	City of Belfast Tournament July 2012 at Belmont Bowling club. Teams from across England, ROI and Scotland to take part in competition with approx 150-200 anticipated.	Recommend	£687	Support up to a maximum of £687 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire: £330 (additional greens) Officials Costs:£110 Marketing: £200 Score Cards: £275 Total:£915-75%=£687
D-812-13	Oliver Plunkett ABC	Gala Boxing Tournament to be held at Andersonstown LC on 18 May. Aimed at males aged 11-24 years to gain match experience and improve cross community relations.	Recommend	£420	Support up to a maximum of £420 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire: £160 Trophies: £200 Ring Hire/transport:£200 Total:£560 -75%=£420

D-813-13	Hip-hop Crew	Personal development/self confidence through dance at Corpis Christy Youth Club. Costs to cover facility hire, medals/certs and coaching.	Recommend	£555	Support up to a maximum of £555 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire: £240 Coaching Costs: £400 Medals/Certs:£100 Total:£740-75%=£555 Refreshments ineligible & equipment grant already received.
D-814-13	Cairn Lodge Amateur Boxing Club	Boxing tournament 1 June to be held at North Belfast Working Men's club aimed at males and females 8 yrs up. Total of 28 boxers expected.	Recommend	£788	Support up to a maximum of £788 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire: £400 Marketing: £200 Officials Costs: £250 Medals/Certs:£200 Total:£1050-75%=£788 Ineligible costs- Disco
D-815-13	Saint Teresa's Youth Centre	Funding for 4 volunteers to attend IFA Level one courses	Recommend	£750	Support up to a maximum of £750 of eligible costs.	Coach Education:£1000 Total: £1000-75%=£750
D-816-13	Crusaders Youth Football Club	U14 Challenge Cup to be held at Seaview. Approx 120 children aged under 14 from local Belfast communities and Cavan, Monaghan expected.	Recommend	£675	Support up to a maximum of £675 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire: £300 Marketing: £150 Officials Costs: £250 Medals/Certs:£200 Total:£900-75%=£675 Ineligible costs:Refreshments
D-817-13	Grove United Football Club	Development of a youth section aimed at approx 35-40 boys aged 12-14 from the North Belfast area.	Recommend	£992 + £250 equipment grant	Support up to a maximum of £992 of eligible costs + £250 Equipment grant	Coach Education:£770 Facility Hire:£552 Total: £1322-75%=£992+£250 equipment grant

D-818-13	Belfast Sparta Football Club	Cross community/multi-cultural football tournament on 24 June at Rathmore Grammar school. Cross community project aimed at 140-160 participants from all backgrounds.	Recommend	£615	Support up to a maximum of £615 of eligible costs.	Facility Hire:£420 Trophies:£200 Officials Costs: £200 Total:£820-75%=£615
D-819-13	Windsor Lawn Tennis Club	Invitation Tournament to be held at Windsor Lawn Tennis Club on 17 June aimed at participants aged 15-60 including males and females. Tournament is to showcase top class tennis at the club.	Recommend	£495	Support up to a maximum of £495 of eligible costs.	Marketing:£150 Officials costs:£350 Medals/trophies:£160 Total:£660-75%=£495
D-820-13	Cliftonville Football Development Centre	Coach education for 1 participant to do UEFA A Licence Level 1 in June.	Recommend	£750	Support up to a maximum of £750 of eligible costs.	Coach education:£1000 Total: £1000-75%=£750
Total Amount allocated to date: £18,707			Total amount allocated May: £15,293		Overall Total: £34,000	

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ID	Club/Organisation	Title of event	Date of event	Tourism Appeal	Guest information	Recommendation	Amount recommended
H-114-13	Albert Foundry Bowling Club	Bi Annual Challenge Cup hosted at Paisley Park	06/09/12	32 players from Marshiell Bowling Club, Glasgow.	60 guests at Paisley Park.	Recommend	£ 300
H-115-13	Newforge Country Club PSNI Bowling Club	British Police Bowling Championships	14/09/12	60 police officers and guests from across the UK.	60 guests from across England, Scotland & Wales hosted at City Hall.	Recommend	£ 900
H-116-13	BGN Sport Management	Celtic Chrono	13/05/12	100-150 guests to be invited to City Hall	55 professional female cyclists from the UK, Europe, USA, Guyana and Mexico and guests hosted at City Hall.	Recommend	£ 1,000
H-117-13	Belfast Tropics Basketball Club	ESPN Belfast Invitational Tournament	05/10/12	150 participants and 500 spectators	100 players from the UK, France, USA hosted at a local restaurant.	Recommend	£ 1,000
H-118-13	Falls Bowling Club	Friendly Bowling Match v Allendale BC Stirling	03/06/12	40 members of Allendale BC Stirling including their President, Captain and Secretary	40 guests from Scotland. - Does not meet the new criteria for Hospitality.	Do not recommend	£ -
H-119-13	Orangefield Old Boys FC	Dennis McNamara Community Cup	09/06/12	400 players and 200 supporters to attend event	100 players from Dublin expected to attend at Cregagh Sports Club.	Recommend	£ 700
H-120-13	Bloomfield Football Club	Bloomfield Invitational Cup 2012	02/06/12	360 participants with 110 from outside NI attending	Teams from Scotland, Dundalk, Dublin and Ayr staying overnight in Belfast venue to be confirmed.	Recommend	£ 550
Total Allocated to date: £6285			Total Allocated April 2012: £4,450			Total remaining:£14,265	

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Tropical Ravine – Procurement of Professional Services
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ian Nuttall, Project Officer

1	Relevant Background Information								
	<p>As detailed in the April 2012 report to Committee on the Tropical Ravine, the Council's Heritage Grant application for restoration of the Ravine was awarded a first round pass by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 27 March.</p> <p>HLF has also awarded the Council a £115,000 grant towards projected costs of £127,786 for professional services required to develop the application to final round. This will include preparation of architectural design work to RIBA Stage D and other specialist services.</p> <p>As recommended in the April 2012 report to Committee on proposed tenders, Members approved the procurement and award of tenders for the following in relation to the Tropical Ravine:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Architectural and associated design services to RIBA Stage D</td> <td>£69,960</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Fees Integrated Conservation Management planning</td> <td>£30,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Fees Audience Development and Interpretive planning</td> <td>£15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Fees Botanical expertise</td> <td>£12,000.</td> </tr> </table>	Architectural and associated design services to RIBA Stage D	£69,960	Professional Fees Integrated Conservation Management planning	£30,900	Professional Fees Audience Development and Interpretive planning	£15,000	Professional Fees Botanical expertise	£12,000.
Architectural and associated design services to RIBA Stage D	£69,960								
Professional Fees Integrated Conservation Management planning	£30,900								
Professional Fees Audience Development and Interpretive planning	£15,000								
Professional Fees Botanical expertise	£12,000.								

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Council is only required to undertake architectural design work to RIBA Stage D prior to submission of the final round application. However, following discussion with HLF, officers wish to seek approval to procure for services beyond this requirement, in order to ensure value for money and effectiveness of future service provision.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Council invites tenders for a multi-disciplinary service to be delivered in phases which could include work to RIBA Stage L (post construction) and elements of the other required specialist services, as appropriate.</p> <p>Delivery of the first phase of this service (ie those activities required prior to final round submission) would be contracted on award of tender; continuation of this contract for completion of all subsequent phases would be conditional on the success of the final round application.</p> <p>Committee is asked to note that the tender will be evaluated on both cost and quality and will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The estimated value of services to be procured for delivery prior to final round submission remains unchanged at £127,786. However the value of professional fees required post-RIBA Stage D, should the Council's final round application be successful, is estimated at £163,240. It is proposed that tenders are invited for services up to the total estimated value of £291,026, to include tenders for a phased multi-disciplinary service.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resources required at this stage.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no implications at this stage. However, Equality and Good Relations factors will be taken into account in the development of the project.

5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that Members approve the proposed tendering

	exercises and authorise the Director, under the Scheme of Delegation, to award the successful tenders.
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6	Decision Tracking
	December 2012 Committee – progress on/outcome of the second round Heritage Grant application re-submission.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund RIBA – Royal Institute of British Architects.

8	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Boost Membership Scheme – Corporate Membership
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Katrina Morgan, Leisure Operations Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>At the December 2012 Parks & Leisure Committee, the framework for the new boost membership was agreed and this included offering corporate memberships at a concessionary rate.</p> <p>The Parks & Leisure Committee adopted the Scale of Charges for 2012/13 in February 2012 and this included a discounted monthly rate of £20 for corporate memberships.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to discuss and agree the qualifying criteria for corporate membership together with the membership options.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>It is proposed that each new company requesting corporate membership will submit their application to the Leisure Operations Manager. To qualify for the corporate rate the company will need a minimum of 5 employees joining the Boost scheme. If the number of employees reduces to 4 or less then all of individual Boost members will have to revert to paying the full Boost monthly price, currently £25, and this will be checked on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Centres will be updated on all new companies qualifying for corporate membership, as well as any company that no longer qualifies. A photographic company pass or pay slip, dated within last 2 months will be required for staff to get the corporate rate, and every 6 months Business Support will verify that current corporate members are still in employment by the approved Company.</p>

	<p>It is also proposed that qualifying companies will have two options in relation to corporate membership.</p> <p>Option 1 – No company contribution</p> <p>The Company does not pay a contribution towards the membership fees. Employees are self-funding, but benefit from a special company/corporate rate.</p> <p>Option 2 – Full / Part company contribution</p> <p>This option allows the company to contribute towards their employee's health and fitness. The company pay some or all of the membership fees on behalf of their employees membership:</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There were 73 corporate members paying £28.90 per month in March and these have all been converted to the new reduced corporate rate of £20.00. This represents a decrease in monthly income of £649.70 and an additional 32 corporate memberships will be required to mitigate against the loss of this income.</p> <p>A comprehensive marketing plan is being developed to actively promote corporate memberships with a target of 100 new memberships being sold this financial year. This will be paid for within existing approved budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Officer time will be required to both develop and implement the corporate marketing plan.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
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4	<p>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</p> <p>The revised Boost Membership Scheme will be subject to equality impact screening in line with the Council's existing procedures. Stage1 of this has already taken place.</p>
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5	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that Committee approve the qualifying criteria for new corporate customers and the two membership options for corporate customers.</p>
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6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Katrina Morgan , Leisure Operations Manager will be responsible for implementing the new corporate membership arrangements</p> <p>A further report on the uptake and impact of the introduction of the corporate membership will be brought back to Committee after one year.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Botanic Sculpture – Belfast Bloom
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Stockman, City Parks Manager (East)

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Community Arts Partnership (CAP) was established in 2011 following the merger of New Belfast Community Arts Initiative and Community Arts Forum, and continues to build on the success of these two leading community arts organisations. CAP takes the lead in the promotion and development of community arts practice and supports and collaborates with community groups, schools, artists, the public, arts centres and other organisations in Northern Ireland and beyond.</p> <p>CAP is asking for approval to erect a community-led public sculpture at the entrance area of Botanic Gardens, opposite the statue of Kelvin at the main University Road gates (see Appendix 1). CAP describe this as an iconic piece of public art, developed, designed and produced through community arts participative practice, which will further enhance the relationship between Belfast’s communities and its most iconic Gardens.</p> <p>The piece has been constructed from 12 components that make up a 2.4 metre diameter sphere, teed-up slightly on a raised platform allowing ground clearance. CAP has secured all project funding for the development of this sculpture. Ten ‘petals’ of equal size have been developed by ten diverse community groups across Belfast. These groups include; under 16 and over 16 groups, an older people’s group, an Irish language group, an ethnic minority group and groups from socially deprived areas. Each group has developed relief imagery in clay on identical flower petal templates. The templates have then been cast in aluminium. Their size and dimensions are the same but the relief imagery reflects their community and cultural identity. The flower petals join together to create the overall sphere shape, the Belfast</p>

	<p>Bloom.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the piece will be unveiled in a launch bringing together all the groups that have worked on the art piece together with representatives of the Arts Council, Belfast City Council, DCAL and the Department of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>At the last meeting of Committee held on 12/4/12 further information was requested, before a final decision was made regarding permission to install the piece. The additional information requested has been set out in 'Key Issues' and is also provided in Appendix 2.</p>
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2.	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The key issues for the Committee to note are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership / responsibility - The Art work will be given to the citizens of Belfast. The Council has been asked to take responsibility for the sculpture and incur the costs for the installation, public liability and maintenance of the new art work. • Positioning - The management of Botanic Gardens, along with the Friends of Botanic group have together determined that the best place for the piece is the area adjacent to the entrance. There are a number of reasons for this. The site has been cleared for new development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ease of installation ii. good drainage iii. a prominent position. <p>The piece has been designed to be site specific. Its scale and dimensions have been determined by the area originally proposed.</p> • It is anticipated that patrons of the park and the communities that the piece represents, would be able to see the piece at close quarters and, it was an aspiration of the parks team and Friends that it would form a new and exciting focus for people to engage with, be able to walk around and indeed, given the in-laid reliefs, touch. • It is hoped that an Aeolian (Wind) Harp mechanism can be introduced to the interior of the piece. • Security - The Belfast Bloom piece is of low value in terms of the metal it contains. The piece has only around 500-600kgs of Aluminium, valued at around £1,500 - £2,000. The same
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	<p>piece in bronze would have a metal value of £15,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The base-plate of the piece is constructed to engineers' specifications, using 20mm galvanised steel. The housing is then extremely securely anchored using a tried and tested fixing system consisting 4 x 4 No. 20mm threaded bar anchor bolts that are then concreted into the foundations. • The size of the piece, and the fact that Botanic Gardens is gated and walled, should mitigate against any potential theft. Aluminium cannot be cut using oxy-acetylene torches. Only steel or concrete saws could cut through the structure. To dismantle this piece using cutting equipment into even 4 sections would therefore take up to 16 hours of very loud industrial sawing. • Funding - The Arts Council of N Ireland, is the principal funder, and have been the main supporter of the three years plus process carried out with community groups across Belfast to the tune of approx £23k. The Department of Foreign Affairs have augmented this funding with £15k, supporting the fabrication and installation of this piece along with some community processes as well. The sum total of funding supporting the community process, design, fabrication and construction is therefore almost £40k.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u> Council would be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of installation (cost to be established) • the cost of cleaning and maintenance • the provision and maintenance of suitable shrub planting around the Art work initially costing approximately £2,000 <p>These costs can be supported within existing Parks and Leisure budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No impact.</p> <p><u>Asset</u> The erection of the proposed sculpture would enhance Botanic gardens adding another feature of interest for park users.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	This provides the potential to attract communities and tourists to the City to view this piece of community based artwork. The sculpture represents

	community cohesion and the aspiration of the groups involved in seeing our parks and open spaces shared by all members of the community.
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5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that Committee grant approval to install and maintain the art work subject to an appropriate legal agreement being entered into between Belfast City Council and CAP.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Stephen Stockman, City Parks Manager (East)

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	CAP Community Arts Partnership DCAL Department of Cultural, Arts and Leisure

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Site map of Botanic Gardens with proposed location. Appendix 2: Information and Mock up of Belfast Bloom Sculpture.



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community arts partnership

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APPENDIX 2

Belfast Bloom Supplementary Information

Site specific art piece, designed for physical context.

The management of Botanic Gardens, along with the Friends of Botanic group had both determined that the best place for the piece was the area adjacent to the entrance. There were multiple reasons for this:

- cleared for new development
- ease of installation
- good drainage
- prominent position

The piece has been designed to be site specific. Its scale and dimensions have been determined by the area originally proposed. It is anticipated that patrons of the park and the communities that the piece represents, would be able to see the piece at close quarters and indeed, it was an aspiration of the parks team and Friends that it would form a new and exciting focus for people to engage with, be able to walk around and indeed, given the in-laid reliefs, touch. Furthermore, an Aeolian (Wind) Harp mechanism is to be introduced to the interior of the piece.



Proposed site as is

principal funder



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
 through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
 DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Proposed site after installation of the Belfast Bloom

Site specific art piece, designed for Botanic Gardens aesthetic and design context.

Botanic Gardens blends many aesthetics and has made bold architectural and botanical statements over its long and illustrious history. The Palm House itself was the first example of a curvilinear cast-iron glass house in the world. Designed by Lanyon and built by Turner, it emphasised the aesthetic blend of industrial know-how and functional design. This relationship was struck using flowing, gentle curves to mimic organic forms. We have alluded to the Palm House as an exemplar of Belfast's heritage by adapting the curved, cast form and integrating within it, the function of a perennial flowering planter. Now, over 170 years since its construction, the daring design of the dome of the Palm House is reflected and translated into in the spherical form of the Belfast Bloom. The Palm House was an exciting symbol of Belfast's prosperity and technical ability. Many of the original foundries that serviced that great industrial age of Belfast have long since disappeared. The Belfast Bloom, through its process of construction and form, pays tribute to our industrial heritage. The original flower-petal template was made from wood, machined by hand. Next, it is cast using the same methods that were employed by Belfast's furnace and foundry workers for centuries, but using aluminium instead. Aluminium is remarkably nontoxic and is therefore well tolerated by plants and animals. Aluminium is non-magnetic, is 100% recyclable. It is the most abundant metal on earth, but is primarily used for industrial or domestic purposes. By employing this material, we wanted to say that something so commonplace could be beautiful and aesthetically attractive. In its cast form it is the metal that will least affect the surrounding flora and fauna.

Aesthetically, given the proximity to the modern sculptural pieces outside the Ulster Museum, the Belfast Bloom is not out of place. The form is beautifully coherent as a sphere, and evokes the natural, rounded simplicity of the Earth. Again, this is not by accident. It symbolises a world, growing and developing, populated by ordinary people who have themselves contributed to the design and fabrication of this piece. The sphere recurs in nature time and again: Flowers, leaves, fruit. As a metaphor for community, the symmetry of the Belfast Bloom represents the flowering of a shared, interdependent and organic relationship among communities across Belfast.

Security considerations

We are aware of the spate of thefts of sculptural pieces, primarily for their metal. The Belfast Bloom piece is of low value in terms of the metal it contains. The piece has only around 500-600kgs of Aluminium, valued at around £1,500 - £2,000. The same piece in bronze would have a metal value of £15,000.

Even so, if an opportunist thief were to attempt to steal the piece, he would have tremendous difficulty. The base-plate of the piece is constructed to engineers' specifications, using 20mm galvanised steel. This housing is then extremely securely anchored using a tried and tested fixing system consisting 4 x 4 No. 20mm threaded bar anchor bolts that are then concreted into the foundations. The size of the piece, given that the Botanic Gardens are gated and walled, this would also mitigate against any potential theft.

Aluminium cannot be cut using oxy-acetylene torches. Only steel or concrete saws could cut through the structure. To dismantle this piece using cutting equipment into even 4 sections would therefore take up to 16 hours of very loud industrial sawing.

Funding

The Arts council of N Ireland, as our principal funder, have been the main supporter of the 3 years plus process carried out with community groups across Belfast to the tune of approx £23k The Department of Foreign Affairs have augmented this funding with £15k , supporting the fabrication and installation of this piece along with some community processes as well. The sum total of funding supporting the community process, design, fabrication and construction is therefore almost £40k.

Pictures of Belfast Bloom in development to this point.



Belfast Bloom, pre-cast components first fitting together.

At this point, it has to be dismantled, in order that the individual petals can have individual castings, developed by community groups recast into structure. All the relief pieces have to be recast on top of base components. Then, it has to be fitted together again. First bolted with 20mm bolts, then welded, for additional strength and to cover them to enhance the internal presentation of piece.



One petal component being cast



Inlay relief work being developed by community group in clay.



Inlay relief work being developed by community group in clay.



Inlay relief work being developed by community group in clay.



Inlay relief work being developed by community group in clay.



Design ideas from a community group.



Older people's group, developing their inlay clay reliefs.



Samples of clay relief from community group.



Cast petal base components



Base components assembled.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Facility Management Agreement - Annual Evaluation Report 2011 -12
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Service Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>In March 2012 Audit, Governance and Risk Services completed an audit in Parks and Leisure Department which examined the operation of Facility Management Agreements in Parks and Leisure in the year 2010 -11. Audit indicated that there were shortcomings in the monitoring and management of the FMAs and a number of recommendations for improvements were made. Parks and Leisure Managers accepted the recommendations and produced an action plan to address the issues, outlining agreed actions, responsible officers and target dates for implementation. There are currently 18 Facility Management Agreements.</p> <p>One of the recommendations was the submission of an evaluation report to Committee each year. A report was submitted to Committee last year, and the current report will review the year 2011 – 2012. This report sets out the current position in terms of issues and compliance for the financial year ending March 2012 and actions taken in 2011-12 to mitigate further risks that were identified by Audit.</p> <p>Currently as part of the Pitches Strategy, the Committee is reviewing and deciding on the future options for facility management agreements / partnership agreements.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The key issues for 2011-12 regarding compliance and reporting on FMAs were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage returns – Clubs have provided their usage returns during the year. Two are overdue for the month of March 2012 and are being actively managed through the agreed procedures. • Cancellations – There were 3,969 football pitch / MUGA bookings taken over the year and of these, 149 were cancelled. The reasons for the pitch cancellations were due to weather conditions or teams failing to field a team. The patterns regarding cancellations were similar to previous years with a higher number of cancellations occurring during poor weather conditions. • Refusals – In total there were 27 refusals i.e. a booking that could not be accommodated at the time of request,. Twenty two were due to renovations or waterlogged / flooded pitches. Four were due to lack of facilities on the site concerned for primary schools (toilet and changing facilities). • Financial information - Annual accounts have been submitted for 14 out of the 18 Clubs. The remaining clubs are in the process of finalising their accounts, this is being actively managed. . • Accidents – Three accidents were reported. Culpability / negligence by the Clubs does not appear to be a factor in any of these. • Vandalism – There were 26 issues of vandalism reported and the incidents have been addressed quickly. Dog fouling appears to be an ongoing issue on a number of sites and has be passed to the Park Wardens scheme and the Managers concerned to tackle. • Complaints – There were 16 complaints received which were mostly due to pitch condition. These have been addressed and are not reoccurring. • Child Protection Incidents – There were no child protection issues. • Quarterly Meetings – Almost all the quarterly meetings took place in 2011/12. There is one quarterly meeting outstanding for period 3 and 1 for period 4; the issues are being escalated through the agreed procedures. • Management’s monthly management returns –One report is outstanding and it is less than one month overdue. This is currently being followed up with the staff concerned.

3	Resource Implications
	<p>Financial and Human Resources – There are financial and human resource implications arising from the requirements to demonstrate rigorous monitoring and management of the key risks associated with FMAs. Assistance is currently being provided in the management and monitoring of FMAs by an agency member of staff.</p> <p>The Open Space and Active Living Unit which is responsible for Outdoor Leisure is currently being reviewed and recommendations will be made to the Parks and Leisure Committee in June regarding an appropriate structure / role for the Unit going forward. The resource needed to monitor and manage FMAs has been considered as part of this review. The exact financial and human resource implications will then be assessed.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	Currently there are no equality or good relation considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.	The Committee are asked to note the issues highlighted in the report and that there is an increasing level of FMA monitoring, management and evaluation.

6	Decision Tracking
	The Principal Parks and Cemeteries Service Manager will be responsible for following up on any recommendations.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>AGRS – Audit Governance and Risk Services FMA – Facility Management Agreement ODU – Organisational Development Unit</p>

8	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Parks Events Small Grants Scheme
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members are reminded that at its meeting on 10 May 2012, approval was given to change the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme to a monthly assessment running from February to September with a monthly report to Committee outlining the applications and awards. The Committee also agreed the criteria which were modified to put more emphasis on community involvement in our parks and open spaces and to recognise alignment to other Council schemes.</p> <p>Information on the grant scheme was advertised accordingly and the closing date for entries set at 13 April 2012. The criteria used for assessing applications to the parks event grant scheme is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The applications were assessed according to the criteria and full details of the applications received and the recommendations for grant awards are presented in Appendix 2. ▪ Successful groups will receive 50% of the grant funding before the event takes place subject to the return of a signed 'letter of offer' and the remaining balance will be paid on the successful completion of the event and submission of the correct supporting documentation. ▪ It is proposed that the Director of Parks & Leisure under the scheme of

	<p>delegation is authorised to approve further funding applications and reports will be brought back as required to inform Members of the decisions taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In each area, the Parks Outreach Managers will continue to work with communities across the city to ensure they are aware of this funding opportunity and are encouraged to avail of the remaining funds.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> £100,000 was allocated in the revenue estimates to cover this scheme.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The running of community events increases use of the parks creating a sense of ownership and contributing to health and well being.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	None

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ that the groups listed in Appendix 2 are awarded grants accordingly to organise events in parks during 2012 ▪ that the Director of Parks & Leisure under the scheme of delegation is authorised to approve further funding applications and reports will be brought back to inform Members of the decisions taken.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by the Open Spaces & Active Living Manager by October 2012

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	N/A

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Current criteria for parks events small grants scheme Appendix 2: List of applications and proposed grants.

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Appendix 1

Proposed Criteria for Parks Events Small Grants Scheme 2012

Introduction

Community Park Outreach Managers will work with you to ensure that you get the best from our local parks and open spaces. They will help you identify and develop new possibilities and opportunities to use council sites. We are about People, Places and Possibilities.

Applications will be assessed according to a number of criteria. To be successful, an application DOES NOT have to score highly on all criteria, some inevitably will be more relevant to an event than others.

1. Community benefit

Does the event benefit the local community around the park or open space: for example, does it help to encourage a sense of ownership by the local community, provide opportunities for cross community activity and does it complement other council schemes such as Summer Interventions, etc.

	Points
No tangible benefit to surrounding community	0
Alignment to other council schemes, eg Summer Interventions, benefit to surrounding community, helping to create ownership of park	50
Event with good relations as a theme	100

2. Health benefit

Does the event provide a health benefit to those attending; for example, activities that encourage exercise, walking, children's games (sporting competitions are not covered by this grant fund).

	Points
No tangible health benefit	0
Some health benefit, e.g. walking, children's active games – but not just a bouncy castle	50
Event with health as main theme or thrust	100

3. Environmental benefit

Does the event provide benefit to the local environment within the park or open space: for example, through a litter clean up, bulb or tree planting, habitat management (this would have to be done according to the park management plan).

	Points
No environmental benefit	0
Immediate or temporary benefit e.g. litter clean up as part of event (not just tidying up afterwards), temporary art	50
Medium or long term environmental benefit e.g. tree/bulb planting, habitat management	100

2. Educational benefit

Does the event provide some educational benefit to those attending: for example, information on a relevant issue, a theme or message that will help to change attitudes, links to the school curriculum, etc

	Points
No educational benefit	0
Some educational benefit e.g. definite message or theme, as opposed to say just a 'fun' day	50
High educational benefit e.g. links to curriculum, changing attitudes	100

Additional points will be awarded for events that make use of the fabric of the park in the event which help promote aspects of it. For example, an event that used the paths of a park for a guided walk or included activities based around an historical or natural feature in the park would score more highly than an event which simply took place in marquees and made no reference to anything within the park itself to promote it.

Using the fabric of the park as an integral part of event, rather than just an event staged in a park 50 points

One of the aims of the scheme is to encourage events in some of the local and district parks, and so scoring is biased towards these parks and away from parks such as Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.

Using a local or district park or playing field site 50 points

Appendix 2: List of Applications & Proposed Grants 2012					
Successful Applications for Parks Events Small Grants Scheme 2012					
Ref. No.	Group	Date(s)	Venue	Title of Event	Amount of Grant Requested
PESGS 20/2012	Woodvale/Cambrai Youth Community Group	11-Jul	Woodvale Park	12.00 - 12.00	£2,250
PESGS 21/2012	Headway Belfast	31-Aug	Barnett Demesne	Summer Picnic Day	£2,330
PESGS 22/2012	Lower Oldpark Community Association	18-Aug	John Hewitt Park	The John Hewitt Park Launch	£2,250
PESGS 23/2012	Donegall Pass Community Forum	28-Jul	Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Playground	Mini Olympics & Family Fun Day	£2,250
PESGS 24/2012	Pitt Park Womens Group	17-Jul	Dr. Pitt Playground	Party in the Park	£2,250
PESGS 25/2012	The Fostering Network Northern Ireland	08-Sep	Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park	Live Laugh Learn Fun Day	£2,260
PESGS 26/2012	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	28-Jul, 31-Jul, 2-Aug, 4-Aug, 18-Sep, 20-Sep, 22-Sep, 29-Sep	Ormeau Park	Neighbourhood Birdwatch 2012	£2,159.50

Proposed Amount of Grant to be Awarded
£2,250
£2,250
£2,250
£2,250
£2,250
£2,250
£2,250
£2,159.50



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Enchanted Evenings - Ulster Bank Festival at Queens event at Botanic Gardens, October 2012
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Stockman, City Parks Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is asked to consider a request from Lauren McKenna, Operations Officer of Ulster Bank Festival at Queens, to seek funding of £25,000 and permission for the Enchanted Evening event to take place in Botanic Gardens later this year, as part of the 50th Festival.</p> <p>Since 2010 the Ulster Bank Festival has worked in partnership with the Council providing a successful annual family event with attendances in excess of 10,000 people.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The key issues for the Committee to note are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council wishes to promote the use of its parks and open spaces and where appropriate permit the use of facilities for large events and concerts. 2. The event proposed will provide entertainment when normally the Gardens are closed. 3. The Festival promoters want to maintain the entrance fees at £3 per person to enable access for a wide audience. This is the same as last year. 4. Last year the Council provided funding of £25,000 for the Enchanted Evenings in Botanic Gardens and this year it is proposed that the level of funding remains the same. 5. No alcohol will be on sale due the anticipated family audience. 6. The Parks and Leisure Department wants to maintain partnerships

	<p>with organisations such as the Festival at Queens organisers to ensure the maximum use of our parks and open space for wider community benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The events will adhere to the Entertainment License requirements. 8. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services 9. Consultation shall be conducted by the Event organiser with local stakeholders such as local residents, adjacent facilities, etc. 10. The event will be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which will cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and compliance with the current Events Policy. 11. The proposed event will be part of the Festival at Queens’s programme and would be included in their marketing and promotion programme. <p>The projected audience size would be 10,000 people approximately. The event will take place over 4 evenings Wed 31st October 2012 – Sunday 4th November 2012. Whilst primarily aimed at families it is anticipated that the event will attract a wide age range of ages.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p>The following items should be noted</p> <p><u>Financial</u> The event organisers will receive funding of £25,000 to organise and run the event this year. This is the same level of funding as provided last year.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There may be overtime required by staff to assist with the management of the proposed event which would need to be met by the Council</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The Festival at Queen’s organisers shall ensure all minimal impact on Council property and they shall provide a Bond of Reinstatement (£1000) prior to the event as part of a legal agreement.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality implications.

5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Parks and Leisure Committee agrees to the request of £25,000 funding for the proposed event and grants permission to hold the proposed event in Botanic Gardens subject to all operational issues being resolved to the Council's satisfaction and to an appropriate legal agreement.

6	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by the City Parks Manager (East) by November 2011

7	Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Letter of request from Lauren McKenna for permission to seek funding of £25,000 and to hold the Enchanted Evenings in Botanic Gardens

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Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's
8 Fitzwilliam Street,
Belfast,
BT9 6AW

Friday 30th March, 2012

Dear Andrew,

Following the success of the 2011 Enchanted Garden event at Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's, we would like to propose working again with Belfast City Council towards an Enchanted Garden event for the 50th Festival in October/November 2012.

Developing on last year's event, we envisage presenting a more artistically ambitious project that will incorporate both local and international artists to transform the Botanic Gardens into a large-scale magical garden themed event. Running from Wednesday 31st October until Sunday 4th November, the Enchanted Garden will complement the Council celebrations taking place at Halloween, and will be an impressive event for the closing of ni2012.

Each Enchanted Evening will begin at 7.00pm and end shortly before 10.00pm. The theme for this year's Garden is currently being developed in collaboration with local practitioners involved in family-based theatre production and will feature aerial artists, ground-based characters portraying the overall story, static displays and suspended illuminations throughout the park. The overall effect will be a spectacular experience for adult and child alike.

To ensure the Enchanted Garden's success for another year, we are requesting that the Council's assistance for the event should be approximately £25,000 to cover the cost of installing and maintaining both the outdoor lighting supply that is already available and the additional lights that are required to illuminate the park sufficiently. Included in this is the cost of additional lighting towers, generators and fuel to power all of the above.

I would appreciate if you would consider our request and let me know the committee's decision in due course.

Many thanks,



Lauren McKenna
Operations Officer

PARKS & LEISURE DEPARTMENT		
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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Use of Car Park at City of Belfast Playing Fields for Queens Jubilee event at Sentry Hill
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager, North Belfast.

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Newtownabbey Borough Council for free use of the front car park at City of Belfast Playing Fields. The request is to operate a "Park & Ride Facility" for guests attending a Queens Jubilee Garden Party at Sentry Hill in Newtownabbey Borough Council. The proposed date for the event is Friday 1st June 2012. Use of the facility is required due to the lack of parking on-site at Sentry Hill.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Use of the car park will be required between 3.30pm and 8pm on June 1st 2012.</p> <p>Guests attending the event will be asked to park at Mallusk Playing Fields. They will then be transported to Sentry Hill by bus.</p> <p>Around 120 cars are anticipated to use the car park. This will have minimal impact on other users at the playing fields as there is adequate car parking facilities within the site to cope with the reduced bookings at this time of the year.</p> <p>A similar request was granted in 2008 as part of celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Newtownabbey Borough Council which passed off without any problems.</p> <p>Newtownabbey Borough Council will provide stewarding during the use of the car park.</p>

	Given that the event is to happen before Council could ratify any decision of the Committee and the controversial nature of the request, the Director has used the authority granted to him under the Council's Scheme of Delegation to accede to the request from Newtownabbey Borough Council.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u> None <u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications. <u>Asset and other implications</u> Good opportunity to build cross Council relationships.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

6.	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Feile an Phobail – request for use of Council facilities
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager

1	Background Information
	<p>Since August 2006, Feile an Phobail has organised a number of West Belfast Festival events at Belfast City Council venues.</p> <p>Feile an Phobail has requested the use of the facilities in Falls Park during the West Belfast Festival which is due to take place 6th August -13th August 2012, including set up and clearance days.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The West Belfast Festival has requested permission to organise a number of events in Falls Park. They may require the use of other Council facilities as the final list of events have not yet been finalised. In previous years this has included Andersonstown Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The events in Falls Parks would be similar to last year and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnival parade through the park • Teddy Bears picnic • Feile family entertainment day in the park, music events and family entertainment. • Ulster Wildlife demonstrations. • An occasional license will be applied for by the organisers for the sale of alcohol and an entertainment license period for the event. <p>This application will be supported by an event plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory and legal requirements. Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Charges for use of any Council facilities will be applied in line with the council's pricing policy and will include any additional staffing costs incurred.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Staff will be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of this event.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Feile an Phobail application for the use and hire of the facilities at Falls Park and other possible Council facilities in the vicinity for the period 6th August – 13th August 2012, including set up and site clearance days as required.

6	Decision Tracking
	Officers Responsible: Ricky Rice, City Park Manager (South/West). Project to be completed by the end of August 2012.

7	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Use of sports pavilions by stakeholders – Victoria Park and Orangefield Park
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
Contact Officer:	Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The department has received several requests from key stakeholders in both Orangefield Park and Victoria Park for free use of the sports pavilions and ancillary facilities. The following are the list of groups who are interested;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OrangeGrove Athletics Club, Victoria Park • Bloomfield Football Club, Orangefield Park • Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group, Orangefield Park • Orangefield Friends of Group, Orangefield Park • Orangefield Community Association, Orangefield Park • Orangefield Bowling Club Activities (Orangefield Veteran United) <p>Some additional information on these groups and the relative activities undertaken are attached for Member information at Appendix I.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>As outlined in Appendix I, Council officers have been working with these groups for a while now and there is increasing demand for use of the pavilions outside of the times when normal staffing cover is provided.</p> <p>The department would like to pilot new arrangements with some of our dedicated partners in order to develop the use of the pavilions and to provide a better and more convenient customer arrangement to the users involved.</p>

	<p>When the pavilions are not normally staffed it is hoped that key handling arrangements could be put in place – i.e. that these partners will open and close the facilities in line with the club / user requirements, under a legal agreement with the Council, similar to that in place for the out of hours use of our leisure centres.</p> <p>Training will be required in relation to all health and safety issues related to the management of the pavilion as well as for safeguarding children and young people also vulnerable adults.</p> <p>To ensure there are no double bookings the departments Outdoor Leisure Unit will handle all bookings.</p> <p>These pilot partnerships will promote shared space, collaborative working and will improve the use of the facilities which have become under-used over the last 10 years. As these pilots are in place, the department is also undertaking a complete review of the use of its pavilions in line with our ambitions around increasing participation and improving the customer experience in parks and leisure.</p> <p>Members should note that the department will liaise with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to ensure there is no impact on the area of special scientific interest in relation to training at night in Victoria Park.</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> There may be cost to the council for additional electric and water which we should be able to absorb within the parks operational budget for the parks.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are likely to be some additional staff monitoring and planning implications which should be able to be accommodated through our normal management process.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The department is investigating additional support for Friends of Groups on such issues as collective insurance cover, event management and providing training where possible.</p>
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4	<p>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</p> <p>All of the proposals currently under consideration within these partnership projects would have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations, if undertaken in an inclusive manner.</p>
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5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant authority for free shared out of hours use of the sports pavilion subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The groups resolve all operational and health and safety issues to the council's satisfaction; • an appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the director of Legal Services, is completed;

6	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Gordon Quinn Community Parks Manager and Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager. A report will be brought back to committee in due course (October 2012).

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix I – Additional information on the clubs and activities involved

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Additional information on Stakeholders and activities

Victoria Park – OrangeGrove Athletics Club

OrangeGrove athletics club was formed in 2009 and now have over 70 members. Their membership is developing with particular increases amongst female members and a rapidly developing junior section. The club has 5 coaches, this expertise has assisted in attracting, retaining and developing members of all ages and abilities. The club offer a varied training programme, suited to all levels and ideally would like a home venue therefore have requested the use of Victoria Park sports pavilions and ancillaries when feasible for training during the below list of timeframes;

- Monday 18.30pm – 21.00pm
- Wednesday 17.30pm – 20.00pm
- Saturday 7.30am - 12.00pm
- Sunday 9am – 12.00pm

The department has been actively working with OrangeGrove athletics club since their formation to help with club development and facilitate where feasible free use of Victoria Park facilities. Volunteers from OrangeGrove athletics club in May 2011 launched Victoria Parkrun and have successfully managed the weekly 5km run. To mark this achievement they recently celebrated their anniversary event on Saturday 5 May 2012. The club has been utilising the bowling pavilion most weeks for the purpose of kitchen and toilet facilities and periodically offering free physiotherapy and various health and wellbeing talks to both club members and Parkrun participants.

OrangeGrove athletics club last season worked in partnership with the Maple Leaf bowling club to sustain a relationship that promoted Victoria Park bowling pavilion as a shared space. It is envisaged that the football pavilion if available may also be an option especially if the bowling pavilion is hosting a bowling competition. Below are a few statistics on Victoria Parkrun;

- Number of events so far 52
- Average number of runners each week 83
- Total number of individual runs, 4331
- Number of runners since May 2011, 1,107
- Average run time 25 minutes

Orangefield Park – Bloomfield Football Club

Bloomfield Football Club over the last 8 years has been working in partnership with the department under a facility management agreement in Orangefield Park. The club promotes the playing fields and ensures that the facility is used by a wide variety of teams across the city and province from a number of football associations as well as local schools and community groups.

The club was formed from members of Bloomfield Presbyterian church on the Beersbridge Road out of the 24th Boys Brigade during the 1950's. The team was formerly known as the 24th Old Boys until the mid 1990's when they changed their name to Bloomfield Football Club.

Bloomfield Football Club currently has 165 playing and 35 non playing members. There are 3 senior teams competing in 2 different leagues. Both 1st & 2nd teams compete in

"The Northern Amateur Football League" divisions 1C & 3B respectively, while the 3rd team compete in the premier league of the South Antrim Football League.

The club also has six junior teams the age range of the teams is under 10 to under 18. Five of these teams compete in the South Belfast Youth League, and the under 14's in the Lisburn Invitational Junior Youth League. The club each year run a Munch-kin group after Christmas for 6-8 year olds preparing them for team football.

Bloomfield Football Club has requested free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible for toilet and kitchen facilities during training, committee meetings and hospitality.

The newly refurbished five-a-side multi games area beside the bowling green will be utilised for junior training during the months of August through to May, Monday and Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm.

Both the junior and senior committees meet the first Monday and Tuesday evening, 7.30pm to 9.39pm every month.

Bloomfield Football Club would also like to offer refreshments for the travelling team after cup games on some Saturdays between August through to October from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Orangefield Park – Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group is a junior branch of the Ulster Wildlife Trust, run by experienced and registered volunteers. The club provides an ideal way for kids aged 7 and over to nurture their interest in nature and has an emphasis on locally based conservation action. The group was formed in November 1999 and have 14 junior members aged 7 to 12 and 6 senior members aged 12 to 15.

In January 2008 Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group successfully received £6,500 and an additional £5,000 grant aid from the Breathing Places, Big Lottery Fund to run four environmental awareness events which included several biodiversity improvement projects in Orangefield Park.

- Autumn Tree Party (November 2008)
- Winter Bird Day (January 2009)
- Spring has Sprung (April 2009)
- Summer Bug Hunt (June 2009)

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group has requested free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible.

The junior group usually meets every second Tuesday of the month from November through to March from 6pm to 8pm completing indoor environmental activities. April through to October (no meetings in July & August) the group are usually based outside undertaking projects for wildlife in various parks and open spaces. The senior group meets every second Saturday of each month between 2 and 4pm with the exception of holidays and exam periods. In addition the group also meet and get involved with a variety of other special events.

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group recently hosted a butterfly and moth awareness event in Orangefield Park on Tuesday 8 May 2012 at 6pm until 8.30pm.

Orangefield Park – Orangefield Friends of Group

Request for free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible to promote and enhance Orangefield Park and the local community.

The Friends of Orangefield Park was formed on Tuesday 20 September 2011 with 10 members being elected on their committee. The group have 34 paid members with an additional 26 individuals on their database and 73 people chatting online on their facebook page.

The Friends of Group is a voluntary group of local people who dedicate some of their time, energy and effort to caring for and improving their local Park.

The Friends of Group frequently get involved in activities such as organising local events in parks, litter picking, fundraising and helping us to shape the future development of their park.

The Friends of Group meet monthly and the agenda and committee minutes are circulated to all members on a monthly basis. The group will be holding their first annual general meeting in September however if necessary further friends meetings may be organised to communicate and discuss important issues.

The Friends of Orangefield Park in partnership with the department recently held their first successful event on Saturday 28 January 2012 – Winter Bird Day.

The Friends of Orangefield Park are working in partnership with the department to host four celebratory events – Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Challenge 2012.

- Saturday 2 June 2012 or Monday 4 June 2012 – Family Fun Day
- Saturday 21st July 2012 – Environmental activities / improvements
- Saturday 25th August 2012 – Sports tryout events (Asda and the FIA*)
- Week beginning Monday 24 September – Mixture of above schools event.

**Asda is a primary sponsor of the FIT QEII Challenge, the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) are working with Asda and FIT on a campaign to get people involved in healthy activity. We need to clarify what funding will be available from them to support this event.*

Orangefield Park – Orangefield Community Association

Request for free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible to run a youth club.

The group was established in 2006 to support events and alleviate bonfire related issues and in January 2010 with the help of Bloomfield Methodist Church the group was formally constituted. The group have 20 members of local residents with their main focus on young adults offering diversionary activities and linking in with East Belfast Alternatives and the Exit Community Group. At recent organised activities approximately 30 young people aged between 14 and 22 predominately male have got involved.

The group would like to meet twice a week between 7pm and 10pm offering a meeting area for the young adults to socialise. Activities such as pool, table tennis, television computer and possible games console would be top on their wish list.

Orangefield Park – Bowling Activities

Orangefield Veteran United have 20 members which play home matches between 1pm and 5pm alternative Mondays from April through to September.

Senior citizen club with 15 members meet every Monday between 11am and 1pm to socialise and play informal matches.

Senior citizen social network group and park users with a total of 15 members meet in the bowling pavilion every afternoon between 2pm and 5pm. During the outdoor bowling season closure the group meet every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 1pm and 4pm.

Various Church groups sporadically book the bowling pavilion throughout the season.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Bike Clubs in Parks - Ormeau, Orangefield and Waterworks Parks
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Tim Edgar, Bike Club Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to set up and financially support the development of Bike Clubs within Ormeau Park, Orangefield Park and Waterworks Park. Committee approval and support will enable officers to purchase bicycles, train staff and store the resources securely. Ormeau Park, Bike Club will specifically cater for the needs of users with a disability or limited mobility and will require the purchase of a variety of adapted bicycles.</p> <p>The Bike Club model was piloted within Falls Park in partnership with Suicide Awareness and the Bike Club Development Officer. This included the successful training of Park Rangers as Mountain Bike Leaders in line with National Standards for Road Cycling Instructors in addition to them gaining bike maintenance qualifications. This has enabled Falls Park to engage local young people in cycling activities. Some of the local groups accessing the Falls Park Bike Club include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Awareness • Healthy Schools Programme (A variety of local primary schools) • Falls Women's centre • Corpus Christi College

2	Key Issues
	<p>The success of the Falls Park Bike Club has created interest with the department's Community Park Managers and Community Parks Outreach Managers who now wish to replicate the Bike Club model within other community parks across the city. Initial planning has identified Ormeau, Orangefield and Waterworks Parks as suitable locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ormeau Park neighbours the National Cycle Network route which runs along the Lagan Tow-path. • Orangefield Park is integrated with the Connswater Community Greenway and home to the only cycle track within N.Ireland (currently used by Cycling Ulster). • Waterworks Park is a proposed greenway route to aid active travel modes e.g. Walking and cycling. (Active Travel Strategy N.I bid to Department of Regional Development) <p>The development of Bike Clubs within each park will promote physical activity with local residents and schools to encourage active and sustainable travel. This all fits with the developing Active Belfast approach.</p> <p>The Ormeau Park Bike Club has already been established and includes four special needs schools namely: Glenveagh, Fleming Fulton, Park School and Torr Bank. A steering group was formed comprised of representatives from each school and the Bike Club Development Officer. The steering group applied for grant funding and was successful, acquiring £8000 from the Bike Club scheme.</p> <p>Some of this funding was used to train up staff and parents to deliver disability cycling sessions and workshops within Ormeau Park. An outline of what Bike Club is and its purpose is set out below;-</p> <p>Bike Club description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pool of trained cycle and maintenance leaders to plan and deliver progressive cycling sessions and promote wider learning outcomes for users • Engagement with statutory and voluntary agencies, communities organisations, local residents and schools to access the unique resource • A physical resource of bicycles, adapted cycles, maintenance tools, safety equipment and where needed secure storage. <p>Aims and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support Active Travel for Belfast residents through cycle training and club based activities. • To provide opportunities for all ages and abilities within the Belfast

	<p>area to engage in health promoting cycling activities and benefit from new social opportunities with their families, peers and teachers/carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable new or returning cyclists to develop their cycling skills and confidence to cycle independently. • Provide learning opportunities through direct experience of cycling and its related activity. • To provide volunteering opportunities for students, teachers, carers and families to maintain and support use of the bikes as an important resource. • To recruit other organisations that support disabled users and their families to ensure the unique resource at Ormeau Park is widely accessed and used regularly. e.g. Shopmobility Belfast, RNIB and other Special Schools. <p>As indicated above, the Ormeau Park club has match cash funding from the Bike Club grants scheme. The remainder of this is to assist with the purchase of bicycles adapted to meet the needs of users with a disability or limited mobility. However because of the specialist nature of the club and the equipment required there is a need for extra financial support for its set up.</p> <p>The other two clubs will require less financial support however will need support in training, provision of bicycles and the provision of safety and maintenance equipment.</p> <p>This project marks a notable expansion of the departments' service provision and a unique specialist resource for Belfast.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £12000 to purchase a variety of bicycles to meet the needs of disabled and limited mobility users at Ormeau Park. • £6000 to purchase bikes, train leaders and provide safety equipment at Orangefield and Waterworks Park • £3000 to purchase and install secure storage containers and alarm systems. • £2000 of maintenance tools to enable adjustment and correct fitment of the cycles to individual users and to enable on-site maintenance and repairs. <p>This total of £23,000 will be drawn from across Parks area and outreach budgets for North and East, with a portion to come from the department's ASB budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Some additional human resources will be required to facilitate these</p>

	<p>requests – all managed within the current workload.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The bikes and associated equipment will be a departmental resource which will need to be managed, maintained and renewed as time progresses.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no implications at this stage. However, Equality and Good Relations factors will be taken into account in the programming of activities to be delivered at these sites.

5	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the proposals for bike club development as outlined and approve the establishment of Bike Clubs within Ormeau Park, Orangefield Park and Waterworks Park.

6	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Titanic Memorial Garden
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>A proposal to construct a Titanic Memorial Garden with some associated re-landscaping at the East Entrance of the City Hall was agreed in April 2011 by the Strategic Policy and Resources committee. The Titanic Memorial and the immediately surrounding area had been somewhat neglected for a number of years with only essential maintenance taking place. With the removal of the Wheel and the opening of the East Entrance, the memorial area has taken on a much higher profile given the significant level of interest in the Titanic which has increased further with the marking of its centenary.</p> <p>The Titanic Memorial Garden was officially opened on 15 April 2012, the 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking.</p> <p>The garden is set on two levels with the upper level containing a nine metre long plinth, inscribed with the names of those who died on RMS Titanic and a lower grassed terrace surrounding the existing monument.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development Unit and the Gardening Team North worked tirelessly and went beyond the call of duty to develop a high quality memorial garden which the city can be proud of.</p> <p>The garden's memorial plinth supports fifteen bronze plaques which list, in alphabetical order, the names of 1,512 people who perished on RMS Titanic.</p> <p>When the plaques were being designed, it was believed that a complete list of</p>

	<p>names was already in existence however this was not the case.</p> <p>Many existing lists documented the First Class, Second Class and Steerage, but did not necessarily include all the crew members, the Guarantee Group, the postal workers and the musicians.</p> <p>This is the first time that the names of everyone who perished have been recorded on one monument. 'The Belfast List' as it is now known, is a key feature of the memorial garden</p> <p>Joy Hutchinson and Kelly Frizell from Landscape Planning and Development Unit worked on the design of the garden and in particular Kelly did significant research to compile the 'Belfast List'.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u> No impact</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No impact.</p> <p><u>Asset</u> The memorial garden adds an attractive feature to the city hall grounds to be enjoyed by both citizens and visitors.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	No impact.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the work of the department and in particular staff efforts in the development of the Titanic Memorial Garden.

6.	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Challenge 2012 – Celebratory events in Orangefield Park
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
Contact Officer:	Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager.

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>At its meeting in February 2011 Committee were made aware that the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) had launched the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The challenge is an officially endorsed legacy initiative to mark the two landmark events scheduled to take place in the UK in 2012; HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The programme aims to permanently protect 2012 playing fields in communities all across the country ensuring access to outdoor sport, play and recreation both now and for future generations.</p> <p>At the June 2011 Committee a number of sites were considered and based on Legal Services consideration only two sites were considered eligible to participate in the initiative and were subsequently nominated. The sites were Orangefield Park and Lagan Meadows. A Save a Space for Me online campaign was launched in October 2011 encouraging people to support their outdoor spaces to be protected as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.</p> <p>Over 20,000 people from councillors, members of the public and sports leaders showed their support for our parks with over 10,000 web visits recorded on the day of the launch alone. It was a close contest but in the end Orangefield Park won over Lagan Meadows by 3 votes.</p> <p>Committee were advised that there are estates and legal issues which have to be considered by Fields in Trust and the council as a result of Orangefield being part of the Connswater Community Greenway project and flood alleviation scheme which will result in significant work to the park with funding from Big Lottery. The council will ensure that entering into a deed of dedication will not compromise its ability to deliver the necessary development</p>

	<p>work in the park required by the Connswater Community Greenway project and flood alleviation scheme. This work will be done in consultation with East Belfast Partnership Board as part of the Connswater Community Greenway programme.</p> <p>At the February 2012 meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee were advised that the minutes of the previous months' meetings had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February and furthermore, under the heading "Fields in Trust Challenge", at the request of Councillor Robinson, the Council agreed that the Friends of Orangefield Park be included in future discussions around the nature of events to celebrate the Park's dedication.</p>
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2	Key Issues
	<p>Officers from Belfast City Council's Legal Services and Estates have been working with Fields in Trust to draft the Deed of Dedication. This work is progressing and has included the provision of maps showing boundaries and the exchange of draft documents with Fields in Trust.</p> <p>In consultation with Fields in Trust, officers have sought clarification on what is expected regarding the naming of the site. Fields in Trust have responded by stating that they are not expecting Council to change the name but it will carry the additional title and status of being a Queen Elizabeth II Field. The plaque and signage that they provide will reflect the Queen Elizabeth Field status. The Deed will refer to the site as the Queen Elizabeth II Field, Orangefield Park.</p> <p>Fields in Trust have provided 'Have a Field Day' kits which have been received and used by the Community Parks Outreach Manager in liaison with Fields in Trust to develop celebratory events to mark the dedication of Orangefield Park as a Queen Elizabeth II field. Proposals on the celebrations have been discussed with and supported by the Friends of Orangefield Park and other key stakeholders. The proposed dates for events are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 04 June 2012 – Family Fun Day • Saturday 21 July 2012 – Environmental activities / improvements • Saturday 25 August 2012 – Sports tryout events (Asda and the FIA) • Week beginning 24 September - Mixture of above schools event.

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Asda is a primary sponsor of the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Challenge. The Fitness Industry Association are working with Asda and Fields in Trust on</p>

	<p>a campaign to get people involved in healthy activity. Asda has allocated £2,000 to support the event scheduled for 25 August 2012.</p> <p>The Parks Community Outreach budget has allocated £7,500 to support the programme of events and the Friends of Orangefield Park will also apply for the departments Parks small grants fund. If successful this could secure up to a further £2,250 to support the programme of activities.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are likely to be some additional staffing costs to cover the weekend events however it is recognised that the staff in Orangefield Park will play an important role in ensuring the smooth and successful running of these events. Parks and Leisure staff will assist with adequate stewarding and will also play an active role in facilitating park activities such as planting demonstrations and environmental talks.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this time</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	All of the events will have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations.

5	Recommendations
	Committee are asked to note the proposed dates for celebratory events and grant approval for the events to take place.

6	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Gordon Quinn Community Parks Manager and Lynne McCreery Community Parks Outreach Manager. A report will be brought back to committee in November 2012.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	Asda Active Document

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Family Fun Day

Orangefield

25 August 2012



APPENDIX 1

Vision for the Events

Vision

- Asda want to be recognised, like and respected by communities across the UK, for securing local public spaces, for their kids to be able to participate in healthy recreation and sporting activities. Forever.
- Through the Asda Active campaign, Asda is funding 20 large-scale community events across the UK, with the aim of encouraging mothers with young kids in deprived communities to come down and try some sports/activities
- By partnering with the FIA and Games4Life we will support the attendees to stay active after the events by providing guidance about where to find local activity/sports facilities, and personalised G4L activity planners

Proposition

We've Saved a Space for You, Now Get Active!

Objectives

- Increase kids participation in physical activity, around selected Asda stores serving deprived communities
- Talk to mums and kids to understand their needs and wants regarding health and exercise, and generate insights to allow Asda and their partners to help more effectively going forward
- Raise awareness of Asda Community Life this summer and provide a positive PR boost both nationally and for the stores involved



What are we doing?

Process

- Identified suitable Fields in Trust protected sites as part of our Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields Challenge
- Identified 20 large community events, one of which planned by you, and located on these fields
- Agreed to co-fund these events and help facilitate sporting activities for mums and kids to try through our dedicated 'Asda Active Zone'
- Negotiated with National Sports Governing Bodies and FIA Member Sports Clubs to provide a range of activities to fill this zone (e.g. Zumba for mums, Martial Arts, Football, Kwik Cricket for kids etc..)
- Selected a local charitable sports club to be voted for by your local community and funded by us
- Arrange for other Asda assets to come along and add value to the event (e.g Asda Aroma Marketing Vehicle, Asda Athletes Celebration, Asda Great Stuff sampling etc)
- Engaging with our suppliers and partners to do the same (e.g. Disney, Mars etc, Change4Life etc.)

Concept Boards



The Project Management Team

Organisation	Responsibilities	Name	Email	Phone
Fitness Industry Association (FIA)	Overall Project Management	Quentin Boyes	quentin@fia.org.uk	M 07970 458436
FIA	Event Manager	Georgie Johnson	georgiejohnson@fia.org.uk	M 07770 931231
FIA	Project Co-ordinator	Francesca Burbidge	francescaburbidge@fia.org.uk	T 020 7420 8560 M 07979 282783
IMP	Online Communications - Creation of Dedicated Web Pages on Your Asda/Store Locator - Promotion of the events through Asda Social Media channels	Les Rowley	les.rowley@impmedia.co.uk	M 07976 746 777
Banana kick	Refreshing of Sporting Chance Brand Identity - New name and logo - Designing branded elements - Planning and Activation of Events - Transporting the kit up and down the country - Attendance on the day itself	Richard Flaherty/ Gary Mccall	richard@bananakick.com gary@bananakick.com	M: 07736 497591 T: 0113 245 8743 M: 07802 582314 T: 0113 245 8717

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Cow Parade Art Work in Parks
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>In September 2011 the Development Committee agreed to support a 'Cow Parade' public art event in Belfast in 2012 as part of the 'City Dressing Presentation Campaign'.</p> <p>The Cow Parade public art event is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the largest and most successful art event in the world - tried and tested as an original model - worldwide, and has been in 50 cities over 10 years - a fund raiser, raising over £25 million for charity partners - a tourist attraction. <p>It is planned that the Cow parade in 2012 will not just be in one City but will take over the entire region. Belfast's participation is an opportunity to enforce the city's role as the gateway to Northern Ireland, to strengthen the Council's community engagement role and to work in partnership with Derry City Council.</p> <p>It is proposed that some of the cows are positioned in Parks and Leisure sites.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>In total there are 15 cows to appear in the City and the Department has been asked to provide and identify locations for some of the cows to be erected in Parks. (Appendix 1. Cow - Theme, type of artwork, community sponsor and geo location).</p> <p>Proposed sites include Holywood Arches, Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park, Dr</p>

	<p>Pitt Park and the Waterworks. As yet site visits have not been made to check suitability and agree final locations.</p> <p>Where applicable, staff will consult with 'Friends of' groups regarding the positioning of cows.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The Department has not been asked to contribute financially to the installations. The Development Committee has committed £35,000 towards the project.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be some managerial input regarding the implementation on site.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality or good relation considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note that some Cow Parade cows will be displayed this year on Parks and Leisure properties.

6	Decision Tracking
	Principal Parks and Cemeteries Service Manager

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1. Cow - Theme, type of artwork, community sponsor and geo location

Appendix 1. Cow – Theme, Type of Artwork, Community Sponsor, and Geo location

Theme	Brief Description of artwork	Community Sponsor	Geo Location
1. Chinese	Chinese Community Cow to show how much the two communities have to link them together.	Annadale Chinese Resource Centre	Ormeau Park
2. Diamond Jubilee	Inspired by the Jubilee celebrations	Shankill Women's Centre	Spectrum Centre
3. Flags	Images from the Belfast Flags – images are rectangular and triangular	Belfast Flags project	Taxi Depot – castle Street
4. Food / Ulster Fry	Inspired by the food of Belfast.	TBC	Lisburn Road
5. Gaeltacht	Blackmountain in the background painted as a landscape on the cow. Community based buildings in the area as well as public art.	An Culturelann	An Culturelann
6. Literary	Literary themed	Walkway Community	Hollywood Arches
7. Markets	History of The Markets	The Markets	St George's Market
8. Multi Cultural	Belonging in Belfast	Belfast Friendship Club	Queen's Quarter/Botanic
9. Music – Rock n'roll	Musical Cow	OhYeah Centre	Cathedral Quarter – St Anne's Square
10. Peace / cross Community	Cross community youth project	Inner East Network Group	Pitpark
11. Reflections	"mirrors" find the volunteer in me	Belfast City Council Youth Forum City	City Hall
12. Rural Belfast	Photographs and drawings of local wildflowers and wildlife, heritage site etc & even depictions of fairy lore	Hannahstown Community	Belfast Hills
13. Showcase	Possible – Olympic/Maritime/Lagan inspired.	TBC by T,CA	
14. Titanic	Titanic Quarter by night	Hammer Community Centre Main Hall	Titanic Quarter by night
15. Young People	Visions of young people from the New Lodge – visual representation or collage of the things they want to have, be, or do in their lives.	New Lodge Arts	Waterworks Park

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Belfast Zoo, NI Opera, and the Cultural Olympiad
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Mark Challis, Zoo Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Belfast Zoo runs a number of events each year, which are used to increase visitor numbers to the site, as opportunities to provide new experiences to visitors, and as unique marketing opportunities.</p> <p>The Zoo has been approached by NI Opera, following the success of its sell-out, site-specific <i>Tosca</i> (Derry, 2011), and in partnership we intend to produce the opera 'Noye's Fludde' in the Zoo, a natural fit and unique venue for this opera in which animals play a crucial part.</p> <p>'Noye's Fludde', originally written in 1958, is a much-loved, 50-minute long children's opera by Benjamin Britten. The piece is based on the well-known Biblical Flood story.</p> <p>The opera features three professional singers, eight child solo singers, and around 70-80 child chorus. As well as this, the score demands nine professional players and 50 child instrumentalists, who play instruments ranging from recorders to violins. Britten specified that all the children should be amateurs in order to maximise the opportunities for young people, and was also keen that the children should design and make the colourful animal costumes which they wear, another unique way in which the children's creativity is fostered in the piece.</p> <p>There will be eight performances spread across two weekends in August 2012, at 18:00 hrs on two Fridays, at 14:30 and 18:00 hrs on two Saturdays, and at 14:30 hrs on two Sundays. The production will</p>

	<p>incorporate dozens of local school-children from all parts of the community, including the Chinese community. These children will have been rehearsed in a series of workshops in the months preceding the performances.</p> <p>The event will form part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations and Festival of Summer 2012, and it will be one of the main featured events in the Festival in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The KT Wong Foundation is supporting this production by facilitating NI Opera's first appearance beyond the British Isles. The production will take part in the UK Now Festival and in the Beijing Music Festival, China's oldest and most prestigious music festival. Plans are also being put in place to perform at Beijing Zoo.</p> <p>The show will be revived using the same design produced in Belfast, but on a larger scale (reflective of the much greater size of the Beijing venues), with the designer, director and cast travelling to China to re-mount the work. While the amateur chorus and players will be made up of Chinese children, the production will therefore retain the original flavour of the Northern Ireland production.</p> <p>Discussions are also beginning to foster not only musical and operatic links between the two countries, but also scientific and zoological ones. Queens University Belfast and Beijing University already have contacts in relation to animal psychology studies, and we will also investigate the opportunities to enhance relationships between the two zoos.</p>
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>As part of its events programme for 2012, the Zoo intends to partner with NI Opera and stage eight performances of Benjamin Britten's 'Noye's Fludde' in August.</p> <p>Subsequently, the production will transfer to China, and Beijing Zoo.</p> <p>We believe this will be one of the very few times that a live opera has been staged within a zoo.</p> <p>We believe there are significant marketing opportunities in the partnership with NI Opera.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>It is proposed that NI Opera will fund the production (cost c. £160,000), while the Zoo will provide security, box office facilities and stewarding.</p> <p>Tickets will be on sale at £12 for an adult and £8 for a concession, which</p>

	<p>allows for normal zoo entrance and admission to a performance.</p> <p>Income from ticket sales will be split 50/50 between the Zoo and NI Opera. It is estimated that with an attendance of up to 600 people for eight performances the income to the Council will be £6000.</p> <p><u>Resource</u></p> <p>Each performance will require five additional event management and security staff to be present, the Friday and Sunday performances requiring half day cover, the Saturday performances requiring full day cover.</p> <p>Costs estimated for the event are in the region of:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>• Event Management</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Security</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Toilet Facilities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><u>Total</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£3250</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Other security needs will be covered by those resources already on the zoo site during the summer period.</p> <p>First aid will be provided on site a no cost. Box office facilities (ie ticket sales) will be managed by zoo front of house staff already on site.</p> <p>Additional human resources needed on site will be provided by volunteers from NI Opera and Friends of the Zoo.</p> <p>Human resources needed for the successful marketing of the opera will be split between the Zoo and NI Opera.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>We consider that the event will generate significant marketing opportunities for the Zoo, and effectively provide considerable additional value to the Zoo's small advertising budget during 2012.</p>	• Event Management	£1550	• Security	£200	• Toilet Facilities	£1500	<u>Total</u>	<u>£3250</u>
• Event Management	£1550								
• Security	£200								
• Toilet Facilities	£1500								
<u>Total</u>	<u>£3250</u>								

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	<p>The staging of the opera in the Zoo will be available to a wide range of ages and abilities, and will encourage cross community young people's interest in the Zoo and music. It has the potential to generate significant new relationships between Belfast and Beijing, both between the cities, universities and other cultural organisations, including zoos.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agree to the staging of the opera 'Noye's Fludde' in Belfast Zoo during August 2012.</p>

6.	Decision Tracking
	Zoo Manager to implement the decision by end of August 2012.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Summer Intervention Programme Activities
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Katrina Morgan, Leisure Operations Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>At the June 2011 meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee, delegated authority was approved for the Director of Parks and Leisure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) authorise officers to engage in inter-departmental discussions on the development of either community-led or Council-led programmes or activities over the Summer period; and (ii) open any park and/or leisure site/venue, or part thereof, where appropriate, in order to accommodate organised programmes or activities during the holiday period.

2	Key Issues
	<p>This year there is further work ongoing across the Council to develop programmes which could help relieve heightened community tensions arising over the summer period.</p> <p>By supporting summer intervention activities, it is likely that the Council would be required to be involved in either leading in the delivery of organised programmes or supporting community-led programmes. This might require the opening of council-owned sites and leisure centres which, the Committee had agreed previously could be closed on certain key dates.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> It is understood that some of the activity programmes will be funded through a variety of government funded schemes. However, there may be some staff and other costs associated with running and hosting programmes. A minimum of two staff would be required to open a leisure centre or other building and overtime costs associated with this would be approximately £47.00 per hour.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Opening and staffing venues previously planned to be closed will have a cost implications from pay and overtime however these cannot be fully quantified at this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	All activities associated with the summer intervention programme have the objective of assisting in easing tensions at key dates over the summer period and would have a positive effect on good relations throughout the City.
5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to give delegated authority to the Director to:</p> <p>(i) authorise officers to engage in further inter-departmental discussions on the development of either community-led or council led programmes of activities over the summer period; and</p> <p>(ii) open any parks and leisure site/venue (or part thereof) where appropriate in order to accommodate organised programmes or activities during the holiday period when venues may normally have been closed.</p>
6	Decision Tracking
	An update on the summer programme activities will be brought to September Committee.
7	Key to Abbreviations
	None
8	Documents Attached
	None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Mary Peters Track
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Parks and Leisure Department Dermot Black, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in September 2011 it asked that a monthly progress report be submitted to Committee on the refurbishment of the Mary Peters Track. Members are reminded that the scope of construction works includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement of the existing six lane track with an eight lane track and field events area, to IAAF standard; the track will be surfaced with a Mondo SX prefabricated track as used in the London 2012 Olympic venues; • The provision of a 400 seater stand incorporating storage and changing facilities; and • An upgrade of existing floodlighting, site access and car park lighting

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the contractor is currently on site and is undertaking ground works to remove the track and field area. Work is underway to remove the Japanese knotwood and the necessary engineering works will commence thereafter.</p> <p>Completion of the track area is scheduled to be completed November 2012 with the Stand being completed January 2013. The facility is scheduled to be operational by March 2013.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; work is being progressed within existing resources.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The refurbishment of the track will safeguard the future of facility and provide improved facilities for users of the track and spectators.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<p>Equality considerations will be taken account of in the design of the facility which will be DDA compliant.</p> <p>When completed it is proposed to have a delivery plan in place which will seek to ensure wide access to the facility.</p>

5	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be presented to Committee in June 2012

7	Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Dunville Park and Woodvale Park Refurbishment
Date:	10 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the contract is about to be issued in respect of Woodvale Park, the Grant Letter of Offer from DSD is due and once received the contract documentation can be issued.</p> <p>The tenders in respect of Dunville Park have been received and will be evaluated with a contract scheduled to be let mid May.</p> <p>Whilst there has been some delay at the tender stage work is still scheduled to be completed at both locations in March 2013.</p> <p>As members will be aware these works are the first major refurbishment schemes in our Parks estate for many years. The projects have been progressed as regeneration schemes with the aim of improving the quality of life of those who live within the surrounding neighbourhood. Once the physical works are complete it is important the progress is sustained. Central to the delivery of the outcomes and benefits associated with the refurbishment of the parks is how we manage them in the future.</p> <p>Officers have been working with community representatives at both parks during the development of the schemes. The engagement has worked well and good working relationships have been established. To build on this, it is proposed that we consider post refurbishment management options. This report sets out an outline of how we might move this forward..</p>

2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Management Options</p> <p>In undertaking the refurbishment of Dunville and Woodvale Parks the Council in partnership with Belfast Regeneration Office and the local community wish to make a positive impact on the quality of life of the surrounding neighbourhood. The objectives of the refurbishment schemes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the park a safer place and using the asset to contribute to a safer environment; • Encouraging greater use of the park and contributing to improving health and well being in the neighbourhood; • Using the asset as appropriate to help support the local economy. <p>Underpinning these is the strong desire to involve the community more positively in the management of the park and the delivery of its outcomes.</p> <p>Management Options</p> <p>There are a number of options which may be considered, the following list is not prohibitive or exhaustive and is intended as indicative and to invoke further thought. The main options might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 BCC undertake the management of Park without Community involvement • Option 2 A Community based organisation undertakes the Management of the park – this may take the form of a social enterprise company • Option 3 Management is outsourced to an external organization other than the council such as a Joint Venture Partnership or Private Sector Provider • Option 4 BCC Management with a Reconstituted Friends Group • Option 5 A Neighbourhood Management Committee with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. <p>Proposed Approach</p> <p>It is proposed the options be presented to a wider stakeholder group in the form of a consultation process with the local community and that this process be undertaken in two phases.</p> <p>Through facilitated workshops it is proposed that workshop 1 consider the relative strength and weaknesses of each of the options, and others, if appropriate, and that the workshop would conclude with a preferred approach.</p> <p>Thereafter, it is proposed to hold workshop 2 which would work up the detail of the preferred option in terms of the necessary governance to deliver. The areas to be covered would include:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference / specification • Clarification of roles and responsibilities of the respective stakeholders; • Governance arrangements; • Resource implications; • Capacity building; • Measures of success; • Review process <p>In undertaking this process there are a number of principles that we would suggest guide it, these principles have been established within the development of models of community planning in Scotland and are merely set out as a guide for good practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be meaningful engagement within the planning process; • There should be a clear focus on the outcomes / the benefits of the process; • There is a clear governance structure around the delivery mechanism with clear roles and responsibility articulated; • Gaps around capacity are identified and appropriate measures put in place to enhance that capacity over time; and • Adequate resources are made available to deliver the outcomes. <p>Delivery The main stages in the process are:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Stage 1</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Agreement of Steering Groups;</td> <td style="width: 30%;">May 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 2</td> <td>Appointment of facilitator;</td> <td>May 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 3</td> <td>Workshop 1</td> <td>May 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 4</td> <td>Presentation to Steering Group</td> <td>June 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 5</td> <td>Workshop 2</td> <td>June 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 6</td> <td>Presentation to Steering Group</td> <td>June 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 7</td> <td>Presentation to P&L Committee</td> <td>August 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stage 8</td> <td>Implementation and delivery</td> <td>September 2012</td> </tr> </table> <p>This programme is indicative and is dependent on procurement and reaching agreement within the process.</p>	Stage 1	Agreement of Steering Groups;	May 2012	Stage 2	Appointment of facilitator;	May 2012	Stage 3	Workshop 1	May 2012	Stage 4	Presentation to Steering Group	June 2012	Stage 5	Workshop 2	June 2012	Stage 6	Presentation to Steering Group	June 2012	Stage 7	Presentation to P&L Committee	August 2012	Stage 8	Implementation and delivery	September 2012
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications at this time.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications at this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> This piece of work is important part of exploring how we can manage our assets in a more efficient and effective manner and in a way that brings community involvement to the fore.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality implications.

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report; • Consider the options; • Provide Officers with initial views on the approach; • Agree to receive a further report in August 2012

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Officer responsible: Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager Actions to be completed by: August 2012.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.