



<b>Subject:</b>	Ulidia Playing Fields – Request from SÓLÁS
<b>Date:</b>	6 November 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services Brian Carr, Project Sponsor

<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	The purpose of the report is to inform Members of a request that has been received from SÓLÁS to allow access from their special needs facility at the adjacent Parkmore building to Ulidia Playing Fields.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Agree to allow a pedestrian access arrangement with SÓLÁS, which will provide safer access for children and young people with disabilities; and</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agree in principle to the use of the facilities by SÓLÁS subject to agreement with the local site manager and Rosario YFC who hold a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	SÓLÁS is a special needs charity that supports children and young people with a broad range of additional needs including autism and ASD. They have established a reputation as being a fair and equitable service provider, supporting families regardless of religious background, ethnicity or ability. With £100k support from the Council's Local Investment Fund, SÓLÁS recently acquired the Parkmore Building from Belfast Met and have been operating from the facility since September 2017. Their new site is immediately adjacent to Ulidia Playing Fields. While the Parkmore building has provided a much needed base for SÓLÁS to provide its service it is restricted in size.
3.2	SÓLÁS have requested that the Council install a pedestrian access to Ulidia Playing Fields from their site, which will ensure children and young people with disabilities can safely access the playing fields. <b>A copy of their request is attached at Appendix 1.</b>
3.3	SÓLÁS have advised that they intend on using Ulidia for the following activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Their early years programme for children aged 2 to 3 years with disabilities would like to access outside walking areas around the pitch and use their balance bikes;</li> <li>2. Their after school clubs (Monday – Friday) for children aged 4 – 12 years, with Autism and a range of learning disabilities, would benefit from accessing open grass space to run and exercise safely and take part in team games;</li> <li>3. Their youth club (aged 12 – 18) would benefit from the use of the outside 3G space (as part of a negotiated usage with BCC) during youth club sessions some evenings.</li> </ol>
3.4	Rosario YFC currently hold a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields and have advised that they are supportive of SÓLÁS request. Members are asked to agree in principle to the use of the facilities by SÓLÁS subject to agreement with the local site manager and Rosario YFC. Any agreement would also be subject to risk assessment of the types of use of the facility and agreed measures for safe access.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.5	The Council are currently developing a new 3G pitch at Ulidia Playing Fields, which is due to be completed by December 2018. These works have included the replacement of the

3.6	<p>boundary fence between SÓLÁS and Ulidia and the installation of a pedestrian access gate has been included within the capital costs associated with the project. <b>Therefore, there would be no additional costs associated with the SÓLÁS request.</b></p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The inclusion of a pedestrian gate to provide access will enhance the service that SÓLÁS provides for children and young people with disability. This could be viewed as a reasonable adjustment in order to accommodate the needs of those with disabilities accessing a Council facility safely.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1 – Formal Request from SÓLÁS to access Ulidia Playing Fields</b>

