



Subject:	Request to present - Casement Park
Date:	15 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek the Committees view on an overall Council corporate position in regard to the Casement Park development. If required to agree to a presentation on the Development from the GAA at the January 2018 Committee meeting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a view on the Casement Park development input on the city and; • consider if it wishes to hear directly from the Ulster Council of the GAA in January 2018.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The development of Casement Park is the last stadium refurbishment in a programme originally undertaken by the former Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) now part of the Department for Communities.
3.2	Belfast City Council has been involved in this programme both in terms of sports development issues and more directly in capital development partnership such as at the National Stadium and Olympia Leisure Centre which will complete phase C pitches and boulevard in May 2018 as part of an overall sports village concept.
3.3	Early attempts to co-develop Casement and Andersonstown Leisure Centre were dropped when the public preference was clearly stated for a stand-alone leisure centre.
3.4	However, there has been ongoing engagement with Casement via the direction of the West Area Working Group and Committee to ensure co-ordination and coherence between the developments at Andersonstown Leisure Centre, Casement Park and the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) line which will run in front of both the stadium and leisure centre. Obviously to minimise disruption, avoid duplicating work in regard to utility lines and to better demonstrate the investment for this part of the city it is important these three large projects are aligned as far as possible.
3.5	While work has started on both the leisure centre and BRT, Casement Park remains subject to a planning decision which will be made by the Department for Infrastructure.
3.6	Belfast City Council has provided feedback on planning matters via the Town Planning Committee to the Department for Infrastructure who will determine the application. The Council has also fed back on various technical matters relating to stadia safety and so on.
3.7	The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee is asked to consider the wider position of the Council in regard to the development and its socio economic impact on the city. No doubt there are downsides as well as upsides and the Council position if it takes one may be considered as part of the planning process. Casement Park is on the BRT corridor will also include four leisure centres being built i.e

3.8	<p>Andersonstown, Brook, Avoniel, Templemore, a maternity hospital at RVH, a secondary school at Coláiste Feirste, some BIF projects at St Comgalls, Radio Failte and Lanyon Tunnels as well as the projects for Concentrix and Allstate at Maysfield. Obviously connections are also made for existing assets such as city centre retail, Connswater Community Greenway and so on. Belfast City Council is currently mapping out this regeneration corridor along with other such zones across the city and will be providing committee details of employment, good relations, health and other opportunities that can be further developed.</p>
3.9	<p>Specifically in regard to Casement Park a piece of work by Deloitte was commissioned by the Department and the Executive summary is attached and contains details of gross economic impacts.</p>
3.10	<p>The Ulster Council of the GAA would be keen to present the bigger picture to committee in January and also provide details of its ongoing work with BCC in regard to the follow through of the now largely completed pitches strategy which will finish capital build in 2018.</p>
3.11	<p>In essence Ulster GAA see Casement together with the grassroots work associated with the pitches strategy as having the potential to boost GAA success in Belfast with consequent public benefit in terms of health, diversionary activity for ASB, community capacity and so on. If the Committee is minded to receive a presentation, then it is advisable to prepare a position statement following the presentation.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial commitments for BCC in regard to this report.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality implications for BCC in respect of this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Deloitte Socio-Economic Impact Assessment January 2017 re Casement Park Redevelopment – Executive Summary</p>