



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Pitches Strategy
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 8 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update the Committee regarding the commissioning of a new 10 year Pitches Strategy for Belfast.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i. Note the timeline for the commissioning and production of the new 10 year Pitches Strategy. ii. Note the Terms of Reference for the strategy.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Key Issues</b> Council developed a playing pitches strategy for the period 2011-2021 which was agreed in February 2012. The strategy included action plans under 3 key objectives:

- Objective 1-Capital Investment
- Objective 2-Management
- Objective 3-Sports Development

3.2 The growth in participation numbers across a number of sports since the Covid Pandemic has created increased demand for pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

3.3 Due to the increased demand and a number of approaches from elected members, sports Governing Bodies and Belfast based Sports Clubs the need has been identified to commission a new 10 year “Belfast Pitches Strategy”.

3.4 Any new strategy and the subsequent work arising will need to align with the wider Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy currently under development and any future plans under Leisure Development. The new pitches strategy will need to be supported with a financial strategy in terms of funding opportunities from both council and other partners.

3.5 In the interim, officers will continue to work on an area by area basis to identify, agree and secure quick wins for all sports at our existing sites.

3.6 **Indicative timeline for commissioning and production of strategy**

Agree Terms of reference for the production of the strategy	July 2023 Completed
Identify and appoint external consultant to produce the strategy	August - September 2023
Background review of documentation policies and strategies	October 2023
Initial face to face consultation with key stakeholders and schools	November 2023
Review and Mapping	November – December 2023
Wider public consultation to take place online using “Your Say Belfast”	January - February 2024
Analysis of key issues identified with a focus on internal consultation and external feedback	February - March 2024
Interim Draft Report produced and presented to elected members for discussion	March - April 2024
Draft Strategy to be released for public consultation	April - May 2024
Analyse feedback from consultation and amend/update strategy	June 2024

	Final Strategy to be presented to elected members	August 2024
	Strategy Launched	September 2024
3.7	<p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>Senior officers met with party group leaders and discussed the draft terms of reference and their feedback is incorporated into the terms of reference below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To produce a strategy for the development and management of all outdoor sport facilities in Belfast, which will maximise opportunities to realise Belfast Agenda outcomes.</li> <li>ii. To undertake a baseline assessment of existing outdoor sports facilities in Belfast and to identify which sports are using each facility.</li> <li>iii. To map existing Belfast sports clubs, their current home facilities, and their membership profile.</li> <li>iv. To provide an analysis of how existing facility provision supports participation in the diverse range of outdoor sports.</li> <li>v. To provide an analysis of how existing facility provision supports participation in by a diverse range of users.</li> <li>vi. To undertake a baseline assessment of current demand for facilities by outdoor sports.</li> <li>vii. To identify the changes required to Belfast’s sports facility provision, prioritise changes based on an assessment of future need and create an action plan with short, medium and long term goals.</li> <li>viii. To predict the anticipated financial resource requirement to deliver the prioritised changes to facility provision.</li> <li>ix. To review the existing process for allocation of Belfast City Council facilities.</li> </ol> <p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>	
3.8	<p>Costs associated with the development of the new strategy and engagement of external partners will be met within existing departmental resources. Members are advised that no capital and limited revenue finance is in place to support a strategy action plan at this stage. Financial implications and prioritisation will be included as the strategy is developed.</p> <p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p>	
3.9	<p>The draft strategy will be screened in line with the Council's agreed process.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>	
	<p>None</p>	