

Appendix 1:

Departmental Plan Highlights for 2014-15 include:

Significant work has taken place with the citizens of Belfast to date in the 2014-15 financial year to create an active, healthy and vibrant city.

The Parks and Leisure Department has worked towards improving the quality of life and wellbeing of residents, encouraging healthy, safe and active lifestyles, working with partner organisations and communities to realise the city's full potential.

Phase 1 of the **Connswater Community Greenway** has now been completed, including the installation of trim trails in Victoria and Orangefield parks. As part of Phase 1 **the Sam Thompson Bridge** was opened in April 2014 and by August there were 100,000 crossings of it. As part of the delivery of the **pitches strategy** we are continuing to develop new 3G pitches and changing accommodation at 10 sites across the city. **Six schools were awarded funding under the £750k fund** to make capital enhancements to their pitches to allow greater community access and these projects will be completed by the end of this financial year. The new 3G pitch at **Marrowbone** has also been completed and was officially opened in April.

We have successfully obtained £3.8m from the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) towards restoring the **Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens**, with work due to commence in early 2015. Work has been progressing on the **new Active Learning Centre at Belfast Zoo**, which received £215k ERDF funding and is due to open in early 2015.

We have developed a new education centre and canoe platforms at **Half Moon Lake** and Phase 1 of the refurbishment of **Drumglass Park** has now been completed. Playgrounds at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, New Lodge (Victoria Parade), and Clara Street have been upgraded as part of the **annual playground refurbishment programme**. We are continuing to progress the development of **new Multi User Games Areas** at Annadale, Clarendon Playing Fields, Navarra Place and Springfield Avenue. We have also completed our condition surveys of our existing MUGAs and **five sites** have been prioritised for **refurbishment** by the end of March 2015.

We have delivered a programme of **city wide events** including the 50th anniversary of Rose Week, Spring Fair and Autumn Fair and delivered a range of **health and wellbeing and outreach programmes and activities** across the city including the park run and the Active Communities Programmes. The department has continued to deliver the **safer neighbourhood programme** of work to help tackle antisocial behaviour and help people feel safer in our parks and leisure facilities.

We continue to implement our **Growing Communities Strategy** and our partnership with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to deliver a **programme of gardening and healthy eating activities** across the city.

Work is progressing on the **implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy** and we worked with our partners to deliver a **midnight boxing programme** during the summer and we will be holding a **Day of Boxing** in January 2015.

Through the first half of this year we have been committed to delivering a sustainable approach to service provision, contributing to a cleaner, greener and healthier environment. The department has achieved a total of **14 Green Flags** and is working towards achieving a 15th award in 2015.

To date in 2014-15 we have:

Encouraged people to have healthier, more active lifestyles and making the best use of our assets.

Provided a service for almost **1,215,000** leisure facilities users

200 children took part in the **Teenage Kicks programme**, including 50 people with special needs

Provided services to **7,177 'Boost' members** at our leisure centres (*average monthly membership figure*)

Provided a programme of **events** attracting **226,228 people**

Provided **outreach programmes** and activities to **350,540** people within communities

Held **4 Environmental Based Youth Development Camps** across the city during July and August

Created a greener city playing a key role in protecting and linking the city through our parks, open spaces and greenways:

Provided residents and visitors with **48 parks and open spaces** and maintained more than **1,100 hectares of open spaces**

Provided and maintained quality standards for the public at 135 **sports pitches**, 79 **playgrounds**, 12 **bowling pavilions**, 3 **cemeteries**, 5 **historical cemeteries**, a **crematorium**, a **golf course** and an **adventure playground**

Improved **park quality** so that **79.5%** of residents now live within 1000m of green flag rated parks

Surveyed approx. **41,000 trees** in the Greater Belfast area, which have **stored 28.5 M kg of carbon**

Enriched the city's cultural and tourism offering

Attracted **222,143** visitors to **Belfast Zoo**

Knocknagoney, Musgrave and Grove **Community Gardens** won prizes in the annual **Autumn Flower show at Botanic Gardens**

Welcomed over **460,900** visitors to **Belfast Castle** and **Malone House** properties

Promoted positive relations and shared space

Our innovative **Sporting Halloween Event** saw 36 clubs delivering 3 weeks of sports programmes, which included a good relations element, to almost **4,000 young people** from across the city

Over 500 children took part in 5 different sporting codes as part of the Lord Mayor's events to **open up the grounds of City Hall**

1,000 children from schools across Belfast had the opportunity to try out different sports from the 38 on offer at the **Lord Mayor's Sport Day** at the Mary Peters Track

Improved quality of life by reducing inequalities and tackling disadvantage delivering a range of health and wellbeing programmes and activities:

Delivered over **10,000** coaching hours to **16,409 participants** on the Active Communities Programme

Welcomed **15,612** children to our summer scheme programmes and **917** to the sunrise clubs

Provided **£174,000 in sports grants**, supporting **211 sports clubs**