

# Document Pack

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



7<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

## **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, 13th October, 2011 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) Commencement Time of Future Meetings
  - (d) Facilities Management Agreement - Termination of Contract (Pages 1 - 2)

To consider further the minute of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September which, at the request of Councillor Hendron, was taken back to the committee for further discussion.

2. Departmental Improvement Programme – Review of Landscape Planning and Development Unit (Pages 3 - 10)
3. Facility Management Agreements (Pages 11 - 14)
4. Antisocial Behaviour Programme Update (Pages 15 - 30)

5. London 2012 Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations (Pages 31 - 36)
6. Suffolk Football Club (Pages 37 - 40)
7. Out of Hours Use of Leisure Centres (Pages 41 - 42)
8. Catafalque at Belfast Crematorium (Pages 43 - 52)
9. Small Grants Scheme (Pages 53 - 54)
10. Schools Cup at Musgrave Playing Fields (Pages 55 - 56)
11. Multi Users Games Area at Waterworks (Upper) (Pages 57 - 64)
12. Hire of Musgrave Bowling Pavilion (Pages 65 - 66)
13. Mary Peters Track (Pages 67 - 68)
14. Midnight Soccer Programme (Pages 69 - 72)
15. Approval to Seek Tenders (Pages 73 - 76)
16. Consultation on Enabling Legislation for National Parks (Pages 77 - 144)
17. Healthier Families Progress Report (Pages 145 - 176)
18. Association for Public Service Excellence Awards 2011 (Pages 177 - 178)
19. Support for Sport Development and Hospitality Grants (Pages 179 - 186)

Extract from minutes of -

PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

**“Facility Management Agreement – Termination of Agreement**

The Committee was reminded that, on its meeting on 11th August, it had noted a report in relation to annual evaluation of Facility Management Agreements which had set out the current position in terms of compliance for the financial year ended March, 2011. The Assistant Director had reported that the club which held the existing facilities for the Dixon Park Playing Fields had failed to provide its financial returns and more recent usage figures. As a consequence, a notice of termination letter had been issued by Legal Services. It had been reported also that the club was working to meet the stipulated requirements within the dictated time frame approved by Legal Services. The previous report had stated that any issues of non-compliance would be addressed through the appropriate channels and might result in the termination of the Facilities Management Agreement for the Dixon Park Playing Fields following advice from Legal Services and authority from the Committee. Council officers had been in communication with the club and had made all reasonable attempts over many months to resolve the situation.

The Committee was advised that the key issue was the non submission of annual accounts by the local football club as required under Clause 14.1 of the Facility Management Agreement. Since 5th July 2010, the Council had issued a number of demands requesting submission of its accounts. The Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure had met with a representative of the club on 14th June, 2011 to discuss the need to provide the accounts and the club had been informed of the possible termination if those were not forthcoming. On 19th July, 2011 the Legal Services had written to the club to once more request the accounts and had warned that failure to comply would result in a termination letter being issued and the club being required to vacate the Dixon Park Playing Fields. To date the club had not provided the required accounts.

Accordingly, it was recommended that, on the basis that the club was in breach of the Facility Management Agreement at the Dixon Park Playing Fields, that steps be taken to terminate the agreement in accordance with Clause 18(i) of the aforementioned Agreement.

The Committee adopted the recommendation but agreed that the club be given until the date of the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 3rd October to submit properly constituted accounts.”

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Departmental Improvement Programme – Review of Landscape Planning and Development Unit
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Norman Neill, Organisational Development Unit, Human Resources

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>As part of the Parks and Leisure improvement programme, the Organisational Development Unit was requested to undertake an operational review of the Landscape Planning and Development Unit. The original structure is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>The Landscape Planning and Development Unit is responsible to the Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Development Manager for the design and implementation of landscape and minor civil engineering work associated with parks, open spaces, playing fields and play areas.</p> <p>It was agreed at the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of 12 August 2010 that the post of Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Development Manager be re-designated to the post of Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager.</p> <p>It was also agreed at the committee meeting of 12 August 2010 that the posts of Woodland and Recreation Manager, Woodland and Recreation Officer and Woodland and Recreation Assistant be transferred to the Landscape Planning and Development Unit. As a result of this structural change, the unit now also has responsibility for the provision of urban forestry and recreation services.</p> <p>Following the transfer of the 3 Woodland and Recreation Unit posts and also following the re-designation of the post of Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Development Manager to that of Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager, reporting lines and structural positions have changed for all posts across the unit.</p>

	<p>There has been no recruitment of Industrial Placement Students since September 2006.</p> <p>The unit's project portfolio continues to expand and there is an ongoing demand for resources – projects that staff are currently involved in include the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playing Pitches Strategy</li> <li>- Connswater Greenway</li> <li>- Refurbishment of Woodvale and Dunville Parks</li> <li>- Green Flag standards</li> <li>- Park Management Plans</li> <li>- Inspections of Roads and Footpaths</li> <li>- Play Refurbishment and independent inspections</li> <li>- Tree Health Condition Surveys</li> <li>- Tree Preservation Orders</li> </ul> <p>There will also be additional work for the Unit once the High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 becomes operational (within the next 6 months). However capacity will have to be determined once the extent of the workload is known.</p>
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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>The operational review of the Landscape Planning and Development Unit has been completed and recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All job descriptions are updated to better reflect the structural changes that have already occurred. New job descriptions will also take account of current and anticipated workload (for example the management of the High Hedges legislation).</li> <li>• All job description are also updated to build on the synergies already present with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Portfolio Office in the Property and Projects Department in order to deliver a co-ordinated, high quality project managed portfolio for Parks and Leisure Department.</li> <li>• The posts of Landscape Planner and Landscape Architect are amalgamated to a new post of Senior Landscape Planning and Development Officer thereby increasing flexibility across the unit and reducing the number of posts.</li> <li>• The posts of Assistant Landscape Planner and Assistant Landscape Architect are amalgamated to a new post of Landscape Planning and Development Officer thereby increasing flexibility across the unit and reducing the number of posts.</li> </ul> <p>A management (desktop) job evaluation exercise carried out on updated job descriptions has indicated the following grades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landscape Planning and Development Manager, PO 7</li> <li>- Senior Civil Engineering Officer, PO 3</li> <li>- Senior Landscape Planning and Development Officer, PO 3</li> <li>- Civil Engineering Officer, SO 2</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landscape Planning and Development Officer, SO 2</li> <li>- Senior Woodland and Recreation Officer, PO 3</li> <li>- Woodland and Recreation Officer, SO 2</li> <li>- Woodland and Recreation Arboreal Officer, SO 1</li> </ul> <p>The review also recommends the deletion of 2 Industrial Placement Students and 1 currently vacant Assistant Architect from the structure thereby reducing the overall staffing establishment from 14 to 11.</p>
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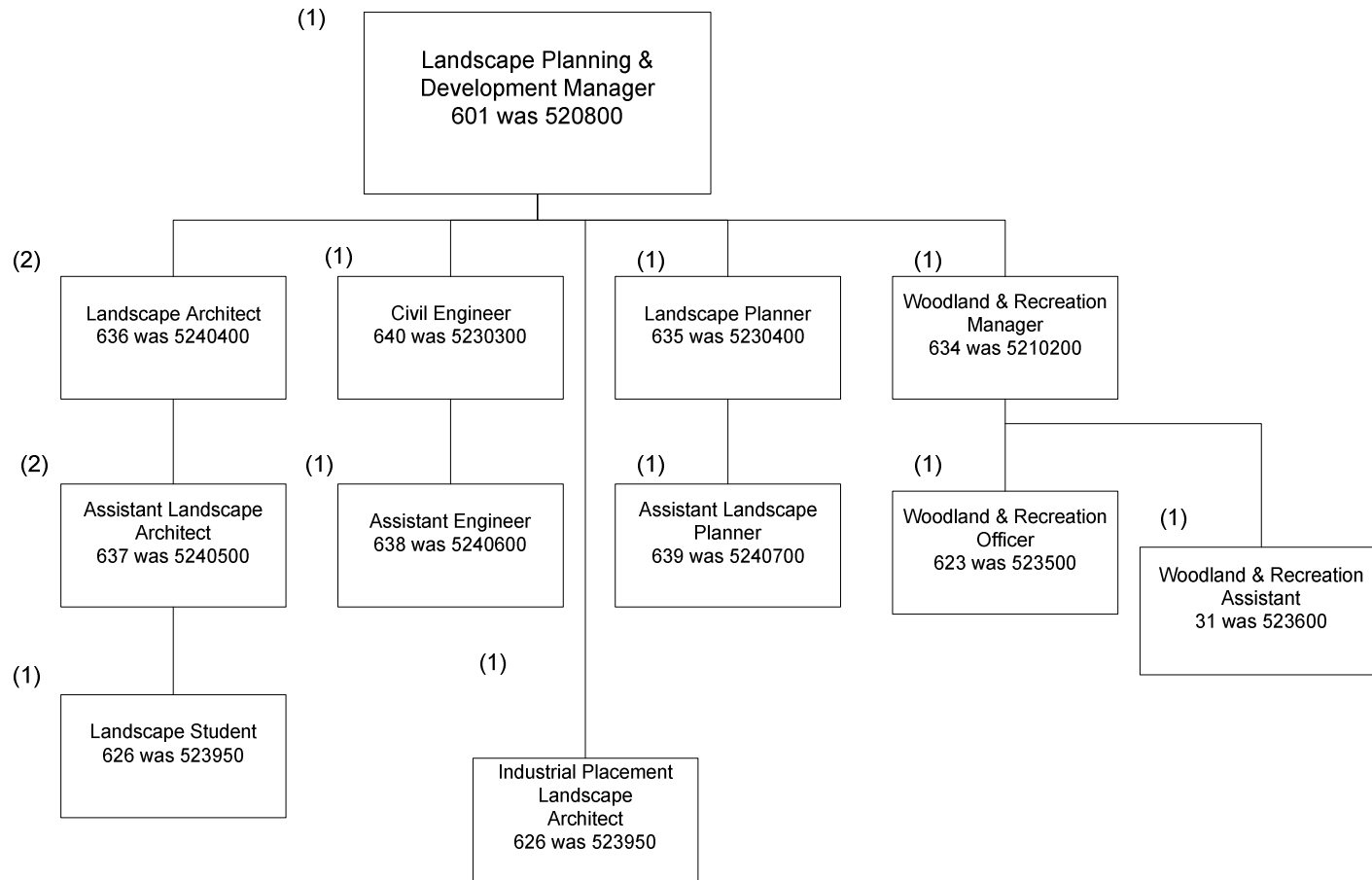
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Finance</u> It is proposed to re-grade the posts within the Landscape Planning and Development Unit following a management led job evaluation exercise. The proposed new structure is attached as Appendix 2. The net cost of the proposed upgrades is £14,405. It is anticipated that this cost will be met by the savings generated from the deletion of 3 x posts from the current organisational structure (see section 2) and also from the termination of a number of agency contracts within the unit.</p> <p>The proposed change to grades have been incorporated into the 2012/2013 budget estimates.</p> <p><u>Human resources</u> Staff from the Landscape Planning and Development Unit and their trade union representatives have been consulted throughout the review process and all staff in substantive posts are in agreement with the proposed structure.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is asked to agree the proposed organisational structure and that work continues with staff and trade unions to implement the agreed structure.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure responsible for implementation.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 Current organisational structure for Landscape Planning and Development Unit</p> <p>Appendix 2 Proposed organisational structure for Landscape Planning and Development Unit</p>

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**Parks & Leisure Services - Parks Development - Landscape Planning Unit**

Current Structure

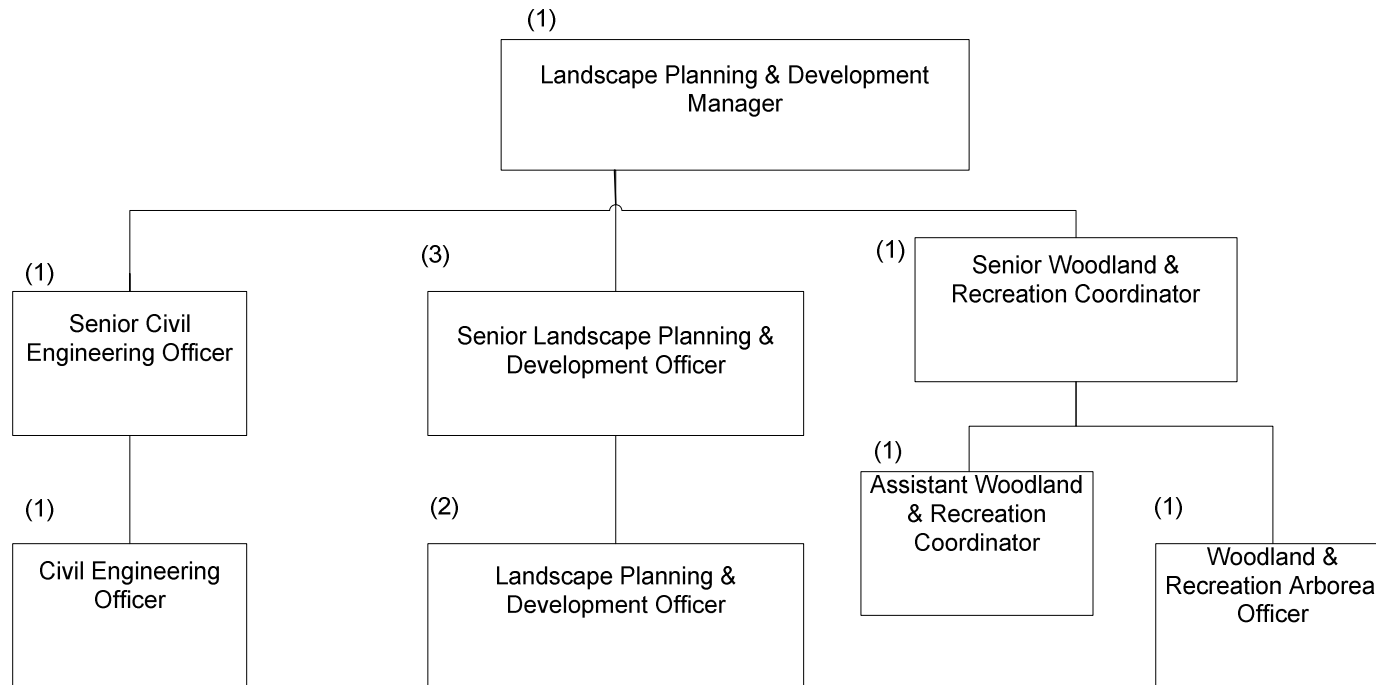


Total - 14

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**Parks & Leisure Services - Parks Development -  
Landscape Planning & Woodland Unit**

Status: Proposed Option  
*Indicative Titles*



**Total Establishment - 11**

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Facility Management Agreements
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager Elaine Black, Policy and Business Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Members on the root and branch review of Facility Management Agreements (FMAs) which commenced in April 2011 and is part of one of the central action plans relating to the playing pitches strategy; and</li> <li>• Outline the proposed next steps for Members' and seek agreement on these.</li> </ul> <p>Facility Management Agreements (FMAs) were first introduced in 1996 when an FMA was entered into by the council with respect to the Mary Peters Track. Since then further FMAs have been agreed (a total of 15 were in place in 2008).</p> <p>In April 2008 a new draft framework was agreed for entering into local partnership agreements with third parties (as a replacement for FMAs). The new agreements were to be known as 'partner agreements'. The focus of the framework was agreed for playing pitches only and agreements for City of Belfast Golf Club, the Mary Peters Track, bowling greens and MUGAs were to continue as is.</p> <p>Individual updates or revisions to existing FMAs have been brought to Committee on an individual basis as requests have been received.</p> <p><u>Current Position</u></p> <p>FMAs are legal agreements between the council and, normally, a sporting organisation or club in respect of a specific facility. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of the council and the club/organisation which are generally about minor pitch maintenance and bookings.</p>

	<p>Since February 2011 the total position with regard to FMAs is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- seven of the 'pitch' FMAs have expired and are renewed on a month to month basis.</li> <li>- two of the FMAs are due to expire at the end of July 2012;</li> <li>- the remaining two will be due to expire in 2020 and 2027</li> </ul>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>In April 2011 it was reported to Committee that a root and branch review of FMAs was being commenced – this was to include consideration of whether the framework agreed in 2008 remained relevant and to identify the viable options in terms of implementation. This renewed focus on FMAs was timely given the ongoing work being undertaken within the department on the playing pitches strategy.</p> <p>Members will be aware that as part of the playing pitches strategy commitment was made to review management and sports development for pitches and the review of FMAs is now being completed in line with this process.</p> <p>Over the past year revisions have also been made to City of Belfast Golf Club, Suffolk, Musgrave and the Hammer FMAs.</p> <p>An internal officer working group is conducting the review and the main areas reviewed to date have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch/site maintenance.</li> <li>• Bookings of pitches and site facilities and the management thereof.</li> <li>• Programming of activities.</li> </ul> <p>To date the review has involved a desk top analysis in order to gain as informed a picture as possible before implementing a wider engagement exercise – with Members and clubs.</p> <p>To this end it is proposed that Members agree to attend a consultation workshop in November to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand more of the detail on the current picture of FMAs, and</li> <li>• consider options for a revised new direction.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the workshop, Members are advised that officers will be progressing with external engagement with FMA clubs and a sample of non FMA clubs in the next months and that they may be approached on this matter.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> Additional resources may need to be assigned to deliver the engagement with FMA clubs within the timeframe available.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Officer time to manage the review.</p>

	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.
<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is asked to note the update on the review of FMAs and agree to a Members' workshop being arranged in November.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will follow on from the Members' workshop in November.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	FMA: Facility Management Agreement MUGA: Multiuse Games Area
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Peter Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report an overview of antisocial behaviour by electoral area; and</li> <li>• update committee on the recent work of the Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator in Parks and Leisure and the key areas of focus and expenditure at present.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The antisocial behaviour programme contributes to the achievement of the departmental vision of providing quality parks, open spaces and leisure environments that people value and use. In particular, it will enable the delivery of the departmental objective regarding the provision of programmes and services to make people feel safer.</p> <p>In line with the departmental plan, the objectives of the antisocial behaviour programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance the <b>environment</b> around Parks and Leisure facilities;</li> <li>• develop <b>education</b> initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities;</li> <li>• define <b>enforcement</b> as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws and legislation; and</li> <li>• develop sustainable <b>interagency</b> and <b>inter-departmental</b> networks and leading a <b>partnership</b> approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>The Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator prioritises action by collating evidence gathered through antisocial behaviour incident reports. Once the information is collated, it is used to inform a coordinated response.</p> <p>Members will recall that the previous antisocial behaviour update report</p>

(June 2011) set out the programme methodology and the importance of monitoring incident reports to ensure appropriate actions are taken in response to antisocial behaviour reports.

The purpose of the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme is to reduce antisocial behaviour. The evidence available indicates an overall decreasing trend in antisocial behaviour taking place in parks and leisure facilities across electoral areas in Belfast (See Appendix 1: Comparison of antisocial behaviour incidents between April 2010 to August 2011).

The information recorded in Appendix 1 and 2 illustrates antisocial behaviour by electoral area. The chart shows incidents of antisocial behaviour taking place throughout an area and indicates potential hotspots.

As antisocial behaviour occurs at neighbouring sites within electoral areas, this may indicate that antisocial behaviour is displaced following action by rangers or PSNI. This information will inform how we implement joint operations and ensure that we do not move a problem on to another site.

#### Reductions in incidents

During the last year, there has been a marked reduction in reports of antisocial behaviour in park areas such as Ormeau, Falls and City Cemetery and Orangefield (Appendix 3, chart 3). This could be attributed to a number of factors:

- The development of community networks and management plans to attain the Green Flag award at Ormeau and Falls Parks.
- Following the last antisocial behaviour programme update report there was a more intensive approach to Ormeau, Falls and City Cemetery and Orangefield as recorded incidents were significantly high.
- An increase in resources from the antisocial behaviour programme supporting community events at Falls Park and a youth participation programme in Ormeau, Falls and Orangefield parks.
- The last antisocial behaviour report identified that drinkers were an issue in Ormeau and Orangefield Parks – since then the East Parks antisocial behaviour partnership group, council officers and PSNI have identified more frequent opportunities to challenge drinkers in the park.

#### Identifying further actions

Although recorded antisocial behaviour incidents have reduced from the previous year, the park locations which experienced the highest recorded incidences of antisocial behaviour during the months April to August 2011, were Waterworks, Cavehill, Woodvale, Ormeau, Alexandra, Botanic, Ballysillan, Falls and City Cemetery (Appendix 4, Chart 4).

The main antisocial behaviour issues that have been recorded (Appendix 5, chart 5) are:

- Unauthorised use of council facilities: generally describes drinking after the park closes.
- Property damage: Indicates fire setting or damage from vehicle tyres.

- Youths causing annoyance.
- Under age drinking.
- Misuse of Vehicles: Motor cycles or scramblers travelling through the park.
- Graffiti.

Alongside the actions that have already been planned and are being implemented across the whole city, the antisocial behaviour programme resources will also focus on reducing the types of antisocial behaviour found in these areas during the remainder of the financial year and an update report will be presented in February 2012.

#### Summary of interventions

There have been a series of successful actions implemented throughout the period of April to August 2011. Parks operations are separated into three distinct areas: North, East and South/West. The details of thematic interventions within these areas include:

#### **North Belfast**

##### Environment

- Finlay Park fencing, razor wire and installation of a gate to reduce damage to a play park
- Woodvale Park replacement of perimeter fencing section

##### Education

- Grove Playing Fields: FASA (Forum against substance abuse) Interventional Cup 100 young people participated in a football tournament
- Woodvale Park July Cultural celebrations, support for a week long youth football tournament in the park

##### Enforcement

- Cavehill Country Park CCTV: a sophisticated camera has been installed at the gate to the park
- Cavehill Country Park: Joint operations with the council and PSNI patrols

#### **East Belfast**

##### Environment

- Belmont Park tree reductions through out the park to enable access for a mobile CCTV Van
- Orangefield tree reductions to improve visibility around a kick about area.
- Knocknagoney Park removal of fly tipping and graffiti

##### Education

- Belmont Park: Support for "Bark in the Park" event, led by the Friends of Belmont group to encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Ormeau: Support for FASA and the Mount community association youth football tournament in the evenings during August and September
- Victoria: Support for FASA and Exit to lead a family fun day in the park

##### Enforcement

- Ormeau: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment
- Orangefield: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van

	<p>deployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belmont: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment</li> <li>• Botanic: Joint BCC and PSNI operations and Mobile CCTV Van deployment</li> </ul> <p><b>South &amp; West Belfast</b></p> <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springfield Park tree and shrub reduction</li> <li>• Half Moon Lake tree and shrub reduction</li> </ul> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falls Park support for summer festival and family camp out</li> <li>• Falls Park support for mini soccer resources</li> <li>• Half Moon Lake support for family fun day</li> <li>• Springfield avenue play park support for family fun day</li> <li>• Wedderburn Park July Cultural celebrations family fun day</li> </ul> <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springfield avenue play park installation of CCTV and fencing to secure site</li> </ul> <p><b>All areas</b></p> <p>Interagency and Interdepartmental networks</p> <p>The antisocial behaviour programme coordinator has been engaged in a range of internal and external partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area based antisocial behaviour partnership meetings have been established. Park staff, Community safety officers and PSNI officers meet to monitor and co-ordinate interventions around park and leisure facilities.</li> <li>• Joint working with Community Safety Officers, Dog Wardens and Litter Wardens are improving our ability to effectively respond to antisocial behaviour.</li> <li>• Participation in the internal officers Bonfire group has provided support for park based bonfire groups to reduce antisocial behaviour and ensure safer park events during the summer.</li> </ul>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed antisocial behaviour budget 2011-12 which is approximately £250,000.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	Much of the antisocial behaviour programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing youth together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is in line with the council's equality and good relations policies and procedures.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Updates on the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme will be brought by the antisocial behaviour Coordinator to the Committee three times a year, in June, October, and February.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	BCC: Belfast City Council PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland CCTV: Closed Circuit Television
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Comparison of antisocial behaviour incidents in Parks and Leisure facilities across electoral areas between 2010 and 2011 Appendix 2: Antisocial behaviour across electoral areas and park locations Appendix 3: Comparison of park locations April –August 2010 & 2011 Appendix 4: Antisocial behaviour incidents by park location April to August 2011 Appendix 5: Antisocial behaviour type by park location



## Appendix 1

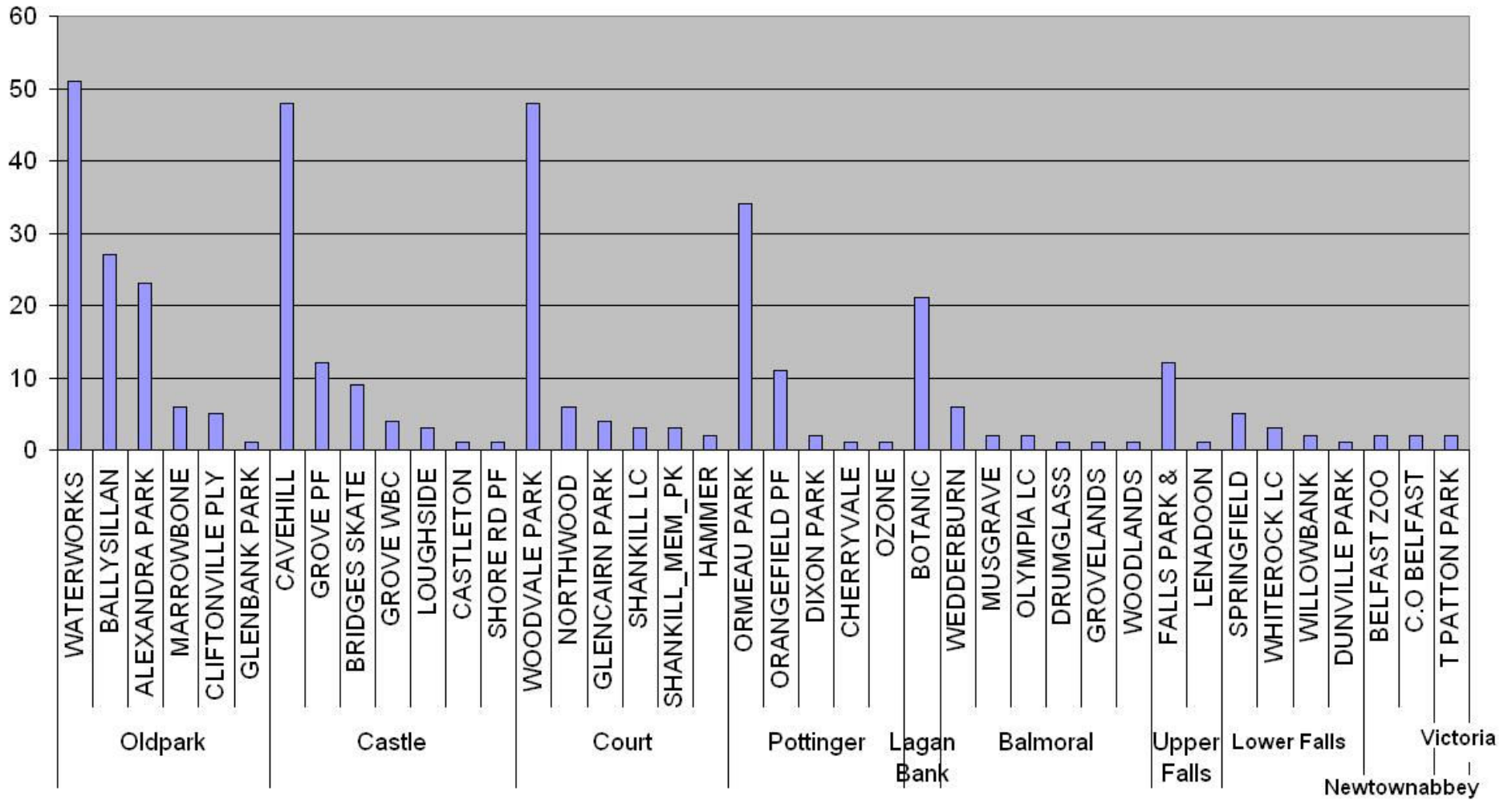
**Table 1.1**  
**Comparison of ASB incidents in Parks and Leisure facilities across**  
**Electoral areas between 2010 and 2011**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>2010 April- Aug</b>	<b>2011 April- Aug</b>
Pottinger	100	49
Oldpark	76	113
Upper Falls	56	13
Castle	55	78
Court	42	66
Lagan Bank	38	21
Lower Falls	18	11
Balmoral	7	12
Victoria	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>365</b>

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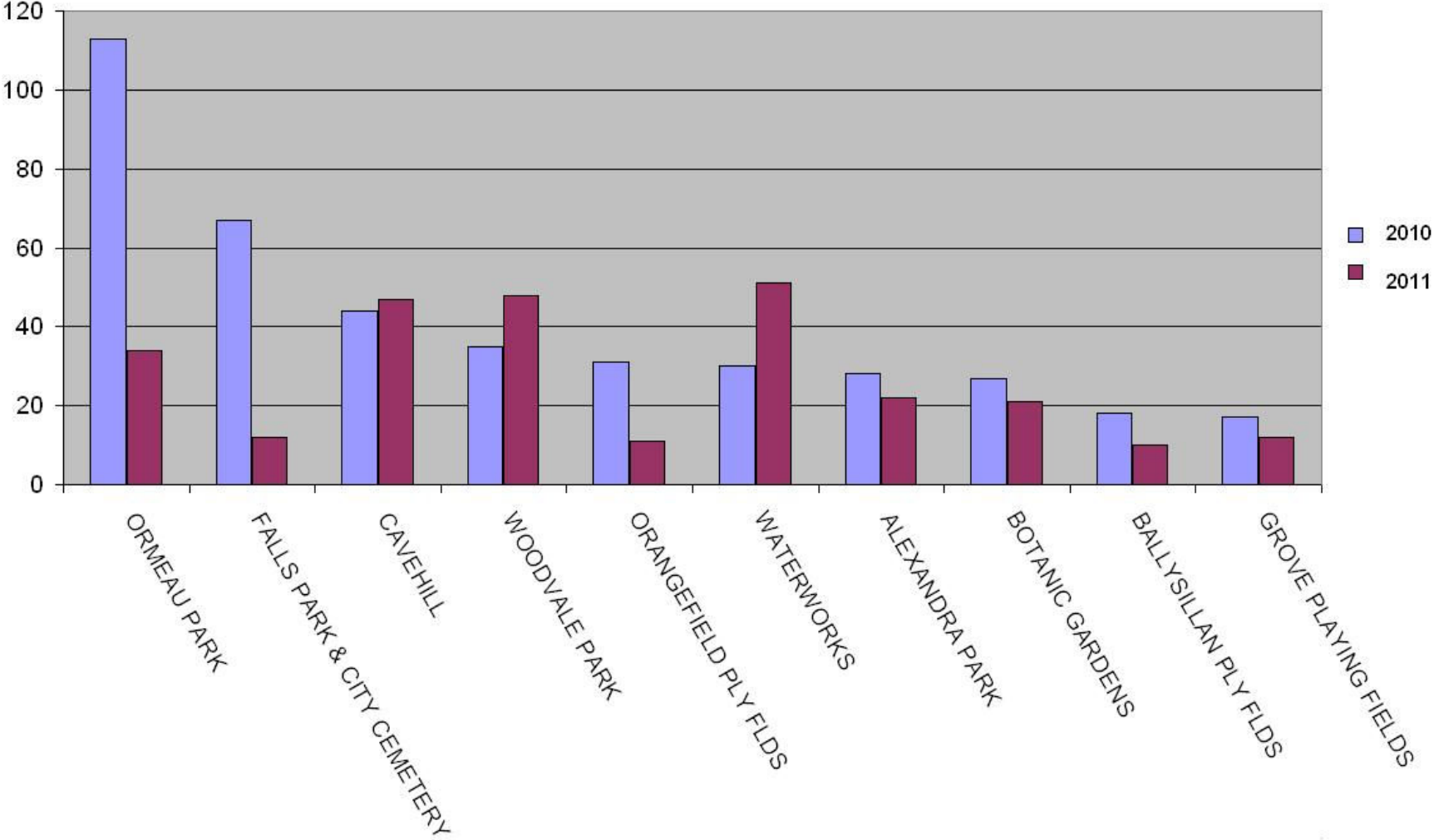


Chart 2: ASB across Electoral Areas and Park locations



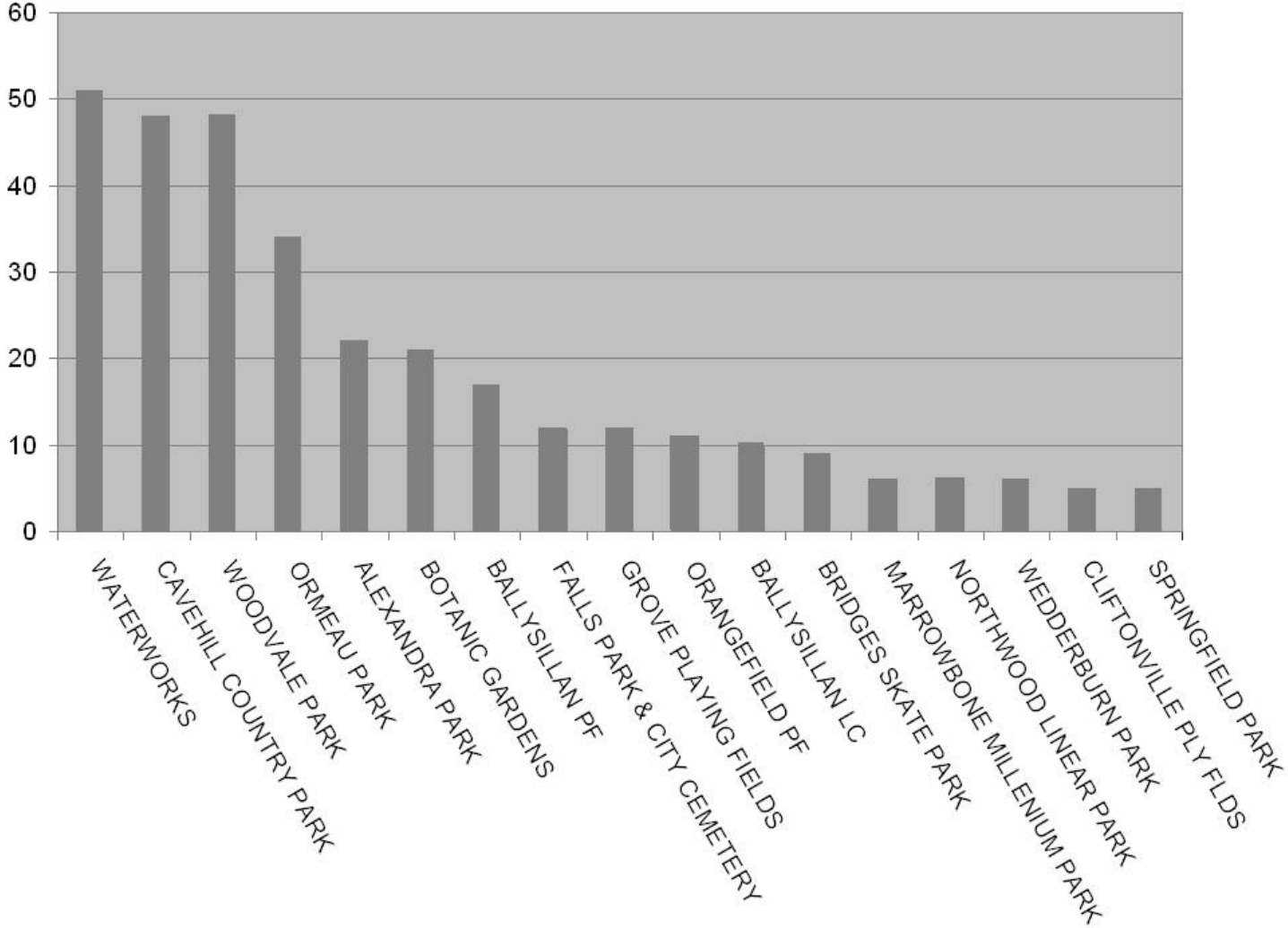
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Chart 3: Comparison of park locations April –August 2010 & 2011



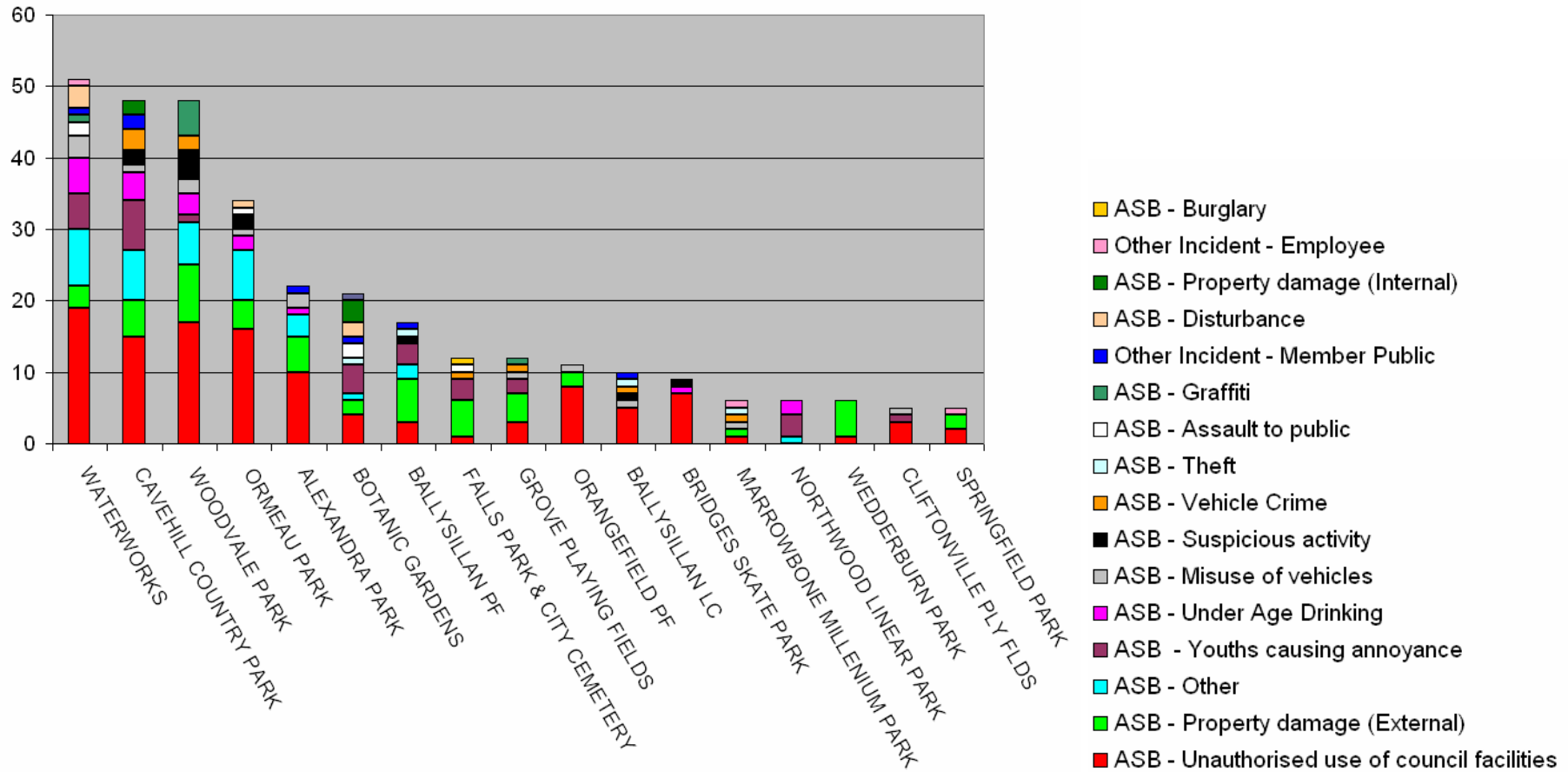
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Chart 4: ASB incidents by Park location April to August 2011



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Chart 5: ASB Type by Park Location



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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	London 2012 Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Relevant Background Information</b></p> <p>The Northern Ireland leg of the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay will culminate in Belfast on 6 June 2012 after a three day tour across the region.</p> <p>This route has been selected by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and is not open to change as the final selection of both the route and torch bearers rests with the London 2012 Olympic Games organisers. A copy of the route is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Olympic Flame will be welcomed to City Hall for a celebration event on the evening of 6 June 2012. The cortege will be met by a range of performers, some of which will be supplied by LOCOG.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p><u>Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations</u>        There was an opportunity for the general public and a range of sporting and non-sporting individuals to be nominated to carry the Olympic flame through Belfast. The public selection of these individuals closed at the end of June 2011.</p> <p>However, the council now has the opportunity to nominate two individuals to carry the Olympic flame. These nominations must be made by 31 October 2011.</p> <p>It should be noted that due to LOCOG 2012 guidelines the council is not permitted to make a public call or campaign for nominations.</p>

	<p>Following discussion at the 2012 Events Working Group meeting in July 2011 it was noted that council officers already had a list of inspirational individuals nominated by the public for the Belfast Sports Awards in March 2011. It was suggested that these individuals form the short list for nominations.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee on 26 September 2011 it was agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair of Parks and Leisure Committee along with officers from the Leisure Development Unit look at winners from the recent Belfast Sports Awards as potential nominees for the council's two torch bearer nominees.</p> <p>It should be noted that those selected by the council are not guaranteed to be part of the 2012 Torch Relay until LOCOG 2012 run their own checks and selection process.</p> <p>As the deadline for submissions is 31 October Members should note that subject to committee approval the nominations will be sent to LOCOG 2012 by that date pending approval at full council in November.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Chair and Deputy Chair and officers will have considered the potential nominees in advance of the Committee meeting on 13 October 2011 so that Members can approve the two nominations required.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications associated with this element of the torch relay.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Some officer time will be allocated to manage the process.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	<p>Nominations for the Belfast Sports Awards were requested from across the city and those nominated by the public represent all sections of the community.</p>

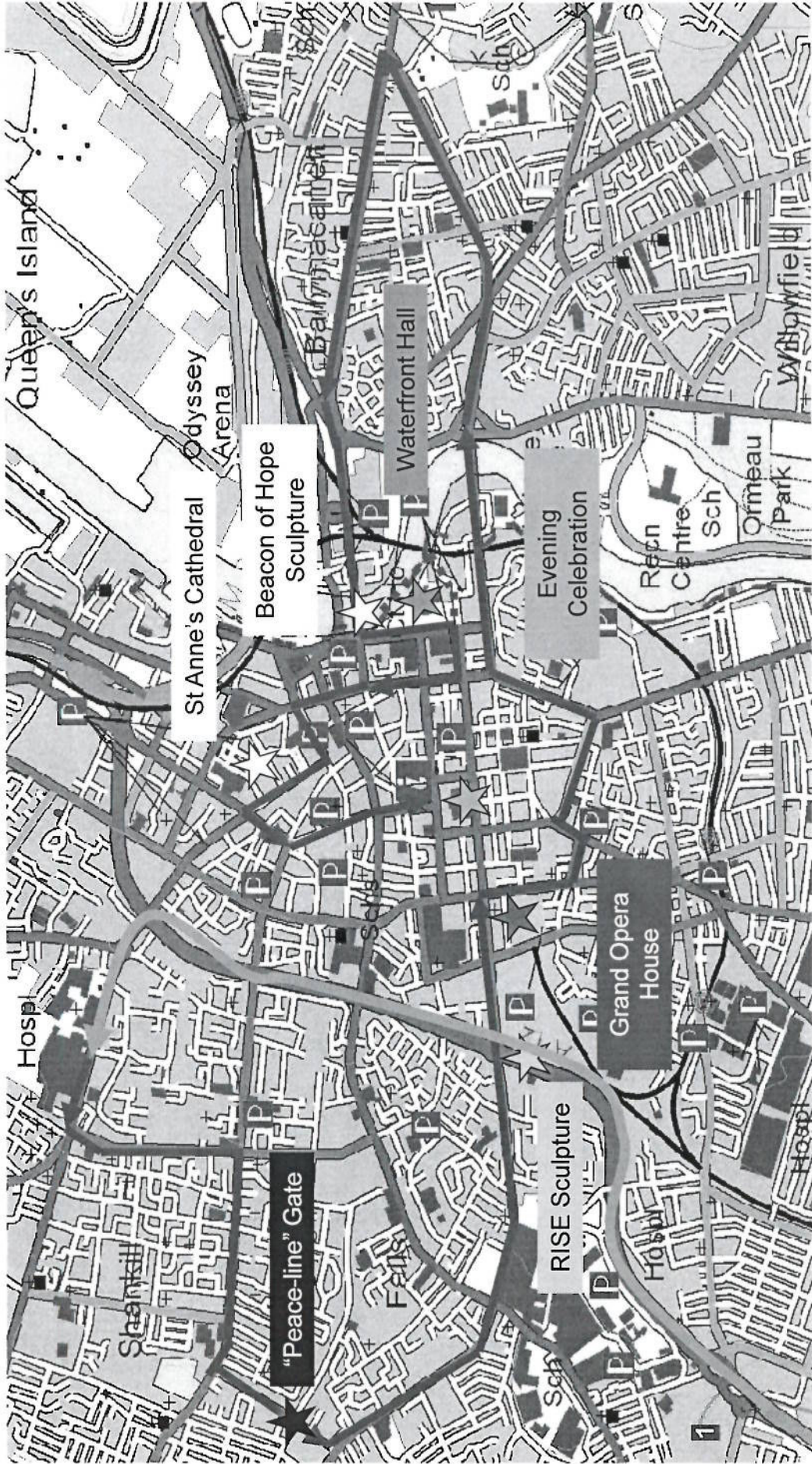
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the Members approve the selection of nominees made by the Chair and Deputy Chair to be submitted to LOCOG 2012 as Belfast Torch Bearers.</p>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	The Sports Development Officer to ensure the nominations are submitted before the deadline of 31 October 2011.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	LOCOG: London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Belfast Olympic Torch Run Route.

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Appendix 1 Torch Relay Route

Proposed TB Route into "Evening Celebration" – Belfast.



———— = Convoy

———— = Torchbearer (7.2mile)

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Suffolk Football Club
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Relevant Background Information</b></p> <p>The Committee is reminded that at its meetings in March and April 2011 it received reports regarding a request from Suffolk Football Club. The football club had sought, and subsequently received, approval from the council to bring an existing unused pitch at Suffolk Playing Fields into use through the provision of new drainage. The club further proposed to erect a spectator rail and enclose the new pitch with a security fence. It was noted that the pitch would be used by Suffolk Football Club. The council did not make a financial contribution to the works which were undertaken with Alpha funding obtained through Groundwork NI. It was agreed that the council would enter into a 7 year management agreement with the club in respect of the pitch and that the club will at its own expense undertake the management and maintenance of the pitch and fencing.</p> <p>This work has now been completed and the pitch will be available for use in advance of the new season in August 2012.</p> <p>In the report in April 2011 it was reported that the club had aspirations to further develop the site and construct separate changing facilities to service the new pitch. This would mean that the facilities would meet the ground requirements of the Intermediate League. The report noted that this would be a separate issue.</p> <p>The club has now been given an opportunity to acquire two modular buildings, one would provide changing facilities and the other would function as a meeting room and for pre and post match entertainment for travelling teams. These buildings are not new and have been in use by another club. Suffolk Football Club is seeking permission to locate temporary changing facilities on the site. It is their proposal to locate it adjacent to pitch and close to the former school site.</p>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>There are a number of issues associated with the proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The club has recently applied for planning approval for its proposal. It is hoped that this will be through within 4-6 months, however, as the building is temporary in nature it is likely that the planning approval, if granted, will be time limited.</li> <li>2. A request has been made to the Property and Projects Department to inspect the buildings to determine their condition and fitness for purpose, the survey is yet to be completed, however providing the report is positive this shouldn't be an impediment to progress.</li> <li>3. The club has stated that it will undertake the management and maintenance of the new facility at its own expense.</li> <li>4. The club will also acquire the structure and undertake the installation at its own expense; there will be no financial cost to the council.</li> <li>5. The proposed location for the changing facilities is currently subject to a right of way agreement with NIE. Preliminary discussions with NIE have indicated that the matter can be resolved, however this is subject to further discussion and confirmation is awaited.</li> <li>6. Should these issues be resolved the club is seeking agreement to locate the facilities on the site for a period of 7 years, consistent with the agreement regarding the refurbishment of the pitch. Following discussions with Estates it is proposed that the installation of the proposed temporary buildings be incorporated within the terms and conditions of the proposed facilities management agreement as agreed in April 2011.</li> </ol> <p>The Committee is also asked to note that the club has requested permission to 'store' the structures on site until such time as they can be installed. This is not something that the council would normally do; although the council currently permits through licence containers to be kept on site for storage purposes;</p> <p>Should the Committee agree to the request from the club to store the structures on site pending installation it will be necessary to enter into a temporary licence agreement with the club. This would be subject to a time limit and a fee would be charged. Although the intention is to store the structures behind a security fence it would be appropriate for the club to obtain the necessary public liability insurance to indemnify the council in the event of damage, theft, injury resulting from the storage of the structures should the Committee agree to this request.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications for the council. The cost of acquisition and installation will be met by the club; the building maintenance and utility costs will also be met by the club.</p>



	<p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications other than officer time.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The provision of the temporary building will, together with other associated works, bring the football ground up to the required standard for intermediate and amateur league football.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	In relation to the building the main issue would relate to DDA compliance, it will be requirement that the building meets the necessary standard.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the report.</li> <li>2. Agree in principle to enter into an appropriate management agreement with the club to permit the installation of the temporary changing facilities subject to planning approval and agreement with NIE regarding the right of way.</li> <li>3. Agree that Legal Services be instructed to incorporate within the facilities management agreement agreed in April 2011 to incorporate these temporary buildings.</li> <li>4. Consider whether it wishes to permit the club to store, under licence and subject to conditions, the temporary structures at the Suffolk Playing Field site.</li> <li>5. Agree that recommendations 2 – 4 above are conditional on receiving a positive report on the condition of the buildings.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will be presented by the Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager following a decision by the Planning Service.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	NIE: Northern Ireland Electricity.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Out of Hours use of Leisure Centres
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Katrina Morgan, Leisure Operations Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for an interim extension of out of hours agreements under which clubs use our leisure facilities for training purposes</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2008 agreed to extend out of hours use of leisure centres to all clubs and adopted a charging rate of £20 per hour as a contribution towards utilities costs.</p> <p>The Committee at its meeting of 11 June 2009 agreed to extend the out of hours use of leisure centres scheme to all sporting organisations throughout the city.</p> <p>Currently 7 water based clubs/governing body and 1 tennis club avail of the out of hours facilities totalling 31.5 hours per week.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The legal agreements for the first phase of the scheme ran from 1 Oct 2009 to 31 March 2011 and at this point all of the clubs are technically "over-holding" on their agreements which the council ought to have either formally continued or terminated.</p> <p>As soon as it was discovered that the timeframe for the agreements had expired, officers contacted Legal Services who advised that retrospective Committee approval should be sought for the extension of the agreements for the period from March 2011 to the present as well as authority to extend the existing agreements until March 2012.</p>

	<p>Subject to Committee approval it is proposed that the department writes to the groups to extend their agreements until 31 March 2012.</p> <p>The participating groups have been requested to submit interim reports giving feedback on the benefits of participating in the scheme and any other issues arising. A further report will be presented to Committee highlighting the benefits such as increased participation and sporting success, as well as revised proposals for continued implementation of out of hours contracts from 1 April 2012 in line with the service's plans for improvement and service development.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	None.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Committee approve the extension of the out of hours agreements to 31 March 2011.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Leisure Operations Manager to action the committee's decision.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Catafalque at Belfast Crematorium
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sharon McCloy, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The City of Belfast Crematorium was opened in 1961. Over the last 5 years the management responsible for the City of Belfast Crematorium have been made aware of the health and safety issues regarding the structure and height of the existing original catafalque in the funeral church. The 3 steps leading up to the catafalque together with the actual height of the catafalque, all pose a manual handling risk during arrival and placement of the coffin. Pallbearers which often include elderly family members have struggled to walk in a dignified manner whilst carrying a coffin up the 3 steps and place the coffin onto the catafalque which is chest height.</p> <p>The National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) have been extremely vocal with regards to this health and safety risk concerning the catafalque and have consulted councillors and held meetings with the Director of Parks and Leisure.</p> <p>Property Maintenance were consulted and have drawn up detailed plans to remove the 3 steps at the base of the catafalque and reduce the height of the catafalque together with the installation of a safety rail.</p> <p>The NAFD were consulted during the drawing up of these plans together with the Healthy and Safety Unit, the crematorium staff and management and their approval has been obtained.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>This work has been entered onto the Planned Maintenance Schedule for 2011/12. It requires the funeral church to be closed to the public for this work to be completed safely. Property Maintenance is now in a position to</p>

	<p>carry out the work which is estimated to take 2-3 days to complete. As there are no suitable bank holidays between now and late Spring 2012 during which the work could be done, Committee approval is being sought to temporarily close the operational side of the crematorium for 3 days from Saturday 12 November to Monday 14 November 2011 to enable this work to be carried out.</p> <p>This means the funeral church would close down on the evening of Friday 11 November after the last cremation service is complete, re-opening again for cremations on the morning of Tuesday 15 November. This enables the contractors to have 3 full days and nights to carry out this work.</p> <p>The crematorium building and grounds would remain open to the public for burials, scatterings and collection of cremated remains and book of remembrance viewing. The crematorium office would function as normal. The funeral church and connecting hall/corridors would be closed off for health and safety reasons to members of the public.</p> <p>There would be no funeral services on Saturday morning (normally 4) or on Monday (normally 11). This disruption to the availability of cremation service times could result in a possible backlog of cremations.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> To help minimize the disruption to bereaved families staff have offered to carry out additional cremation service times on the evenings of Thursday 10, Friday 11, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 November. This would be on overtime and therefore have some financial implications.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that approval is given to close the City of Belfast Crematorium from 6.00pm on Friday 11 November 2011, re-opening again on Tuesday 15 November at 8.30am, to allow this planned maintenance work to be carried out in the funeral church.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Sharon McCloy, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager. Decision of Committee to be implemented by 15 November 2011.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Catafalque Construction Plan Appendix 2: Catafalque Handrail Appendix 3: Structural frame to support roller

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**ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE PRIOR TO FABRICATION OF ALL COMPONENTS**

Reference:	?
Date:	?????
Drawn:	?????
Checked:	?????

	
<b>Property &amp; Projects Department</b> Property Administration Unit Duvenee Complex Duvenee Road Hamilton New Zealand Tel: 0274 8033 0002	
Site No:	106
Building No:	18001
Project No:	11674965
Drawing No:	AS-02
Scale:	1:20 @ A1
Drawn By:	AMP
Checked By:	DS
ROSELAWN CEMETERY CREMATORIUM PROPOSED PLANNING SECTION	

**CONSTRUCTION**

**chancel**

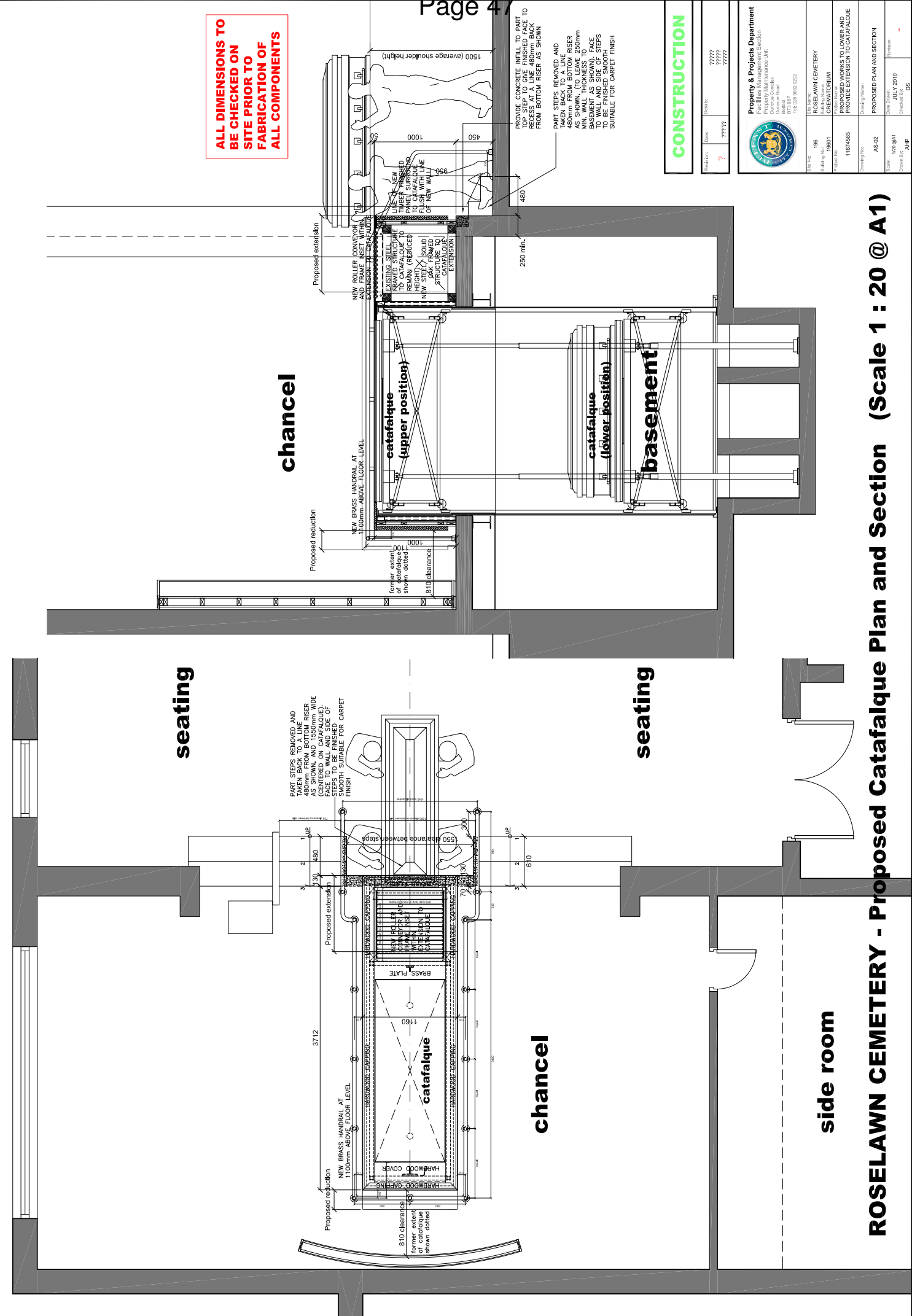
**seating**

**seating**

**chancel**

**side room**

**ROSELAWN CEMETERY - Proposed Catafalque Plan and Section (Scale 1 : 20 @ A1)**



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## ROSELAWN CREMATORIUM - Catafalque Handrail


PROVIDE NEW BRASS HANDRAILINGS AND POSTS TO STEPS AND CATAFAQUE SURROUND, ALL TO BS 5395-1, 2010: PART 4.1 AND SET OUT AS DIMENSIONED ON GA DRAWING.

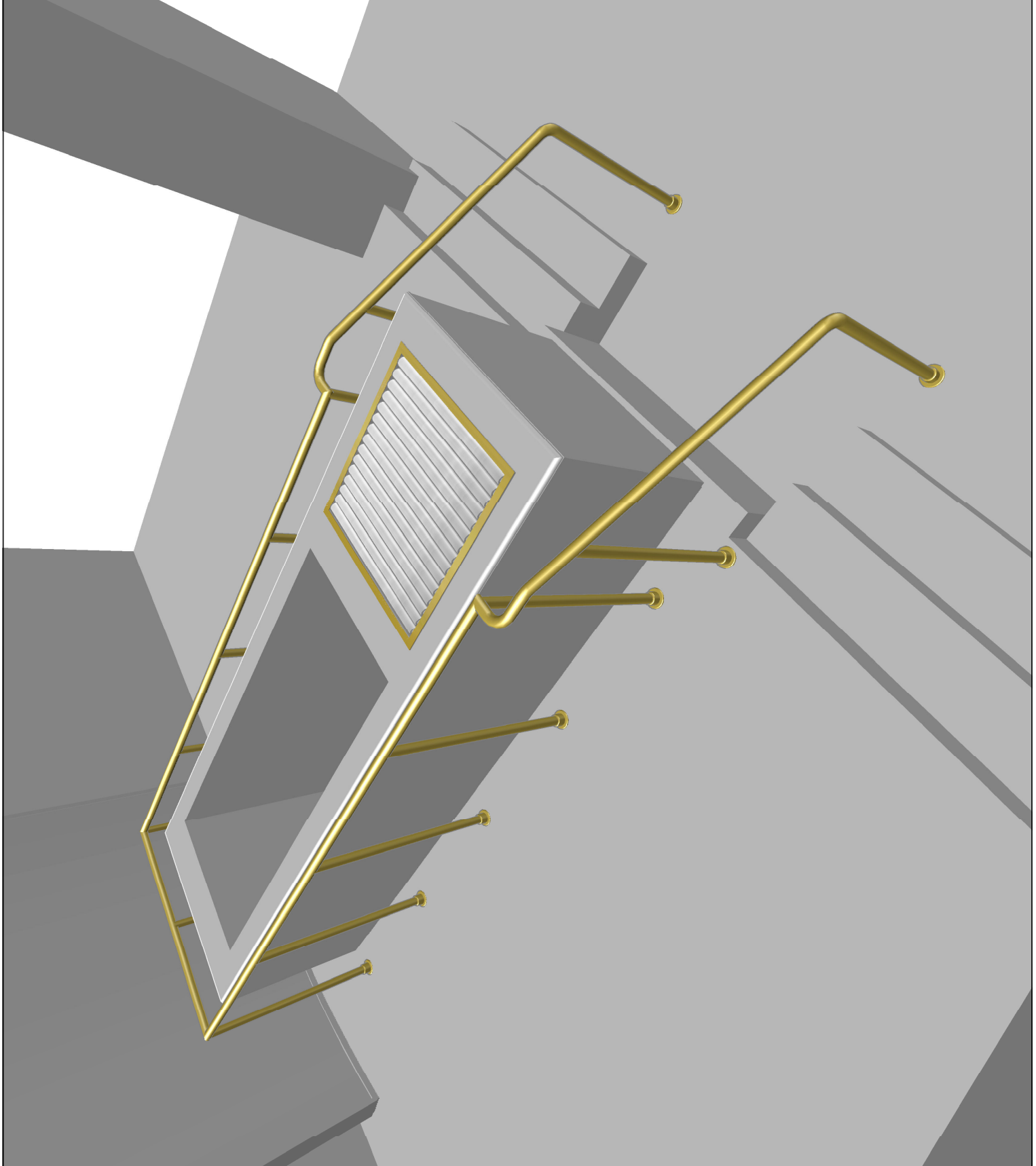
HANDRAILS: 45mm  $\phi$  C.H.S.. HANDRAILS TO BE CONTINUOUS,  
HANDRAIL TO STEPS TO BE FIXED AT A HEIGHT OF 950mm TO CENTRE OF RAIL ABOVE STEP PITCHLINE, ENDS RETURNED DOWN AND EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING LOWER FLOOR LEVEL AS DESCRIBED BELOW AND GIVING 300mm PROJECTION BEYOND BOTTOM NOSINGS AS SHOWN.  
HANDRAIL TO CATAFAQUE SURROUND TO BE FIXED AT A HEIGHT OF 1100mm TO TOP OF RAIL FROM UPPER FLOOR LEVEL.  
POSTS: 45mm  $\phi$  C.H.S. POSTS POSITIONED AS SHOWN AND ROOT EMBEDDED AS MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN EXISTING FLOOR SCREED/ SLAB. (FLOOR SCREED/ SLAB TO BE CORE DRILLED BY OTHERS AS REQUIRED).

COVER PLATES TO BE PROVIDED TO BASE OF ALL RAILING ABUTMENTS WITH FLOOR COVER PLATES TO BE BRASS TOP HAT PROFILE, FIXED AS MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS.  
FINISH: ALL HANDRAIL, UPRIGHTS, COVER PLATES ETC. TO BE BRASS WITH A MIRROR POLISHED FINISH.  
ALL JOINTS TO BE WELDED AND SMOOTH FINISHED.

**CONSTRUCTION**

Revision:	Date:	Details:
?	?????	?????
	?????	?????

		<b>Property &amp; Projects Department</b> Facilities Management Section Property Maintenance Unit Duncque Complex Duncque Road Belfast BT9 7EP T: 628 9032 0202
Site Name:	ROSELAWN CEMETERY	
Site No:	196	
Building No:	19601	
Project Name:	ROSELAWN CEMETERY WORKS TO LOWER AND PROVIDE EXTENSION TO CATAFAQUE	
Project No:	11674665	
Drawing No:	AS-04	
Drawing Name:	PROPOSED CATAFAQUE HANDRAIL	
Scale:	NOT TO SCALE	
Drawn By:	AHP	
Date Drawn:	NOV. 2010	Revision:
Checked By:	DS	



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RUBBER COATED ROLLERS WITH HI-PRECISION BALL-BEARINGS, TAPPED SHAFT AND BOLTED FIXED TO STEEL CHANNELS

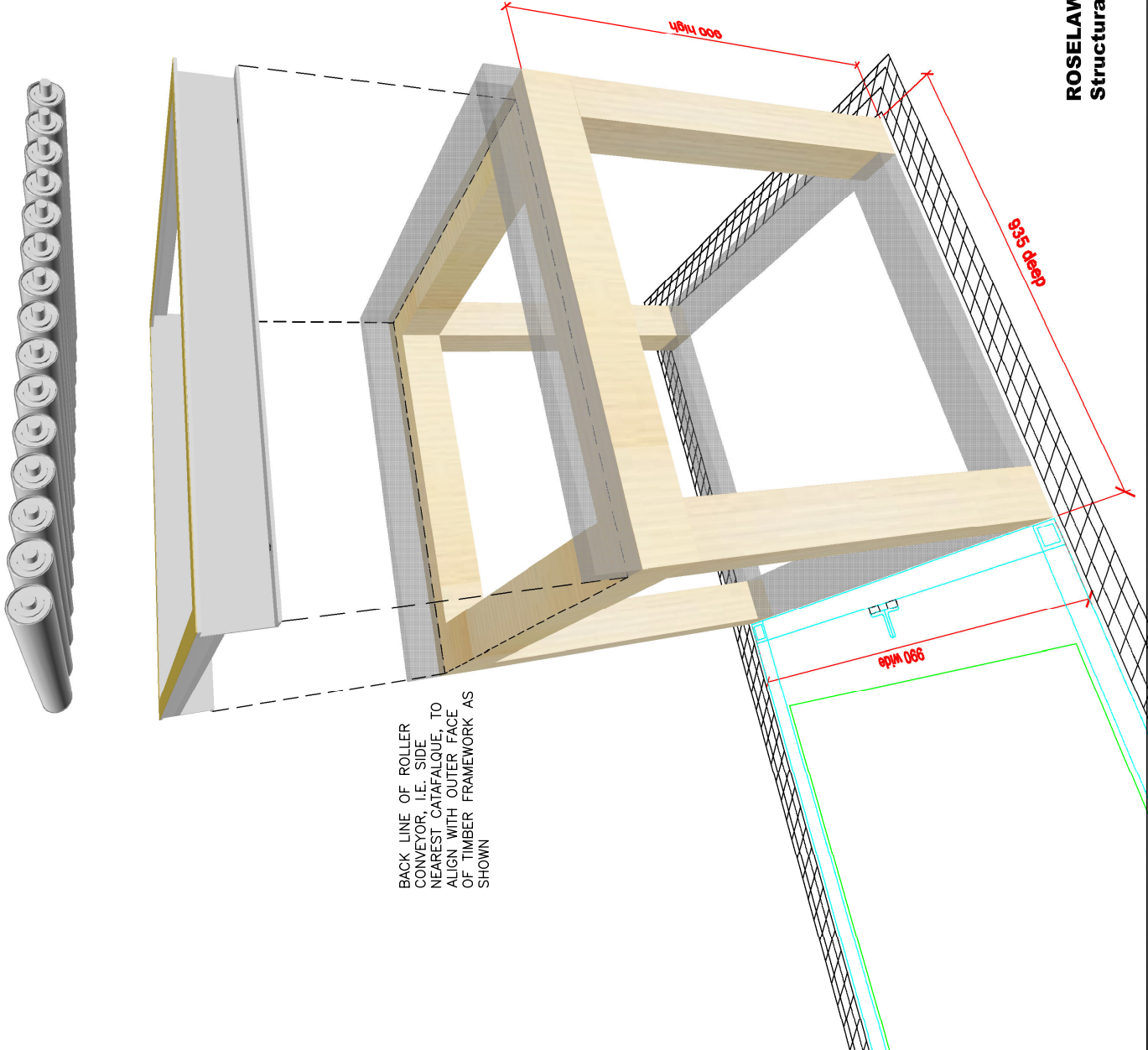
ROLLER UNIT TOP FACE TO BE FINISHED WITH BRASS TRIM FRAME BRASS SCREW FIXED TO STEEL FRAMING OF ROLLER UNIT UNDER

MAIN STEEL CHANNEL SUPPORTS AND STEEL STAYS TO PROVIDE RIGID SUPPORT FOR ROLLERS

SECONDARY TIMBER FRAME TO SURROUND ROLLER CONVEYOR ON THE 3 EXPOSED SIDES TO GIVE A SECURE FITTING OF UNIT. ROLLER CONVEYOR TO SIT WITHIN THIS FRAME AND TO BE CAPABLE OF REMOVAL FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE. FRAME DEPTH TO BE SUCH THAT OUTER FACE ALIGNS WITH OUTER FACE OF PRIMARY STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK BELOW, ALL TO GIVE EVEN FACE FOR CARCASS CLADDING OF CATAFALQUE, (INDICATED AS HATCH ON DRAWING)  
 SECONDARY FRAMING HEIGHT TO BE SUCH THAT WHEN FINISHED HARDWOOD CAPPING PIECES TO MAIN CATAFALQUE SURROUND ARE PLACED OVER THEY FINISH AT A HEIGHT OF 1000mm ABOVE UPPER FLOOR LEVEL AS SHOWN ON GENERAL ARRANGEMENT DRAWING

100 x 100mm SOLID OAK PRIMARY STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT ROLLER CONVEYOR, ALL TO EXTERNAL FINISHED DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN, I.E. 935mm DEEP x 990mm WIDE x 900mm HIGH

SECONDARY TIMBER BASE MEMBERS TO TIE POSTS TO PRIMARY STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK IN POSITION



BACK LINE OF ROLLER CONVEYOR, I.E. SIDE NEAREST CATAFALQUE, TO ALIGN WITH OUTER FACE OF TIMBER FRAMEWORK AS SHOWN

**CONSTRUCTION**

Revised:	?	Date:	?????
		Detail:	?????
			?????

		<b>Property &amp; Projects Department</b> Facilities Management Section Property Maintenance Unit Dunoon Complex Dunoon Road Ballisodune BT23 9BP Tel: 028 9032 0202	
Site No:	196	Site Name:	ROSELAWN CEMETERY
Building No:	19601	Building Name:	CREMATORIUM
Project No:	11674665	Project Name:	PROPOSED WORKS TO LOWER AND PROVIDE EXTENSION TO CATAFALQUE
Drawing No:	AS-05	Drawing Name:	STRUCTURAL FRAME TO ROLLER
Scale:	NOT TO SCALE	Date Drawn:	DEC. 2010
Drawn By:	AHP	Checked by:	DS
		Revised:	-

**ROSELAWN CREMATORIUM -  
Structural Frame to Support Roller**

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Small Grants Scheme
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces and Active Living Manager

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Relevant Background Information</b></p> <p>The Committee is reminded that the Parks Event Small Grants Scheme has been operating successfully since 2006. Its original purpose was to encourage community based groups and organisations to organise and hold events in parks and thus increase their usage and instil a sense of ownership within the community.</p> <p>Each year a short report has been brought to Committee to set out the main headlines from the previous year and to seek authority to advertise the scheme for a further year.</p> <p>Members will recall that a report outlining the groups recommended for support under the scheme is presented to Committee in February of each year for approval.</p> <p>The scheme continues to be popular with community groups, churches, friends groups and other organisations. During 2011, a fund of £60,000 had been allocated for the scheme and a maximum grant of £2,250 was available per group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 33 applications were received</li> <li>• 31 groups were funded</li> <li>• 51 events were to be held</li> <li>• 26 different sites were to be used.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>In line with the Parks and Leisure Department's new vision of animating our parks and open spaces as much as possible and encouraging community events and participation, it is hoped that we will be able to grow and develop this scheme over the next number of years.</p>

	<p>To this end, the department has made a bid for the £60,000 to be increased to £100,000 in the draft estimates for 2012/13 which will be subject to Members consideration of the estimates later this year.</p> <p>It is proposed that the department continue to run the scheme for a further year either at the existing level of £60,000 or (pending approval) at the increased level of £100,000.</p> <p>Officers will be working to develop this grants scheme in the intervening period and will be examining the criteria and structure of the grant ward process in order to encourage a broad range of applicants and help increase participation in the events in parks and open spaces. Any revisions will be brought back to Committee for review and approval.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> Provision of £100,000 has been included in the draft estimates for 2012/13 to cover this extended scheme.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The management of the scheme mainly involves staff from the Open Spaces and Active Living Unit and Business Support. The Community Park Managers and Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups on site.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Having groups organising their own events in parks helps to increase use of parks and encourage a sense of ownership of them.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Committee approve the running of a Parks Small Grants Scheme for the 2012/13 period and, subject to approval through the estimates process, agree to extend the scheme to provide a fund of £100,000.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Responsible officer: Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces and Active Living Manager, closing date of scheme: Tuesday 10 January 2012 Further report to be brought to Committee February 2012 for approval of the grants to be awarded.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.





### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Schools Cup at Musgrave Playing Fields
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the council received a request on 14 September 2011 from the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association (NISFA) to host the quarter finals of the NI Schools Cup at the City of Belfast Playing Fields (Mallusk). The event will have approximately 600 participants from schools across Northern Ireland and approximately 25 schools have teams competing in the quarter finals. Age categories range from under 12s through to under 18s. The date proposed for the event is Wednesday 15 February 2012.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The event took place last year at Mallusk for the first time and the use of a single venue enhanced and promoted cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer and ensured effective and efficient running of the finals.</p> <p><u>Media Coverage</u>          The NISFA has formalised a relationship to work in conjunction with the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph to raise the profile of the Schools Cup. Both will be present at the event ensuring media coverage. Raising the profile of the Schools Cup will have a positive effect on participation levels in schools. Last year the NISFA requested council representation at the televised draw for the finals and hopes to do the same this year, this is planned to take place at the UTV studios.</p> <p>The Community Parks Outreach Manager will liaise with the Lead Communicator and Corporate Communications on potential media coverage and promoting the council's role.</p>

	<p><u>Event Management</u> The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan to address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of council officers.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial Resources</u> Each school participating will cover the cost of their own transport and the sponsors of the NI Schools Cup will cover the cost of the referees. Potential revenue for the use of the pitches is £375.00 however the committee is asked to note that the organisers have made application for free use of both the pitches and the ancillary facilities. Committee is also asked to note that the organisers have requested that 4 pitches be re-marked to accommodate junior football. This will require these pitches to be re-marked again in time for the weekend league fixtures. As the event will be held mid week there will be no displacement to regular users.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> It is estimated that the event will require 2 members of staff to supervise and assist with the allocation of dressing rooms. The ancillary facilities will then need to be cleaned in time for the weekend fixtures. Staffing costs for both is estimated at £138.00.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	<p>There are no equality implications. The 600 under 18 participants represent a range of different age groups, gender, ethnic and religious background.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the quarter finals of the NI School's cup are held at Mallusk subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of council officers.</li> <li>2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and subsequent facilities.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>All actions will be completed by Paula Irvine Community Parks Outreach Manager and Eilish Patton Outdoor Leisure Officer by 31 January 2012.</p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>NISFA: Northern Ireland Schools Football Association.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>None.</p>



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Multi Users Games Area at Waterworks (Upper)
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Parks and Leisure Department

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the former Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries) Sub Committee in October 2005, considered and approved a report on the 'Waterworks and Westland Road Recreation Facility'. This approval followed an earlier presentation by Groundwork NI and the Westland Road Community Group in March 2005. A copy of the minute is attached as appendix 1 and outlines a series of proposals to develop and enhance the site including a playground and sensory garden which have both been delivered. One of the main items was the provision of a multi user games area (MUGA).</p> <p>At the time the sub committee had agreed to the provision of land for the purpose of constructing the MUGA.</p> <p>The community, in partnership with Groundwork NI, have now secured funding through Peace III to construct a MUGA. Officers have been in discussion with Groundwork NI to facilitate the construction of the work. However, the council has now been asked to sign up to a partnership arrangement as set out by the funding organisation. This partnership agreement will be between the council, Groundwork NI and the Westland community.</p> <p>The specific obligations in the agreement for the council are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To maintain and ensure the multi use area at Westland and to ensure that it remains as a public asset post completion of the Sharing our Space Programme.</li> <li>2. To work with the Westland community and Groundwork NI to put in place an appropriate management arrangement;</li> <li>3. To participate in a project working group with other stakeholders; and</li> <li>4. To work in conjunction with Groundwork NI to meet the overarching objectives of the programme.</li> </ol> <p>With the exception of point 1 above the arrangement is merely asking the council to engage in discussions at this time. Members are assured that any</p>

	human resource or financial implications arising from these discussions will be reported back to Committee for consideration and approval to proceed.
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There remain a number of issues to be resolved regarding the physical construction of the MUGA, these include the need for a contamination survey;</li> <li>2. Whilst the scheme is not a council project it will be subject to the council's gates review process;</li> <li>3. Access to the proposed site will be via a piece of land adjacent to the proposed location and which is currently leased to a third party. However, preliminary discussions with the lessee indicate that an accommodation re access will be facilitated;</li> </ol> <p>In order for the project to progress the Committee is asked to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To reaffirm its decision to permit the construction of the MUGA on council land;</li> <li>2. The partnership agreement requests that council undertake the maintenance and insurance of the facility. This had not been previously agreed. While it is acknowledged that it is unlikely that the facility would be economically viable no provision has been made in the revenue estimates for the maintenance; excluding damage owing to vandalism. The maintenance costs could be in the region of £5 – 10,000 per annum. It would approach the higher figure if it became necessary during the year to power hose it should the drainage system become blocked; the Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to accede to request that the council undertakes the maintenance of the facility and incorporates it within the schedule of insurance for the purposes of public liability;</li> <li>3. Members will be aware that the terms and conditions of external funding normally require that the project be sustained for a fixed period of time which can vary according to the level of funding; Groundwork has confirmed with the funding body that it would require a period of 10 years from completion of the works and Groundwork has requested that the council agree to meet the maintenance liability for that same period;</li> <li>4. The construction of the MUGA will be managed by Groundwork NI and it will be necessary to enter into a licence agreement with Groundwork NI and/or its contractor to provide access to the site for the purpose of construction and to indemnify the council from any loss, damage or injury which may be incurred during the construction;</li> <li>5. The officers work with Groundwork NI and the community to develop an appropriate management agreement and programme for the facilities consistent with the objectives of the funding.</li> </ol>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The capital cost of the project will be met through external funding. It is estimated that the annual revenue cost of management and maintenance will</p>

	<p>be in the region of £5-10,000 in the absence of any growth in 2012/13 it will be necessary to meet the cost from existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; inspections and maintenance work will be incorporated within existing resources.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The construction of the MUGA will increase provision for the area and enhance opportunities for participation in sporting activities.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	The project is being progressed as Shared Space Programme and issues around access to the facility will be addressed through the management plan.
<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the report;</li> <li>2. Agree that the council will undertake the maintenance of the facility for a period of at least 10 years from completion and undertake to cover public liability insurance;</li> <li>3. Agree that the council enter into a licence agreement in relation to the construction; and</li> <li>4. Agree that officers work with Groundwork NI and the community to develop an appropriate management agreement and programme for the facilities consistent with the objectives of the funding.</li> </ol>
<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will be presented by the Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager to November Committee.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	MUGA: Multi use games area.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents attached</b>
	Appendix 1: minute of Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries) Sub Committee 11 October 2005.

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**Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services)  
Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 11th October, 2005**

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295**

**Waterworks and Westland Road Recreation Facility**

The Sub-Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"Purpose of Report**

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval of financial support a proposed development at the Upper Waterworks.

**Background**

At its meeting on 8 March 2005 the Sub-Committee received a deputation from Groundwork Northern Ireland and representatives of the Westland Road Community Group who outlined a series of proposals in relation to a phased development of the site.

Following discussion at the meeting the Sub-Committee agreed to:

- (i) Support, in principle, the development of a recreational facility at the Waterworks site adjacent to Westland Road;
- (ii) Support such development in a planned manner in the order of priority determined by the local community;

C  
296**Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services)  
Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 11th October, 2005**

- (iii) Support the community group in seeking funding for the scheme on a phase-by-phase basis; and
- (iv) The Council's contribution to the scheme being limited to the provision of land and the design, development and project management as appropriate.

**Current Position**

Groundwork Northern Ireland is in the process of attempting to secure funding for the project based on its feasibility study.

The project is not in the current Capital Programme and there is no provision within existing revenue budgets to cover any of the costs as outlined under 'resources'.

**Resources**

The overall project cost is estimated at between £388,276 and £445,907 (two options were priced called option 2 and option 3, the main difference between them being the orientation of the multi court area). Groundwork (NI) has split the cost estimate into eight parts at follows:-

1. Front fence, car park, bollards etc.	£41,535.00 (opt. 2&3)
2. Events area	£39,210.00 (opt. 2&3)
3. Sensory garden	£26,500.00 (opt. 2&3)
4. Path network	£34,000.00 (opt. 2&3)
5. Grass sculpture	£ 1,500.00 (opt. 2&3)
6. Play area	£64,329.00 (opt.2) - £70,508.00 (opt 3)
7. Trike track	£14,975.00 (opt.2) - £24,496.00 (opt 3)
8. Multi court area	£71,780.00 (opt.2) - £113,025 .00 (opt 3)

These costs do not include project preliminary costs estimated at 5%, contingencies estimated at 5% or professional fees estimated at between 10% and 15%.

Groundwork (N.I) has indicated that part funding may be available from the Community Environment Support Programme (CESP) and that they will be seeking funding from other sources.



**Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services)  
Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 11th October, 2005**

**C  
297**

**Proposal**

The Sub-Committee is asked to note that at its meeting on 8 March 2005 it agreed that the Council's contribution to the scheme being limited to the provision of land and the design, development and project management as appropriate. If the Section's staff were employed for this purpose there would be no additional cost to the Council and could help save £50,000 to £60,000 on the scheme. In relation to a number of other relatively similar schemes the Council has, on occasions contributed in addition to designing and managing the project in house a cash contribution of around 10%.

If Groundwork (N.I.) or other consultants were appointed to carry out the project management for the project at 15% this would cost between £58,241.40 for option 2 and £66,886.05 for option 3.

**Environmental Impact**

A successfully completed scheme would significantly improve the local environment for the general public and have a minimal disturbance on existing natural habitats.

It is proposed therefore that the Sub-Committee's contribution to the scheme be:-

- (a) the provision of land (previously agreed);
- (b) the design, development and project management of the scheme; and
- (c) 10% cash contribution to the overall cost.

**Resources**

The Capital Programme has an item, based on a 10% cash contribution for the development of play areas.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee proceeds to develop the scheme on the basis as outlined under proposal."

The Sub-Committee agreed to adopt the recommendation contained within the foregoing report.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Hire of Musgrave Bowling Pavilion
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The council has received a request from Mr Alan Gibson, on behalf of a non-denominational Christian group, who wish to hire Musgrave Bowling Pavilion each Friday evening (8.00pm to 9.00pm) commencing 20 January 2012 to 27 April 2012 (inclusive) for a series of gospel meetings.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The group will require the main hall, reception, toilets and car park adjacent to the building. Access to the pavilion will be through the main vehicular gate off Hospital Road which will be opened and closed by staff before commencement and at the end of each hire period. The event is anticipated to attract an estimated number of between eighty and one hundred people each week.</p> <p>The group has requested permission to use a small battery operated public address system. Mr Gibson has confirmed that there would be no charge or fee or collection of money at the gospel meetings. No food or catering is required. No advertising would be placed outside or around council property; however Mr Gibson wishes to hand out invitation cards outside the park.</p> <p>The council's events policy places responsibility for appropriate management of waste associated with an event with the event organiser. Officers will ensure that the organiser is in receipt of our Events Policy – "Handbook for Applicants" which outlines clearly that arrangements must be in place for litter collection and gives guidance on appropriate steps, based on the scale of the event proposed.</p> <p>As with all events, but particularly because of the evening element to this event it is essential that health and safety and other issues are addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the event organisers to the satisfaction of council officers.</p>

	<p>Current policy permits the use of council premises for religious activity as long as there is no breach of Section 76 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>The council previously granted Mr Gibson permission to hold gospel meetings at Ormeau Bowling Pavilion between January and April 2011. These proved to be a success and attendees averaged between eighty and one hundred each evening.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> There would be a hire charge for the period of hire in line with the council's pricing policy. Mr Gibson has agreed to contribute towards the cost of providing staff cover for this event.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Current bowling pavilion attendants will provide cover for this event involving maximum three hours cover each Friday evening to open and close the building and park gates.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the permission is granted for this subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>ii. appropriate documentation is in place prior to commencement, to include event management plan, public liability documentation and appropriate risk assessments</li> <li>iii. the event organisers meet all statutory requirements;</li> <li>iv. an agreement is reached regarding the charge for use of the facility which will cover the department's costs and the agreed hire charge</li> <li>v. the building is inspected and deemed fit for use by the councils health and safety officer</li> </ol>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Officer responsible: Patrick Smyth, Community Parks Manager. Actions to be completed by: 27 April 2012</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Mary Peters Track
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager Dermot Black, Property and Projects Department

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	Committee is reminded that at its meeting in September 2011 it asked that a monthly progress report be submitted on the refurbishment of the Mary Peters Track.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The current position is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The council committed £3m to the refurbishment of the Mary Peters Track in February 2011.</li> <li>2. Pre-application discussions have been held with Planning Service.</li> <li>3. Officers have engaged with PSNI regarding design out crime and a report will follow.</li> <li>4. A tree survey and ecological report have been completed.</li> <li>5. A presentation has been made to the Board of the Lagan Valley Regional Park within which the track is located as part of the pre-planning discussions;</li> <li>6. Queen University, from whom the council hold a lease to the land on which the track has been constructed, are aware of the proposals.</li> <li>7. A design team has been appointed and a proposal was submitted to the Planning Service in September.</li> </ol> <p>In the coming months officers will continue to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. liaise with the Planning Service;</li> <li>2. work up detailed design proposals based on the submission to the planning service;</li> <li>3. work up a specification regarding future management of the facility which will be subject to external expressions of interest;</li> <li>4. work with Northern Ireland Athletics to manage closure during the works phase; and</li> </ol>

	<p>5. put in place a communication plan to update users, interested parties and the general public of the proposals.</p> <p>Subject to planning and any issues that might arise the current anticipated programme is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 2011: issue tender.</li> <li>• March 2011: commence work on site.</li> <li>• March 2013: project completion.</li> </ul>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<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>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	<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>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. note the report; and</li> <li>2. consider whether it would like to receive a short presentation on the proposals which will be submitted to the Planning Service for approval at a future meeting.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Further report to be presented by the Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager in November 2011.</p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	<p>None.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents attached</b>
	<p>None.</p>



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Midnight Soccer Programme
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Adrian Walker, Acting Leisure Operations Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The Midnight Soccer intervention programme ran from July – September 2011. In June 2011 Health and Environmental Services (Community Safety Section) successfully applied for summer intervention funding of £6,900 on behalf of the Parks and Leisure Department to develop this initiative. It was intended that midnight soccer would be available at the following leisure centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoniel</li> <li>• Ballysillan</li> <li>• Olympia</li> <li>• Whiterock</li> </ul> <p>The proposal was developed to service all geographical areas of Belfast and was designed to operate primarily between the hours of 2000-2300 during Tuesday/Wednesday and Friday evenings.</p> <p>The original objective of the project was to create a diversionary activity in order to help reduce traditionally higher levels of antisocial behaviour within Belfast during the summer months. In addition the expansion of community and voluntary sector linkages was identified as a mutual benefit to operating the project.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key issues/events</b>
	<p>Following the award of funding an implementation plan involving representatives from Parks and Leisure, Community Safety, PSNI and Belfast Community Sports Development Network (BCSDN) was developed and the initial Midnight Soccer session was held at Avoniel Leisure Centre on Friday 8 July. BCSDN were chosen to co-ordinate all coaching and refereeing aspects of the programme and the council managed infrastructure, logistics, advertising, safety and equipment provision.</p>

The initial plan was expanded to include an under 14 age group in addition to the targeted 14-17 age group. The under 14 sessions were named "Community Kick About" and due to the programme expansion and leisure centre availability the Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) sports pitch was also utilised as part of the programme. This further enhanced the ability of the scheme to reach a greater volume of young people.

An interim report during early August indicated that the programme was enjoying a notable level of success. Average weekly attendances for both age groups were recorded as follows:

- Avoniel: 75
- Ballysillan: 105
- Olympia: 45 (limited pitch availability)
- LORAG: 75
- Whiterock: 85

Whilst previous Midnight Soccer initiatives had been undertaken in specific geographical areas this programme has formed the basis of the first structured citywide involvement from Parks and Leisure in conjunction with partners. It should also be noted that traditionally the East Belfast area has struggled to successfully implement such a programme however this year's initiative attracted nearly 600 young people to Avoniel Leisure Centre for soccer participation. Ballysillan Leisure Centre enjoyed the single highest participation level when numbers had to be limited to 130 during a Friday evening session.

A 'Finals Day' was organised at Ballysillan Leisure Centre for Sunday 4 September 2011. This celebratory event invited the best performing nine teams during the programme, throughout the city, to Ballysillan for a league style competition. Following the league style event a knock out finale resulted in the Village team defeating Santos by a score of 1-0. The successful Village team received their trophy from the Lord Mayor.

In addition to competing teams from geographical Belfast areas, players originating from Romania and Hungary participated enthusiastically throughout the initiative.

Programme feedback involved surveying 104 participants on 19 August 2011. The resulting surveys indicated that some 77% of participants identified that they would have either been consuming alcohol (27%) taking narcotics (18%) or walking the streets (32%) if the programme had not been commissioned. 96% of young people advised that they had enjoyed the initiative and the optimum ages ranges were 16-17 (55%) and 14-15 (37%).

The programme has surpassed officer expectations and all involved are keen to develop and expand the Midnight Soccer initiative during 2012.



<b>3. Resource Implications</b>																				
<p><u>Human Resources</u> A Leisure Centre Manager was directly deployed to co-ordinate the programme development and management. Support was received from Leisure Operations, Leisure Development, Community Safety, P&amp;L ASB Co-ordinator and BCSDN.</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Costs</b></th> <th></th> <th><b>Funding</b></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BCSDN coaching and refereeing costs</td> <td>£10500</td> <td>Department of Justice</td> <td>£6900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advertising/equipment purchase</td> <td>£2500</td> <td>Council contribution</td> <td>£ 9300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport</td> <td>£ 3200</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£16200</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>£16200</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Facilities utilised during periods of low usage and times of closure.</p>	<b>Costs</b>		<b>Funding</b>		BCSDN coaching and refereeing costs	£10500	Department of Justice	£6900	Advertising/equipment purchase	£2500	Council contribution	£ 9300	Transport	£ 3200			<b>Total</b>	<b>£16200</b>		<b>£16200</b>
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<b>4. Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>																				
This was a cross community scheme which contributed positively to good relations in the city.																				
<b>5. Recommendations</b>																				
That Committee note the contents of this report and support the proposed development of this initiative during 2012.																				
<b>6. Decision Tracking</b>																				
N/A																				
<b>7. Key to Abbreviations</b>																				
BCSDN – Belfast Community Sports Development Network. LORAG – Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group																				
<b>8. Documents Attached</b>																				
None.																				

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Tenders
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>In June, Members gave approval for a list of planned procurement exercises for the department. In addition, it was noted that another report, if necessary, would be tabled in October seeking approval for additional procurement exercises. As previously reported, there may also be occasions when individual requests are tabled outside of the two main reports, but these will be by exception and reasons will be included in any such report.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Subject to approval, it is intended to initiate procurement exercises for the following contracts/tenders;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supply and delivery of haylage, meadow hay and barley straw at Belfast Zoo;</li> <li>• supply and delivery of fruit and vegetables at Belfast Zoo;</li> <li>• supply, delivery and application of top dressing sand for parks and playing fields;</li> <li>• supply of fertiliser, grass seed and pesticides for parks and playing fields;</li> <li>• supply and delivery of memorial seats at cemetery sites; and</li> <li>• provision of research, market testing, evaluation, and facilitation services</li> </ul> <p>The length of each tender will be determined on a case by case basis and the department will ensure appropriate contract management processes are in place for each one.</p> <p>Committee is asked to note that all tenders will be evaluated on both cost and quality and tenders will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tenders.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>														
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> The cost / value of each tender has been provided for within the relevant Revenue Estimates for the department. Contract tenders are for a period of more than one year, unless stated. Anticipated value is as follows;</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="405 528 1174 1473"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="405 528 788 591"><b>Tender</b></th> <th data-bbox="817 528 1174 591"><b>Potential Annual Cost / Revenue</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 600 788 703">supply and delivery of haylage, meadow hay and barley straw at belfast zoo</td> <td data-bbox="817 600 1174 636">£20,000 per annum</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 734 788 837">supply and delivery of fruit and vegetables at belfast zoo</td> <td data-bbox="817 734 1174 770">£100,000 per annum.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 891 788 1025">supply, delivery and application of top dressing sand for parks and playing fields</td> <td data-bbox="817 891 1174 927">£60,000 per annum</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 1070 788 1173">provision of research, market testing, evaluation, and facilitation services</td> <td data-bbox="817 1070 1174 1106">£50,000 per annum</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 1218 788 1321">supply of fertiliser, grass seed and pesticides for parks and playing fields</td> <td data-bbox="817 1218 1174 1254">£100,000 per annum</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="405 1366 788 1469">supply and delivery of memorial seats at cemetery sites</td> <td data-bbox="817 1366 1174 1433">£16,000 per annum, depending on demand</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="280 1545 552 1581"><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p data-bbox="280 1653 695 1688"><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Completion of the identified procurement exercises will enable the department to continue to provide a high standard service while still effectively managing our resources.</p>	<b>Tender</b>	<b>Potential Annual Cost / Revenue</b>	supply and delivery of haylage, meadow hay and barley straw at belfast zoo	£20,000 per annum	supply and delivery of fruit and vegetables at belfast zoo	£100,000 per annum.	supply, delivery and application of top dressing sand for parks and playing fields	£60,000 per annum	provision of research, market testing, evaluation, and facilitation services	£50,000 per annum	supply of fertiliser, grass seed and pesticides for parks and playing fields	£100,000 per annum	supply and delivery of memorial seats at cemetery sites	£16,000 per annum, depending on demand
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supply and delivery of memorial seats at cemetery sites	£16,000 per annum, depending on demand														
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>														
	The tendering process requires companies to include their equality policy within their submission.														

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Members approve the proposed tendering exercises and authorise the Director, under the scheme of delegation, to award the successful tenders.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All tenders to be issued, evaluated and approved during the financial year 2011/12.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	None.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation on Enabling Legislation for National Parks
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>In March of this year, prior to the Assembly elections, the Department of the Environment (DoENI) published a White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks as a first step towards bringing forward legislation to allow for the creation of national parks in Northern Ireland. At that time the Department indicated that, following the Assembly elections, an expanded paper would be published for formal consultation.</p> <p>A new document was published at the end of August and includes the white paper as an appendix for ease of reference. This looks in more detail at the governance options for a national park and seeks answers to a number of specific questions on national park issues with a view to developing policy proposals for enabling legislation to be brought before the Assembly</p> <p>The consultation period has been extended to allow for proper consideration of this new material and responses are to be sent to DoENI no later than Monday 31st October 2011.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>DoENI is currently undertaking a public consultation on Enabling Legislation for National Parks; the consultation documents are provided at Appendix 1.</p> <p>In summary, the consultation asks for responses to ten questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are your views on the proposed aims of national parks?</li> <li>2. What are your views on the proposed criteria for identifying areas that may be suitable as national parks?</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. What are your views on the proposed arrangements for consulting on a proposal to designate a specific area as a national park?</li> <li>4. What are your views on the proposed management framework arrangements for national parks?</li> <li>5. What are your views on the proposed duties, functions and powers of a national park management body?</li> <li>6. What are your views on the proposed role of a national park management body in planning matters?</li> <li>7. What are your views on the governance options?</li> <li>8. What are your views on the proposed constitution of a national park management body?</li> <li>9. Do you share the Department's analysis in the Partial RIA that national parks will have little or no negative impact?</li> <li>10. Are there any other comments which you wish to make about the Department's proposals?</li> </ol> <p>Following consideration by relevant officers across the council, a response has been completed in draft form for approval by Members. This is provided at Appendix 2.</p> <p>In summary, the draft response agrees with the proposals made in the consultation documents and highlights the need for both local and regional involvement in any management or governance structure that is chosen to ensure all interests are represented.</p> <p>Subject to approval by Committee, it is proposed that the final response is submitted to DoENI by 31 October with the proviso that this is subject to full council approval at its meeting in November.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	<p>In the consultation documents, DoENI states that it has undertaken an equality impact screening of the regulations, and has concluded that "there is no adverse impact for any of the nine categories listed under Section 75".</p>



<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the contents of this report; and</li> <li>• approve submission of a final consultation response to DoENI, subject to any comments or amendment provided, by the deadline of 31 October.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Policy and Business Development Manager to action submission of the consultation response by 31 October 2011.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>DoENI - Department of the Environment</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Consultation Documents Appendix 2: Draft Consultation Response.</p>

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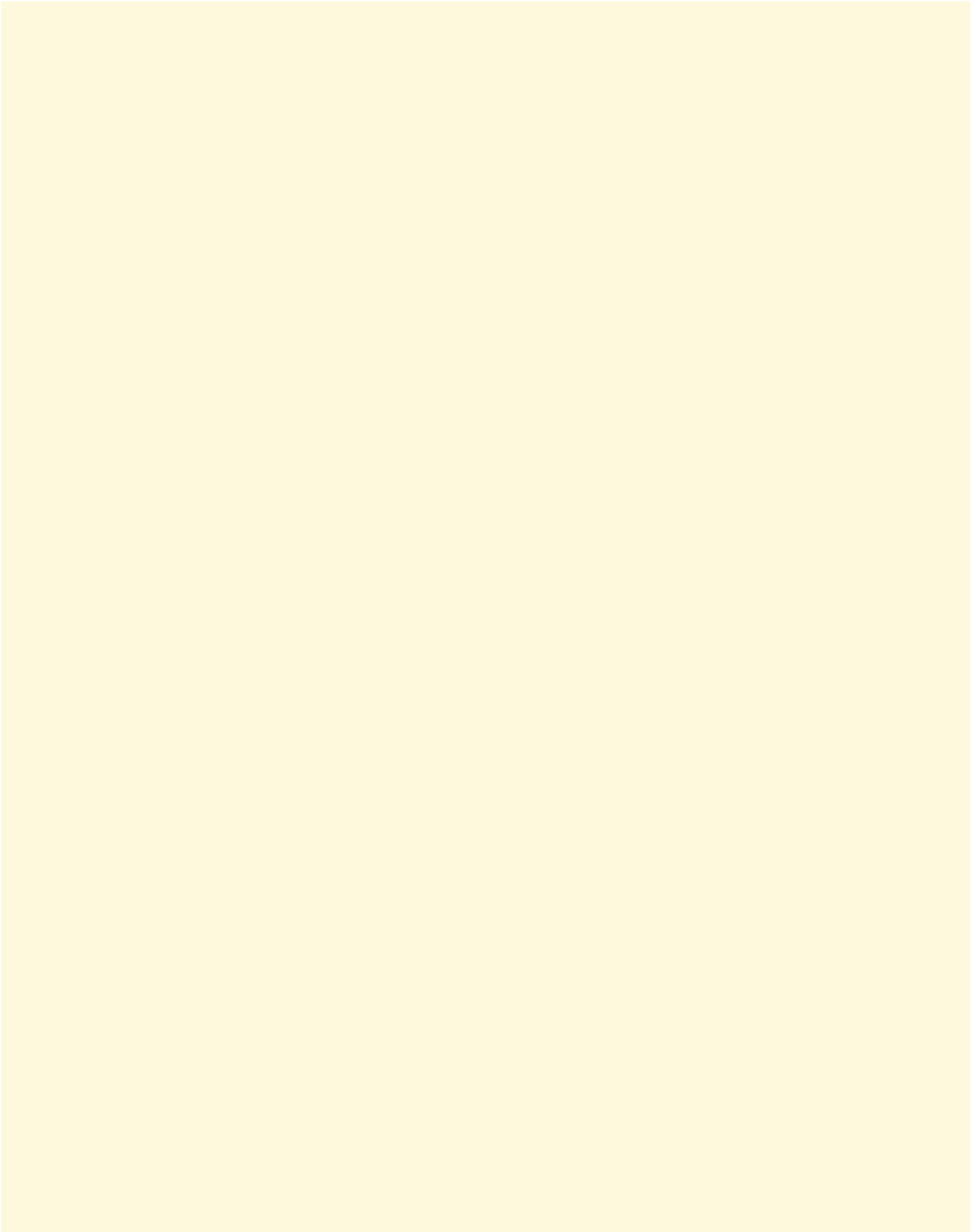
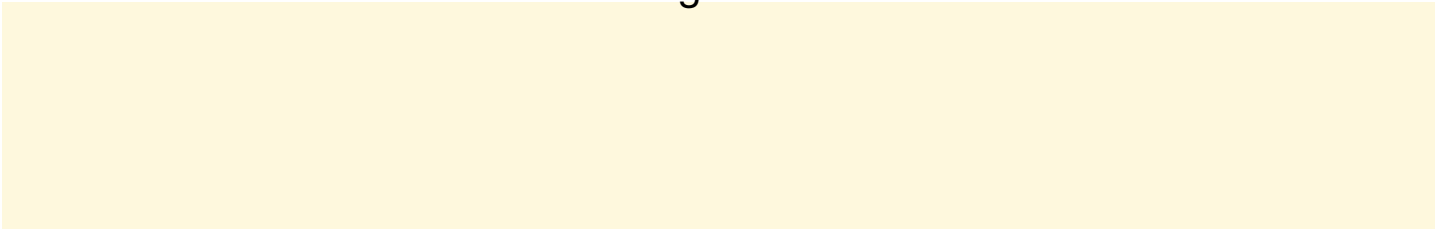


**DOE**

Department of  
the Environment  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

**Consultation Document on**  
**Enabling Legislation**  
**for National Parks**

**August 2011**



# Contents

How to respond	3
Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultation responses	4
Foreword	5
Introduction	6
Governance	7
• Governance Options	8
• Analysis of Options	13
• Constitution of a Management Body	16
• Responsibilities and Skills of Board Members	18
Access and Occupiers' Liability	19
Consultation Questions	20
Appendix 1     White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks	21
Appendix 2     Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment	37
Appendix 3     Confidentiality of Consultation	42
Appendix 4     Screening for Equality Impact Assessment	43
Appendix 5     Rural Proofing Statement	52
Appendix 6     List of Consultees	53

# 1. How To Respond

03

## Responding to this consultation

There is no requirement to respond to all the questions in this consultation.

### Response method

Responses to this consultation can be sent either by post or email to:

#### Post

David Gray  
Department of the Environment  
Environmental Policy Division  
8th Floor  
Goodwood House  
44 – 58 May Street  
Belfast, BT1 4NN

#### E-mail:

National.Parks@doeni.gov.uk

You are invited to respond to this consultation no later than 31st October 2011.

Should you have any enquiries please send them to National.Parks@doeni.gov.uk or call 02890 254721

An electronic copy of the consultation document can be obtained if required by using the contact details above. It is also available on the Department's website at <http://www.doeni.gov.uk> (click on 'Natural Environment' and on 'National Parks').

This document may be made available in alternative formats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. Information and additional copies of the document can be requested by Text phone on 02890 540642.

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Confidentiality of consultation responses.**

The Department of the Environment (DOE) may wish to publish responses to the consultation document. It will certainly publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation exercise.

In addition, your response may be disclosed on request.

DOE is only able to refuse disclosure in very particular circumstances. Therefore, you are advised to read the information at Appendix 3 before sending a response to this consultation document. It provides guidance on the legal position of any information given by you.

Should you require further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact:

Information Commissioner's Office (Northern Ireland)  
51 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8FE

**Telephone number:**

028 9026 9380

**Fax:**

028 9026 9388

Alternatively, your request can be sent electronically to [ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk)  
Information can also be accessed at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

## **What happens next?**

Following the closure of the consultation on 31st October 2011, all responses will be analysed and considered, along with any other available evidence to help us reach decisions on the development of enabling legislation for national parks for Northern Ireland.

## 2. Foreword

05

My predecessor launched a White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks prior to the Assembly elections earlier this year. At that time it was announced that further material would be made available for consultation at a later date. I am making that material available now through this document.

I am on record as saying that I favour the concept of national parks. We are fortunate in having a number of areas that are likely to meet the proposed criteria set out in the White Paper. However, the debate over the designation of a specific area will be for another day and will involve the whole Executive, as well as further public consultation.

In the meantime, I hope that many people will take this opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding a national park and to consider the specific questions that we have posed. I recognise that some have genuine concerns about the impact that a park might have on them, their homes and their businesses. But I want to create a consensus and bring all stakeholders on board. I believe that most people accept the principle of a national park – it is putting the principle into practice that creates anxieties.

That is why my Department is publishing this comprehensive consultation paper. It brings together in one document all our thinking, and it looks in detail at how a national park might be managed in a way that reconciles both local and national interests.

We seek recognition of our most cherished landscapes through the national park label, while utilising it as an economic driver that will boost local business and provide sustainable employment and new business opportunities for this and future generations. Above all, we want to create a national park model that is right for our local circumstances.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Attwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Alex Attwood MLA**  
**Minister of the Environment**



### 3. Introduction

06

1. The Department published a White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks on 24 March, prior to the recent Assembly elections. The paper focused on our policy in relation to the proposed aims, selection criteria and the designation process associated with national parks.
2. It also announced that further material would be published during the consultation period. This would look in more detail at the various governance options for a national park and seek responses to a number of questions on the full range of national park issues.
3. To avoid unnecessary repetition, this latest document includes the White Paper as an Appendix. It also brings together and expands the Department's thinking on the constitution of a management body, the responsibilities and skills of board members, and a wide selection of governance options.
4. One of the potentially most sensitive issues in relation to national parks is that of access. In this paper we have set out our thinking on access and on occupiers' liability, to which access is closely associated. We hope that this stance will serve to reassure landowners and farmers in particular, as we seek to develop a national park model that is appropriate for Northern Ireland.
5. The appendices include an outline Regulatory Impact Assessment. As this impact assessment relates to enabling legislation, this is of necessity short on facts and figures. When we reach the point of designating a specific area, it should be possible to provide a more detailed analysis.
6. Finally, as mentioned above, we have included a list of consultation questions to which we would particularly welcome responses. These relate to both this document and the White Paper (which is included as Appendix 1). The list does not claim to be exhaustive, and we welcome any other comments that respondents may wish to make on the issue of national parks generally.

## 4. Governance

07

1. The White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks highlighted the need for any national park to have a competent management body with adequate funding. The following paragraphs seek to expand on the contents of the White Paper to give consultees a stronger flavour of the Department's current thinking.
2. In pursuit of delivery of park aims it is envisaged that any national park would require a management body that would need to be able to initiate, facilitate and encourage development in its broadest sense. For example, it is expected that the body would have an intimate knowledge and understanding of the area, its natural and built heritage, its culture and its communities. It would seek to encourage and cultivate ideas (not necessarily its own); plan strategically; and develop and manage programmes for the betterment of the park area. When appropriate, it would arrange specialist input – for example, research, marketing, mentoring, training, education and advice.
3. Above all, a management body would promote the park and public enjoyment of it for the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland and beyond. The body would have a duty to foster the economic and social wellbeing of any area identified. A national park ethos sits very easily with the Department's objective of environmental justice. In practical terms, environmental justice strives to ensure that everyone has a right to expect to benefit from a clean and healthy environment, free from pollution or other detrimental activities.
4. Of course, a national park is not just about environmental goals. The evidence from national parks established elsewhere shows that the benefits derived also align closely with other Departments' objectives. For example, rural development; health and wellbeing benefits; research, scientific and educational opportunities; and tourism and other economic gains. In addition to Government's aims, national parks promote a sense of civic pride, both locally and nationally, which comes with promoting the unique and positive qualities of particular parts of Northern Ireland.
5. Therefore, any management body would need to be able to focus on the area of the park. It should be able to manage its own budget (in a closely audited and transparent fashion), with the flexibility to borrow, bring in resources from a range of sources (for example, European funding and the Lottery), and make grants and loans. It would need the capacity to enter into financial and other agreements and contracts, including the ability to form companies or partnerships and coalitions with other interested parties. The power to employ people with the right skills and profile would be crucial in fostering a skilled workforce to serve the park and its people. The body may also need the authority to make by-laws to assist with visitor management issues and to acquire land by agreement. It would thus need to be a separate legal entity to facilitate the foregoing activities.

## Governance Options

6. The White Paper highlighted that there was a wide range of governance options. Of these, two particular models stood out as providing a substantial level of local input. These were a local independent body for each park or a joint governance committee comprising district council representatives and departmental appointees. However, the Department is keen to explore all possibilities to provide a structure which is right for Northern Ireland. The pros and cons of all the options are considered below, but there may be other scenarios which the Department has not highlighted, and we would be keen to hear views as to their relevance.

### Option 1: DOE

7. Under this option DOE would act as Northern Ireland's National Parks Service and would open and staff a local office in each park and provide day-to-day park management. A local national park advisory committee would also have to be established in each park to counter criticisms of decision making being out of touch with local people. It is anticipated that this option may be perceived to be too conservation focused and may stifle innovation and enterprise and hinder focused park management. In Britain national parks are not managed by a central government department. This is in contrast to the Republic of Ireland where publicly-owned national parks are managed in this way. The advantages and disadvantages of this option are summarised below:

#### Advantages:

- Well placed to ensure effective representation of the national interest.
- Obviates the need for creation of an independent body.
- Brigades national park management and management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in the same organisation.

#### Disadvantages:

- Hampers a clear focus being brought to bear on the specific functions of landscape management.
- Less flexible and responsive to local needs than other options.
- Less innovative and enterprising approach to landscape management.
- Centralised nature is a serious weakness – park management would be viewed as remote and out of touch with local people.
- Park management suffers from being an appendix to a parent organisation which has other priorities.
- Lower park profile with attendant risk of reduced economic benefits.

## **Option 2: Single independent body with Northern Ireland-wide remit for both national parks and AONBs**

8. The body would effectively be a Landscape Protection Service for Northern Ireland with a headquarters in some central location. The body's activities would be monitored by DOE. It would need to create the local advisory structures described in option 1 above to counter criticism of remoteness from local people. The extent to which additional structures and resources would be needed to deal with AONBs would depend very much on whether AONB legislation is strengthened or not.
9. The arm's length agreement associated with the independent body approach is particularly suited to national park management. It would allow the management body to focus in depth on the clear and specific functions and purposes which lie at the heart of landscape protection. It would also permit a flexible, responsive and innovative approach.
10. A potential issue with this option is its centralised nature which may make it remote from local people. In addition, it would be responsible for a very large number of sites (there are eight existing AONBs). Consequently, it would be impossible to populate a governing board in any meaningful way with people who would be representative of any particular site.
11. The advantages and disadvantages of this option are summarised below:

### **Advantages:**

- Clear focus on the specific functions of landscape management.
- Focused management unfettered by the corporate pressures of a parent organisation.
- More flexible and responsive to local needs than option 1.
- More innovative and enterprising approach to landscape management.
- Brigades national park management and AONB management in the same organisation.
- Well placed to ensure effective representation of the national interest.

### **Disadvantages:**

- Centralised nature is a potential disadvantage – park management could be viewed as remote and out of touch with local people.
- Extremely difficult to populate the body's governing board with people representative of the area being managed given the large number of geographically separate sites.
- Potentially bureaucratic with three layers of management.
- Raises expectations about AONB management which may not be fulfilled.
- Risks dilution of the impact and benefit of the national park initiative.

### **Option 3: Single independent body with Northern Ireland-wide remit for national parks**

12. Under this option the body would effectively be a National Parks Service for Northern Ireland. It would establish a regional headquarters in an appropriate central location and it would need to establish a local office in each park. It would also need to set up a local national park advisory committee in each park in order to give local people some voice in park management. The body's activities would be monitored by DOE.
13. The arm's length arrangement associated with the independent body approach would be suited to national park management. It would allow the management body to focus in depth on the clear and specific functions and purposes which lie at the heart of landscape protection. It would also permit a flexible, responsive and innovative approach.
14. In common with the previous two options, this option would probably be based in a centralised location. The prospect of decisions about local governance being taken by a remote, unelected body may be unpopular. This model has not been adopted either in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. Scotland recently reviewed its two independent local national park management bodies after five years of operation and concluded that the present decentralised arrangements should continue. The advantages and disadvantages of this option can be summarised as follows:

#### **Advantages:**

- Clear focus on the specific functions of park management.
- Focused park management unfettered by the corporate pressures of a parent organisation.
- Offers flexible and responsive operation.
- Provides innovative and enterprising approach to park management.
- Well placed to ensure effective representation of the national interest.

#### **Disadvantages:**

- Centralised nature is a potential weakness – park management could be viewed as remote and out of touch with local people.
- Difficult to populate the body's governing board with people representative of the area being managed.
- Bureaucratic – there would be three layers of management (Department, centralised body and some form of local advisory committee).
- Perceived cumbersome approach if Northern Ireland is limited to one or two national parks in the short to medium term.

## Option 4: District Council

15. This option would deliver local governance and obviate the need for the creation of a new independent organisation. It would also sit comfortably with the other powers that may be devolved to district councils, such as land use planning and community planning. Under this option DOE would have an overarching policy influencing, monitoring and sponsoring role, while park management would be a district council responsibility. Each park would be managed by a district council committee or, in the case of a park straddling district council boundaries, a joint district council committee. We would propose that the district council committee would establish a local office in the park. There would be no need to set up the local national park advisory committees envisaged under options 1, 2 and 3, but there would be a need to introduce some sort of mechanism for ensuring that the national interest is represented on the management body.
16. However, this option is not without drawbacks. For example, the guaranteeing of effective representation of the national interest is likely to prove problematical. This model has been tried in England and Wales, particularly in the early years of national park management, but it was subsequently abandoned. It was considered in Scotland but not adopted in either national park. The advantages and disadvantages of this option are summarised below:

### Advantages:

- Delivers local decision making and local accountability.
- Would sit comfortably with other possible roles for district councils in relation to land use and planning, community planning, and rural development and regeneration.
- Obviates the need for creation of an independent body.

### Disadvantages:

- Hampers a clear focus being brought to bear on the specific functions of national park management.
- Park management suffers from being an appendix to a parent organisation which has other priorities. This was an important consideration when England moved away from local authority-run parks and set up independent park authorities in the 1990s.
- Need for Councils to manage a wider remit may stifle the adoption of a flexible, responsive and innovative approach that has been developed in national parks elsewhere.
- Lower park profile with attendant risk of reduced economic benefits.
- Potential weakness around the issue of ensuring effective representation of the national interest.
- Cumbersome where a park straddles a district council boundary.

- As district councils are likely to be the planning authorities, this may be perceived to be a more restrictive planning regime. It could result in more opposition to a proposed park designation.
- Not favoured by established national parks elsewhere which saw merit in an independent, dedicated management organisation.

### **Option 5: A Local Independent Body for Each Park**

17. The local body's governing board would be structured to ensure that both the national and local interests have effective representation. DOE would set up a small sponsoring unit to oversee the body's activities. The creation of the governing board described above would obviate the need for the creation of the sort of national park advisory committees envisaged under options 1, 2 and 3.
18. As is the case with options 2 and 3, the arm's length arrangement associated with the independent body approach is particularly suited to national park management. It would allow the management body to focus in depth on the clear and specific functions and purposes which lie at the heart of landscape protection. It would also permit a flexible, responsive and innovative approach.
19. The advantages and disadvantages of this option are summarised below:

#### **Advantages:**

- Clear focus on the specific functions of national park management.
- Focused park management unfettered by the corporate pressures of a parent organisation.
- Offers flexible and responsive operation.
- Provides innovative and enterprising approach to park management.
- Delivers local decision making and secures local buy-in while at the same time allowing for effective representation of the national interest.
- Less bureaucratic than the centralised independent body option.
- Facilitates promotion of a high profile for the park and maximisation of the economic benefits of designation.

#### **Disadvantages:**

- Need for review if and when subsequent parks are proposed.
- More expensive than a centralised solution which utilises an existing organisation such as DOE or a district council.

## Analysis of Options

20. It will not be possible to take a definitive decision as to the most appropriate organisational arrangements in advance of a full economic appraisal. However, in the meantime the Department has undertaken an initial analysis of the options to inform this consultation exercise. There are several key advantages in an independent organisation (option 5) including the ability of such an organisation to achieve a clear locally-engaged focus and an ability to flexibly address the many challenging cross-cutting issues associated with establishing and managing a national park. The main disadvantage with this option is the potential cost compared with the other options which could use existing HR, financial systems and corporate services resources as well as existing accommodation and expertise. Option 4 (the district council option) is a compromise, providing for greater local input to an area's management, while being less costly. Given the advantages associated with options 4 and 5, some further analysis is provided on each of them below.

### Further Analysis of Option 4

21. While the primary key advantage of option 4 is the ability of this option to facilitate local input, it also has several potential disadvantages which could possibly hamper effectiveness. A district council driven approach may hinder an in-depth focus being brought to bear on the specific functions and purposes that lie at the heart of national park management. The need for councils to manage their wider remit may stifle the adoption of the flexible, responsive and innovative approach which parks in Britain have been able to employ to the benefit of parks' communities and their landscapes. Significantly, this option has already been tried out in England and Wales and has been discarded in every case in favour of the special purpose independent body option.

### Further Analysis of Option 5

22. Governance was a critical issue in establishing national parks elsewhere and the consensus was that park management should be delivered by an independent dedicated management organisation rather than a district council.
23. The arm's length arrangement associated with an independent body approach is particularly suited to national park management. It would allow the management body to operate at some level of independence from Ministers and to focus in depth on the clear and specific functions and purposes which lie at the heart of landscape protection. An independent body would also be unfettered by the corporate pressures of a parent organisation, allowing it to adopt a flexible, responsive, innovative and enterprising approach that could maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits of a national park.
24. This option has the added advantage of having been proven elsewhere to be efficient and



effective. Crucially, Cabinet Office, and Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), guidance is that this type of arrangement is appropriate for regulatory and specialist advisory functions. The DFP Classification Guide states that NDPBs are ideally suited in areas where political considerations should play little part in decisions but where it is agreed the function should still be carried out in the public sector. Preliminary discussions with DFP officials have confirmed the appropriateness of this approach.

## Cost of Option 5

25. As the overall thrust of the consultation exercise is to take forward enabling framework legislation only, it has not been possible to cost any of the options with any degree of exact accuracy. This will only be possible when a specific area has been identified and factors such as population, topography and the size of the area can be taken into consideration, as well as any other significant issues that are unique to that locality and which could impact on governance.
26. However, general costings based on perceived activities for a national park management body may be in the range of up to £2m, calculated as follows:

ACTIVITY	COST
<b>Promoting understanding of an area.</b> (Includes visitor centre(s), media promotion, marketing of brand, information boards, developing corporate image, educational material, working with locals to explore business opportunities, integrating and coordinating actions/resources of other public bodies, etc.)	£800,000
<b>Conservation of natural and cultural heritage.</b> (Includes grants to other bodies and individuals within park boundary to undertake measures to conserve/enhance local environment, path restoration, control erosion, enhance local places of interest, upgrade infrastructure such as car parking, etc.)	£200,000
<b>Promoting enjoyment of the area.</b> (Provide a service to local communities and visitors to ensure the national park's assets are fully utilised in a sustainable way while not being degraded due to misuse, litter, lack of information or vandalism.)	£200,000
<b>Staffing</b> (approximately 20 full time) (To manage the national park area as set out above. Staff complement would include administrative, ranger/volunteers, visitor centre/ educational, marketing/media, as well as HR/finance and chief executive. Also possibility for a grant officer to pursue EU, HLF or other relevant funding opportunities.)	£600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,800,000</b>

27. In addition to the above, there will be additional start-up costs in terms of securing leases to relevant properties to accommodate staff, as well as purchasing ICT, other office equipment and possibly vehicles.
28. The potential costs associated with setting up and running a national park – around £2m per year – may appear excessive to devote to a particular and defined area. However, experience in national parks in Britain has clearly demonstrated that such expenditure attracts and generates a great deal of income. For example, an assessment of benefits of national park authorities undertaken by Defra in May 2011 identified clear financial multipliers. According to the Defra document, “as Northumberland spends approximately £900,000 on tourism annually, this gives a cost benefit ratio of 1:9.”. In addition, “in terms of promoting recreation, an illustrative cost benefit ratio of 1:4 is calculated for all Great Britain national parks.”.
29. In addition to clear monetary benefits, there are also benefits in terms of promoting health (physical and mental wellbeing) within the natural environment. While it is impossible to quantify the level of this benefit for individuals, or to cost direct or indirect savings to the health and social services, the linkages between green spaces and wellbeing have been well documented in medical journals and other relevant literature.
30. Another benefit associated with national parks in Britain is on-going initiatives to encourage socially excluded groups that would not usually access such areas to enjoy the benefits which national parks have to offer. Social exclusion is a short-hand term for what can happen when people or areas have a combination of problems, such as unemployment, discrimination, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime and family breakdown. These problems are linked and mutually reinforcing. Social exclusion is an extreme consequence of what happens when people do not get a fair deal and find themselves in difficult situations. Initiatives within national parks try to encourage greater participation in activities, to build confidence and foster self-belief within individuals. Again, a very difficult benefit to cost in monetary terms.

## **Conclusion of Analysis**

31. The evidence therefore indicates that if the economic, social and environmental benefits of a national park are to be maximised through local engagement, options 4 (district council) and 5 (the independent body option) appear to provide the best solution.
32. It is hoped to designate a national park in the short to medium term following enabling legislation coming into force. In the event that Northern Ireland was to establish a second or third national park, there would be scope under option 5 to secure efficiencies by having the various park management bodies share services such as human resources, IT, finance and estate management.

## Constitution of a Management Body

33. If it were to be decided that a national park management body is to be an independent organisation, it would need to have a mechanism to manage its day-to-day activities. Our proposal is that this would be achieved by having a governing board to control the body's operations.
34. We would envisage that the board Chair would be responsible to the DOE Minister. The Chair would ensure that the body's policies and actions support the wider strategic policies of the Minister, and that the body's affairs are conducted with probity and parsimony. The Chair, together with a Deputy Chair and the other board members, would have corporate responsibility for ensuring that the body fulfils the aims and objectives set by DOE and for promoting the efficient, economic and effective use of staff and other resources by the body.
35. To this end, the board would establish the overall strategic direction of the body within the policy and resources framework determined by DOE. It would ensure that the Department is kept informed of any changes that are likely to impact on the strategic direction of the body or on the attainability of its targets, and determine the steps needed to deal with such changes. It would ensure that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with and that the board operates within the limits of its statutory authority. It would receive and review regular financial information about the body's management and demonstrate high standards of corporate governance, including the creation of an independent audit committee (as a subcommittee of the board) to help the board to address key financial and other risks.
36. In order to command widespread support and local credibility, it is suggested that any proposal about the membership of the governing board would need to enshrine at least 60% local representation. Based on the Scottish model, a possible mix of membership categories on the board might be: 20% park dwellers, 40% district council nominees who would be appointed by the Minister, and 40% Ministerial appointees who would represent the national interest and would also exercise an important role in relation to both supporting and constructively challenging the other board members. This mix of membership categories would facilitate local decision making and at the same time allow for effective representation of the national interest and safeguard accountability issues.
37. Consultation responses will assist in developing detailed proposals in relation to board membership and, in particular, a proposed mechanism for selecting the people who would comprise the 20% park dwellers element of the board. Options would appear to be either to hold a local poll to elect people to the board or use the public appointments process to make Ministerial appointments.

38. The question of whether places on the board should be reserved for representation of particular organisations other than district councils is a matter for debate, but the inclusion of certain bodies and the exclusion of others would seem likely to be problematical.
39. It is suggested that, in common with practice in relation to many other NDPBs, board membership would carry with it disqualification from membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly.
40. The board would need to be able to appoint subcommittees to assist it in the discharge of its functions, and the desirability of having an audit committee (ideally chaired by one of the national interest appointees) has already been discussed above. It would also be desirable for a subcommittee to be able, with Ministerial approval, to co-opt persons as members.
41. Consultation responses will also be important in helping to develop a proposal in relation to selection of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the board. There are a number of options to consider including:
  - I. The Minister appoints a Chair and Deputy Chair following an open public appointments competition.
  - II. The Board elects its own Chair and Deputy Chair from within the (whole) board membership. However, there is a potential and significant disadvantage with this option from a public accountability standpoint. If the board includes people who have been elected onto the board rather than appointed by the Minister, a situation could arise where the Chair and Deputy Chair are people who are not accountable to the Minister.
  - III. The Board elects its own Chair and Deputy Chair from within the Ministerial appointee element of the board membership.
42. The size of the board is also something which needs to be debated. Scotland's two national park management bodies (Cairngorms and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs) began with 25 members (the maximum permissible under the Scottish enabling legislation) and derived benefits in their initial phase in being able to draw on the resource of a larger board than would be required solely to achieve effective governance. Following review, the size of the Scottish boards has been reduced to 19 and 17 respectively. The norm for NDPB board membership is in the range 10 to 15 and it is suggested that the maximum size specified in Northern Ireland national parks enabling legislation might be no higher than 20; flexibility would exist to specify a lower figure in the subordinate legislation that actually designates a park. It is envisaged that all board members would be remunerated.

## **Responsibilities and Skills of Board Members**

43. All board members would share a corporate responsibility for the proper conduct of the body's affairs and for ensuring that staff maintain the strictest standards of financial propriety. Board members would be expected to act in the best interests of the body rather than the interests of any other organisation or nominating body. The board would have a duty to ensure that the requirements of propriety, regularity and value for money are met in its use of public funds.
44. It is envisaged that the national interest appointees would provide a national voice on the body and take a particular interest in strategic issues such as conservation, recreation, planning, access and resource issues. They would be expected to understand the concept and practice of sustainable development and come from a broad range of backgrounds. Collectively they would bring a range of skills and experience including an understanding of issues affecting protected landscapes; leadership and management skills; an awareness of the views of people not living in or near the national park; corporate services skills; expertise in strategy formulation, development, evaluation and communication; and experience of wider issues such as work with young people, environmental projects, social inclusion work, or an active interest in outdoor recreation.
45. District council nominees and park dwellers would together make up the rest of the board membership and be in a majority. This would ensure that the board is equipped with detailed knowledge of the park area and awareness of local issues and requirements. It would also ensure that the board is responsive to the needs of the park's communities.

## 5. Access and Occupiers' Liability

19

46. It is proposed that district councils would continue to exercise their powers under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order within a national park. A park management body would be expected to work very closely with district councils and others in order to promote countryside recreation, but it would not be the access authority. It is envisaged that the management body would, in partnership with others, develop an access strategy for the national park and promote public enjoyment of the area's special qualities. It is also envisaged that a management body would make a significant contribution to the important task of managing public access within the park by providing a ranger service and other facilities and working with landowners, walkers and other park users to resolve problems.
47. Discussions with stakeholders have revealed that landowners have concerns about increased risk in relation to occupiers' liability as a result of national park designation attracting more visitors. The current occupiers' liability legislation was carefully reviewed by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), and it was found that the current regime properly reflects a balance between the rights of landowners and the interest of people wishing to access land for open air recreation. Public information leaflets have been produced to promote better understanding of the effect of the legislation.
48. An underlying problem with the access / occupiers' liability issue in Northern Ireland is the fact that in some upland areas public access has never been formalised but exists on a de facto basis. Landowners fear that by agreeing to formalise this de facto access they would increase their level of liability. In fact the opposite is the case.
49. The DFP review revealed that where de facto access exists, there is uncertainty as to whether walkers would be viewed by a court as visitors (to whom a higher duty of care is owed by the landowner) or as trespassers (to whom a lower duty of care applies). Thus a regime of de facto access potentially exposes a landowner to a higher level of liability. If landowners were to formalise the access by entering into an access agreement under the Access to the Countryside Order, they would derive the following benefits. Firstly, they would be entitled to a modest payment in return for making the agreement, and secondly, and possibly of more importance, they would secure a lowering of their liability. This is because the legislation makes it clear that anyone entering their land under an access agreement is not deemed a visitor and is therefore owed a level of care no higher than that owed by a trespasser.
50. It is considered therefore that greater use of the provisions in the Access Order provides a way forward. It would not only give walkers greater confidence about where they are entitled to walk, but also give landowners some financial reward together with a reduced legal liability.

## 6. Consultation Questions

20

1. What are your views on the proposed aims of national parks?
2. What are your views on the proposed criteria for identifying areas that may be suitable as national parks?
3. What are your views on the proposed arrangements for consulting on a proposal to designate a specific area as a national park?
4. What are your views on the proposed management framework arrangements for national parks?
5. What are your views on the proposed duties, functions and powers of a national park management body?
6. What are your views on the proposed role of a national park management body in planning matters?
7. What are your views on the governance options?
8. What are your views on the proposed constitution of a national park management body?
9. Do you share the Department's analysis in the Partial RIA that national parks will have little or no negative impact?
10. Are there any other comments which you wish to make about the Department's proposals?



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# White Paper on Proposed Enabling Legislation for National Parks

**March 2011**



1. This paper sets out the Department of the Environment's proposals for taking forward new enabling legislation for national parks in Northern Ireland. The paper sets out the broad principles that the Department will seek to follow. However, some of the policy detail needs to be explored further in consultation with key stakeholders before draft legislation is developed.
2. The creation of a national park in Northern Ireland will be a two-stage process. The first stage is to put in place enabling legislation that will allow for the creation of national parks. The second stage will be a designation order to create a national park within a given area.

### **Background – The Evolution of The National Park Concept**

3. Historically, in other parts of the UK and beyond, the term 'national park' has been a global brand used to describe different models of protected landscape areas. These areas range from vast, uninhabited wildernesses in the United States of America to smaller, populated areas in the UK where the landscape is largely a product of traditional farming practices.
4. In more recent times, with the introduction of Scottish national park legislation and the updating of comparable English legislation, the UK national park concept has developed considerably. There is now a recognised and growing desire to sustain viable communities within designated parks and a move to adopt a more balanced approach to ensure that social and economic aims are considered alongside the environmental agenda. The parks must facilitate and support sustainable economic activity and development. National parks are therefore places which set an example of how to integrate the rural economy with the proper protection of natural heritage and secure sustainable development. Annex A charts significant developments in the history of UK national parks.
5. The Northern Ireland landscape, with its large number of relatively small farms and numerous single dwellings in the countryside, is quite different to other parts of the UK. This stems from the history of land ownership on the island of Ireland and from the close-knit rural communities and associated strong family bonds to the land, which is generally handed down from generation to generation. Any Northern Ireland national park model needs to take account of this unique situation and to recognise that local involvement and strong community support is crucial to decision making. A Northern Ireland model also needs to be different to that of the Republic of Ireland which is based on state ownership of national park land.

### **Current Legislative Provision in Northern Ireland**

6. The existing Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 allows for the designation of a national park. It is a very broad designation provision, geared solely to landscape protection and promoting public enjoyment of the area. Taking into account current thinking on what a national park should deliver, it is considered outdated.

7. Notably, current legislative provisions **fail** to:
  - embrace the principles of sustainable development;
  - take account of engaging communities;
  - provide a sound legislative basis for integrated national park management;
  - provide for the machinery and resources required to promote a national park and support its communities;
  - identify community well-being as an aim for Northern Ireland national parks;
  - allow for the empowerment of local rural communities so that they can have a say in the protection, management and development of their landscape; and
  - make a clear policy distinction between provision for national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in terms of management, resource provision and local accountability.
8. Current legislation is not therefore considered fit for purpose, and it is unlikely to provide a sustainable future for any potential national park.

## **Why do we need a National Park?**

9. A key argument for national parks in Northern Ireland is based on the need to grow the economic opportunities of our most cherished landscapes in a managed way that conserves and enhances them and their communities. There is a need for national parks to boost tourism, to help Northern Ireland compete with and complement visitor attractions in the Republic of Ireland, and to contribute to economic growth generally. National park designation would increase focus and marketing opportunities for tourism in an international context. This would increase visitor numbers and spend in any designated area, to the benefit of local businesses and the facilitation of rural diversification.
10. In addition, some of our iconic landscapes suffer from unmanaged visitor pressures during certain times of the year, which leads to problems for local infrastructure, erosion of landscapes and difficulties for landowners. Designation would help to address these issues and would also facilitate conservation and enhancement of ecosystems, so that these landscapes remain attractive to visitors and make a positive contribution to the livelihoods and welfare of the people who live and work in and around them. The structured framework provided by a national park would ensure a managed and living landscape that can benefit future generations of local people and visitors alike. Furthermore, the resulting long-term commitment from Government would help to promote and support sustainable communities within the park area.

## Strategic Fit

11. The national parks initiative sits comfortably within a number of Northern Ireland's policy strategies. The Regional Development Strategy 'Shaping Our Future' talks about exploring the potential for the establishment of one or more national parks where there is high landscape quality, significant recreation and tourism use or potential, the local community is in favour and an acceptable model can be found. The subsequent Sustainable Development Strategy 'First Steps Towards Sustainability' contains a specific target relating to the introduction of new national parks enabling legislation. Both these strategies are under review at present.
12. The initiative would also fit well with, and assist the delivery of, other major Northern Ireland strategies. For example, a national park would be concerned with developing measures to reverse biodiversity loss by maintaining and enhancing existing habitats, thus helping with delivery of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy. A national park would also contribute to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Strategy with the development and promotion of its area as a world-class quality visitor destination.
13. A national park would also assist rural development by promoting the long-term viability of its rural communities, thus adding value to DARD's Rural Strategy 2007-2013, the development of the Rural White Paper and the OFMDFM Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy 2005.
14. Importantly, the initiative can be expected to produce significant economic benefits, and these are discussed later in the paper.

## What Value Will National Park Designation Add?

15. National park status will give a chosen area a number of advantages including:
  - statutory assurance of additional and ongoing dedicated funding for integrated management designed to promote both economic and social well-being and environmental conservation / enhancement;
  - internationally important tourism status; and
  - a marketing advantage in terms of potential for branding of produce and for attracting new investment.
16. National park management would complement existing DARD-driven rural development, agricultural support and agri-environment programmes. It would add value to existing public expenditure streams by ensuring a co-ordinated and integrated approach, by promoting the area and by facilitating innovation.
17. On the environmental front for example, a park management body might provide financial incentives for activities not covered by existing support mechanisms, or 'top up' mainstream grant aid where it is desirable to further incentivise a particular activity that would help to achieve the environmental objectives of the park.

18. On the economic/social front, a park management body could for example follow the practice of some GB national parks and create a community enterprise team which would be proactive in assisting park dwellers across a wide range of subject areas. That assistance might be simply advice about accessing funding elsewhere or it might be in the form of grant aid for a specific project for which funding would not otherwise be available. GB parks also provide help with business start-ups, either in the form of advice or actual help with the preparation of business plans.
19. An interesting example of innovation in Northumberland National Park is its 'Traditional Boundaries, Traditional Skills' programme run by the park management body which takes ten local people off the unemployment register each year for a twelve-month period to train them in dry stone walling and hedge laying skills. Some of these trainees have then gone on to form small businesses.

## **Economic Impact**

20. There is evidence to suggest that establishing national parks in Northern Ireland would assist with the delivery of the top PfG priority of growing the economy. For example, the 2006 Council for National Parks report "Prosperity and Protection" which examines the economic impact of national parks in the Yorkshire and Humber region, provides robust evidence that prosperity and protection can indeed go hand in hand. The study reveals that businesses in the parks and in towns nearby benefit from the quality of the protected landscapes and from the park designation itself. It suggests that the parks' businesses generate £1.8 billion in sales annually, supporting over 34,000 jobs and around £576m of gross value added. Visitors to the parks are estimated to spend about £400m annually within them and £260m in the rest of Yorkshire and Humber. The total visitor spend of £660m is estimated to support 12,000 jobs.
21. The economic growth experienced in UK parks is not confined to the rather obvious sectors like green tourism, but it also extends to those like land management, food production, IT, retail and small-scale manufacturing.
22. Further evidence comes from the 2001-2006 Welsh study "Valuing our Environment: Economic Impact of the National Parks of Wales" which was commissioned by the National Trust Wales, Countryside Council for Wales, Welsh Assembly Government and other partners. This study found that the three Welsh national parks support nearly 12,000 jobs, produce total income of £177m and generate £205m GDP. The parks are icons for tourism inside and outside the park boundaries. They provide a strong brand image for Welsh goods and services, and they support not only their own local economies but also the economy of Wales as a whole.
23. Closer to home, independent research<sup>1</sup> into the possible tourism impact of a Northern Ireland national park was commissioned by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Mourne Heritage Trust in 2006. The study indicates that, ten years on from designation, a park could be generating as

<sup>1</sup>Tourism in Mourne: Current and Potential Economic Impact – Colin Buchanan & Partners Ltd. - 2006

much as an additional £81m per annum in tourism revenue and supporting an extra 4,700 jobs in the park area and its surrounding districts.

24. The Mourne study found that there was no precise data available on visitor numbers before and after designation for a comparable national park, but the research conducted did identify important trends in the case studies examined. For example, in the French Regional Nature Park in Brenne which was designated in 1989, visitor numbers to the park's main gateway and orientation centre increased dramatically from 5,000 in 1991 to 78,000 in 2004. French Regional Nature Parks are not national parks but provide an interesting parallel as they were established as a mechanism to conserve cultural landscapes. Their aims include protecting heritage through suitable management of natural environments and landscapes, enhancing economic, social and cultural development, and welcoming, educating and informing visitors.
25. The Swedish national park at Fulufjället was another case study examined by the Mourne study. Designated in 2002, 53,000 people visited it in the summer of 2003 representing an increase of 40% over the visitor numbers for 2001.

## **Will National Park Designation Impose Restrictions on Agriculture and Fishing?**

26. Farming and fishing communities can be assured that national park designation would not result in the imposition of additional restrictions on agricultural and fishing practices. The model of national park that is being proposed for Northern Ireland is not a regulatory regime but a facilitating and enabling framework that will encourage enhancement of the special landscape and promote the well-being of its communities. The focus of a park management body's work would therefore be on the creation of opportunities for betterment of the area.

## **Proposed Aims of a Northern Ireland National Park**

27. It is suggested that a Northern Ireland national park would have four aims. These are set out below, together with supporting rationale.

### **I. Promotion of sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.**

28. Northern Ireland's most special landscapes and/or seascapes are the homes and workplaces of many thousands of people, and the continued existence of vibrant communities is vital to future landscape maintenance. These communities are often being challenged by a range of economic and social changes and there is a need to encourage and promote economic diversification to assist communities to maintain their populations and local services such as schools, post offices and shops.

29. Responses to these challenges are being developed by strategies such as the development of the Executive's Rural White Paper and the review of the Rural Development Strategy, and it is important that the national parks initiative works in synergy with, and adds value to, these developments. National park status would add value to an area's economic and social opportunities by giving it an internationally important profile which would attract more visitors and investment, and provide a branding opportunity for the area's produce.

30.

## **II. Conservation and enhancement of the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.**

31. Northern Ireland has a number of areas of landscape and/or seascape of exceptional natural beauty. They contain important wildlife species, habitats and geodiversity, many of which have been recognised as being of national and international importance. But they are also living and working landscapes, and over the centuries their natural beauty has been moulded by the influence of human activity. Their character is reflected in local traditions which have influenced farming, forestry, quarrying and other activities, as well as management practices in the marine environment such as aquaculture, fishing and recreation. It is also reflected in the local building materials and vernacular style, monuments and landscape, often of archaeological or historical significance, and in the words, music, customs, crafts and art which mark the individual characteristics of the area.

32. Just as the influence of man can and has been positive, so it can be detrimental to landscape quality too. In some cases there is a need to ensure that an area's features, character and culture are maintained and enhanced for future generations.

33. Special landscapes may include some sites that already have statutory protection under domestic and European law. However, such regimes do not provide a holistic approach to landscape enhancement and community needs. A national park would provide a practical focus on conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage where it is agreed appropriate, within the resources available to any management body. However, a park would not impose additional regulatory burdens.

### **III. Promotion of understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public.**

34. Northern Ireland has diverse and attractive land and seascapes, some of which draw large numbers of people. People visit these areas to enjoy and learn about the countryside, its seascapes, its settlements, its lakes, loughs and rivers. Visitors come to escape day-to-day pressures and to experience the sense of freedom, challenge, inspiration and enrichment which is derived from the distinctive character of an area, its people and its culture. The public health benefits and sense of well-being associated with increased countryside recreation are well documented and feature in many cross-cutting initiatives and strategies within government, including DCAL's recently published strategy for sport and physical recreation. In addition, there are important messages to be communicated about wider environmental and social issues, such as climate change and the need to pursue more sustainable ways of living.
35. While there are areas which are well-visited and have a number of features of interest, there is still a need to promote their importance both nationally and further afield. These features would be a focus for promoting quality services and growing tourism. This would have to be undertaken in a sustainable manner to avoid adverse impacts and to ensure that the needs of the local community are met. In turn, this enhanced level of activity would assist the local community to diversify its economic base by providing amenities such as accommodation, camp sites, car parking and refreshments. Opportunities for bird watching, angling, guided tours, boat trips for watching marine life and other water-based activities could also be developed to cater for the growing trend in eco-tourism

### **IV. Promotion of the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area.**

36. Sustainable use of natural resources is at the heart of the UK national park concept. Sustainability is about living within the capacity of the environment and natural resources and ensuring that the needs of people alive today are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
37. The major challenge that sustainability presents is increasingly understood and evident. For example, global climate change, collapsing marine fisheries, increasing demand on minerals and other natural resources, are all pressing current issues which impact globally and locally.
38. In the UK national parks are now expected to be in the vanguard in terms of promoting ways to live within environmental limits and to address climate change. In addition to the traditional use of an area's resources for recreation such as hiking, boating and cycling, thinking has expanded to harness other potential uses of its natural resources. To this end, UK parks are setting examples for the rest of society in areas such as renewable energy promotion, green transport, hydro-electric and biomass projects, low carbon farming, eco-tourism, community level recycling and rainwater harvesting. It is suggested that a Northern Ireland national park might fulfil a similar role.

## Criteria for Identifying Potential National Parks

39. It is suggested that criteria for national parks would flow from the park aims and would need to be predicated on landscape quality. However, it is also recognised that not every special landscape needs to become a national park. It is further suggested that in order to be considered for national park designation an area should meet all of the following criteria:

### Special Landscape

40. It is suggested that the first criterion for identifying national parks would be based on the fact that the area has a special quality in terms of its landscape/seascape, settlements, biodiversity, built heritage and culture. This special quality would be associated with attributes such as natural beauty, sense of place and national importance. Thus the first criterion would be **'that the area is of special importance because of its natural heritage or the combination of its natural and cultural heritage'**.

### Cohesiveness

41. Special landscapes/seascapes can have a particular character or identity which extends beyond the bounds of the core area of special natural beauty. In other words there may be a market town, a port, or perhaps an area that has become degraded to some degree, but which in terms of its geographical or cultural identity is linked to the special area. It would therefore be useful to have a criterion that allows for some boundary flexibility and ensures that an area is coherent in social, cultural and economic terms. Thus a second criterion would be along the lines **'that the area has a distinctive character and coherent identity'**.

### Special Pressures

42. Special landscapes/seascapes may be experiencing a number of pressures. For example, with Northern Ireland attracting greater numbers of visitors each year, there are growing pressures on our road network and other infrastructure, especially in the summer months. Unmanaged visitor pressure can also lead to landscape erosion and problems for landowners such as litter, trespass and property damage. Attractive landscapes can also come under pressure in relation to demand for second homes. This can create problems in terms of development pressure/urbanisation, escalating property prices, lack of affordable housing for local people and, in extreme cases and over time, breakdown of local community structures.
43. The integrated management approach associated with the national park philosophy has the capacity to help address the sort of pressures described above. It is suggested therefore that a third criterion is **'that designating the area as a national park would help it to meet the**



**special pressures on the area.** This criterion would help to distinguish between candidates for national park designation and other special landscapes that could be sustained by more modest designation and management arrangements.

## Recreation, Enjoyment, Education and Understanding

44. It is suggested that a candidate national park would be expected to be a national asset in terms of encouraging tourism, recreation, public enjoyment and understanding of the environment. Some areas already attract significant levels of visitors for this reason – for example, the Giants Causeway/Antrim Coast and Glens, Fermanagh Lakelands and the Mournes.
45. Consideration needs to be given to the potential added value which national park status would bring to an area in terms of facilitating improved recreation, enjoyment and understanding. Consideration also needs to be given to whether the area has a critical mass in terms of diversity of visitor interest and appeal.
46. It is therefore felt that a fourth criterion should be '**that the area affords opportunity for recreation, enjoyment, education and understanding**'.

## Need for Clear and Rational Process

47. A clear and rational process is needed to ensure:
  - **Credibility** – that any area proposed for designation is coherent, of appropriate quality, and has the right characteristics to be considered as a national park.
  - **Fairness** – that any proposals for designation via the subordinate legislation process are subjected to a thorough, extensive and transparent process of public consultation and debate and ultimately agreed.
  - **Objectivity** – that any proposals are rooted in factual material, uncoloured by emotions, subjective opinions or vested interests.
  - **Robustness** – that the entire process of designation should be open to detailed scrutiny and challenge, and if appropriate at a public inquiry.

## Objective Landscape Evaluation

48. The expectation is that the process would need to begin with the commissioning of independent and objective evaluation of all of Northern Ireland's landscapes to identify areas that meet all the criteria. This is a major piece of work that would provide a rational basis for making a formal proposal for a national park designation in a specific area.
49. The study might list the eligible candidates for national park designation and articulate the merits

of each. This would be a transparent process, and there is the option of publishing this work to gauge public reaction before the Executive commits to a specific proposal.

## Designation Process

50. It is envisaged that a formal national park proposal could set out in general terms each area which it is proposed should be designated as a national park; the functions which it is proposed the park management body should exercise; and the likely costs of the body in exercising those functions. Such a proposal would need to be accompanied by an appropriate and comprehensive range of impact assessments. The proposal would be exposed to an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders, the outcome of which would be published and laid before the Assembly.
51. It is suggested that it would also be helpful for the legislation to make it clear that there would be a facility for a public inquiry in the event of significant objection to the proposal. It is envisaged that this would follow the pattern of the sort of public inquiry that would be held in relation to a major planning decision. It could reduce the prospect of legal proceedings from those who either do not want a national park in the area proposed or who are aggrieved that their area was not selected. However, it does not rule out the possibility of a complainant seeking a judicial review of any public inquiry decision.

## Designation Order

52. The expectation is that, in the light of the outcome of the public consultation and any inquiry that may be held, the Executive would decide whether or not to proceed with the designation process. The designation order process would, it is envisaged, take the form of subordinate legislation and there would therefore be full public consultation on a draft Designation Order. In other words, there would be a specific piece of subordinate legislation for each national park setting out in detail its geographic limit.
53. The process of making a designation order could include the following key steps:
  - Executive agreement on the final proposed boundaries of such a park;
  - circulation of the draft order to every district council where any part of that council area is within the boundary identified in the order for designation as a national park;
  - circulation of the draft order to those who appear to the Department to be representative of the interests of those who live, work or operate a business in the proposed national park area;
  - extensive advertising of the proposals in the Belfast Telegraph, the News Letter and the Irish News, as well as in relevant local newspapers; and
  - a 12-week public consultation period.

## **Executive Role**

54. For a number of reasons it is suggested that the selection of an area for a proposed national park designation needs to be an Executive rather than a Ministerial decision. Firstly, the proposed purpose and aims of national parks are cross cutting. National parks impinge on the interests of not only DOE but also DARD, DETI, DSD, DCAL, DRD, DHSSPS, OFMDFM and DFP. Secondly, the establishment of a national park would have implications for the Programme for Government and would necessitate agreement on prioritisation, as a national park would require additional funds to be allocated on an ongoing basis. Thirdly, the creation of a national park would not only be a significant new initiative; it is also likely to be controversial. The experience with the Direct Rule project to designate a Mourne National Park, and indeed experience in Great Britain with national park proposals generally, demonstrates that any proposal to designate a specific park anywhere in Northern Ireland is likely to be met with a mixture of both support and opposition.
55. It is envisaged therefore that it would be appropriate for an Executive Subcommittee – comprising the Ministers of the Departments listed above – to be set up to oversee the selection process. The entire community could have confidence in a national park proposal that had been selected and approved by the Executive acting collectively.

## **Governance Arrangements**

### **Management**

56. The overarching requirement for any national park to operate successfully is to have in place integrated and sustained management delivered by a competent management body with adequate funding. For integrated management to work properly there needs to be a clear and unfettered focus by the management body to work towards delivery of the park's aims. This can only be achieved if the management body has a long-term commitment from government to support it.

### **Possible duties, functions and powers of management body**

57. It would be important for any national park management body to provide the leadership needed to bring together all relevant organisations and individuals to focus on the park area. This would allow it to develop the park in a holistic way in accordance with the aims set out in the primary legislation and with wider government policy and other requirements. It would be necessary for the body to engage all relevant players in developing a long-term vision and in drawing up a statutory management plan for the short to medium term, showing the steps to be taken towards that vision and how each agency has committed to contribute. It is suggested that before its adoption the management plan would have to be approved by the Executive. Progress with its implementation would be monitored and an annual report made to Ministers. It is further

suggested that a statutory duty would be placed on all public bodies to have regard to the plan.

58. It is not envisaged that the body would take over or duplicate the role or responsibilities of any existing organisation or provide services that could be provided by the private sector.

### **Planning matters**

59. The agenda for building in the countryside has already been set by PPS 21. New national park legislation would not disturb this, and a park management body would not exercise any planning powers in its own right. However, it is suggested that the body could be given an influencing role by being made a statutory consultee in the planning process. It is envisaged that a management body could assist with efforts to ensure that the design of future development is sensitive to a park's natural beauty. It is also envisaged that the national park management plan would provide the overarching vision for the future of the park and that the relevant planning authority would have regard to this when preparing future development plans.
60. A national park management body would not be 'anti-development' in its views. The expectation is that it would seek to balance the needs of communities with the needs of the environment by pursuing a goal of sustainable development. Importantly, local people would be fully integrated into the body's decision-making process.

### **Marine matters**

61. While the function of English and Welsh national parks has a totally terrestrial focus, Scottish national park legislation allows for the inclusion of marine areas. In view of its marine assets, it is suggested that it may be useful for Northern Ireland to have the ability to designate national parks that include marine areas as well as land.

### **Governance Options**

62. In theory, there is a wide range of governance options. All of the studies and discussions undertaken to date have highlighted the importance of local decision making and this will be a key factor in determining which option is most appropriate. The full range of governance options will be explored through public consultation, but at this stage two options stand out as providing a substantial level of local input. A local independent body for each park, or a joint governance committee comprising representatives of relevant district councils together with the Department.
63. Whichever option is chosen, the governing board of any national park would need to be structured to ensure that both the national and local interests have effective representation.

## Estimated Costs and Timing

64. While the costs of a national park would vary according to the governance option selected, they could be up to £3m per annum. However, research indicates that such costs would be more than offset by the economic benefits that would ultimately accrue. The economic impact of national parks is discussed earlier in this paper.
65. It is envisaged that new national parks enabling legislation could not be in place until 2012 at the earliest. The subsequent process to designate a specific area is likely to take several more years.

## Conclusion

66. Northern Ireland has a number of unique and spectacular landscapes and areas of interest which would warrant national park status. A national park is regarded as an area to be managed, visited and enjoyed, by its national population and to be marketed internationally as a natural heritage asset. Northern Ireland has the opportunity to promote the sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits which modern national parks bring to an area, and indirectly to the province as a whole.
67. The concept of national parks has evolved greatly since legislation was first introduced in England and Wales in the late 1940s. Taking advantage of the experience of national parks in the rest of the UK and farther afield, this White Paper sets out the Department's policies in relation to a framework for national parks which would be relevant to Northern Ireland's needs. However, to develop legislative proposals, substantial consultation with stakeholders and discussions with groups and individuals will be required.
68. It is intended to take this issue forward as a Departmental commitment in the new Assembly's legislative programme.

## Significant Developments in the History of UK National Parks

### The English 1949 Act

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPACA) established National Parks within the UK. It was described by Lewis Silkin, the Minister of Town and Country Planning of the time, as “the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament”. The nation was to have its Parks, and their purposes were to preserve and enhance natural beauty and to promote enjoyment by the public.

Under NPACA the first ten National Parks were designated starting with the Peak District in 1951. By the end of the decade the Lake District, Snowdonia, Dartmoor, Pembrokeshire Coast, North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Exmoor, Northumberland and Brecon Beacons National Parks had also been established. Parks tended to be selected because of their ‘wilderness’ properties.

### The English 1995 Act

The 1995 Environment Act was the first piece of national park legislation to refer to the well-being of a park’s communities. The twin aims of parks, i.e. the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the promotion of public enjoyment, continued to be the main objectives, but now parks were required, as they pursued these aims, to do so in ways which would also ‘foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park. However, they were specifically charged with doing this ‘without incurring significant expenditure.’ This curious constraint was to lead to problems later and subsequent legislative reform (see below).

### English initiative (1997) to have more parks nearer large centres of population

The late 1990s witnessed a political desire to create more national parks in England but in areas that were closer to major centres of population. This occasioned a re-interpretation of the English criteria for national park designation and ultimately led to the designation of the New Forest (2005) and South Downs (2010).

### The Scottish 2000 Act

The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 took the English model and developed it further by putting sustainable development at its heart. To the twin aims of the English model were added the ‘promotion of the sustainable economic and social development of the area’s communities’ and the ‘promotion of sustainable use of the natural resources of the area.’ Importantly these four aims are of equal importance. Under this Act Scotland designated two parks, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs (2002) and the Cairngorms (2003).

### The English 2006 Act

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 removed the financial constraint on parks’ spending on fostering the economic and social well-being of park communities. The Act stopped short, however, of altering the aims of English parks; there are still only two.

**English updated policy guidance on national parks (2010)**

This DEFRA circular contains a vision for English parks. By 2030 they will be places where there are thriving, living, working landscapes which inspire visitors and local communities to live within environmental limits and to tackle climate change. They will be places where sustainable development can be seen in action and where renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, low carbon transport and healthy, prosperous communities have long been the norm. Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, restored and expanded. Woodland cover has increased and all woodlands are sustainably managed with the right trees in the right places. Landscapes and habitats are managed to create resilience and enable adaptation. Everyone can discover the rich variety of England's natural and historic environment and can have the chance to value them as places for escape, adventure, enjoyment, inspiration and reflection and a source of national pride and identity. They will be recognised as fundamental to national prosperity and well-being.

DEFRA encourages park authorities and all other bodies with an influence on the management of these special areas to work towards the achievement of this vision. The statutory purposes and the duty of the park authorities remain relevant, and this circular aims to encapsulate the purposes and duty in a modern vision.

## Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment

### 1. Introduction

This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is an initial attempt to describe the costs and benefits associated with proposals for new enabling legislation to allow for the establishment of national parks in Northern Ireland. No decisions have been taken on the preferred location for the first national park so the RIA is at a relatively early stage.

The RIA will be refined and updated following completion of the consultation and a final RIA will be produced when policy decisions have been finalised and legislative proposals prepared.

The RIA is open to comments, improvements and corrections by any interested party. Comments are welcome on all aspects and, in particular, on the possible costs arising from the establishment of national parks.

### 2. Purpose and Intended Effect of Measure

#### (i) The objective.

The policy objective behind the proposal for new national parks enabling legislation is twofold. First, there is the objective concerned with the opening up of opportunities to stimulate tourism and economic activity generally by according internationally recognised status to special landscapes. National park designations have proven elsewhere to be powerful engines of economic growth, capable of facilitating both tourism development and rural diversification. Second, there is a policy objective of securing a sustainable future for Northern Ireland's most pressurised cherished landscapes and their communities. It is intended that the proposal will facilitate not only the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and cultural heritage of these special landscapes but also the economic and social development of those areas' communities.

#### (ii) The background

Northern Ireland's existing national parks legislation is generally regarded as inadequate for the purpose of securing the integrated management which is necessary for addressing the problems that some areas are facing. These problems include visitor and development pressures, problems associated with lack of land and access management, and issues around the vulnerability of rural communities.

Because Northern Ireland has no national parks, those areas which might aspire to national park status are, in the main, already designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This designation does not have an international appeal to equal that of a national park, nor is it designed to bring to bear on an area the level of public investment that a national park merits.



**(iii) Risk assessment**

The risk that the regulation is addressing centres on the threat of degradation of the qualities of our most outstanding environmental assets and also on the danger that, by not giving them the international recognition they deserve, we are depriving them of opportunities to make the most of their economic potential.

Currently, management of such areas is usually entrusted to charitable trusts which have no statutory management powers and limited resources. Experience has shown that this voluntary approach is not nearly enough to cope with the special needs of these areas. GB experience with the highly pressurised attractive landscapes in its national parks demonstrates that the solution to guaranteeing their sustainability lies in the production of a statutory management plan which not only takes account of the need to protect the environment but also embraces the need to promote the economic and social well-being of the area's communities.

**3. Options****Option 1**

Do nothing. Candidate national park areas would not be able to aspire to the higher tier of designation and to the associated integrated management and significantly enhanced level of funding which they need. Continuation of the status quo would therefore see charitable trusts striving to manage our most sensitive landscapes with neither the statutory powers nor the budget needed to secure sustainable development. The result would be continuing degradation of these important landscape assets and failure to capitalise on the significant economic benefits associated with national parks.

**Option 2**

Designate national parks under the existing legislation. As the existing legislation does not distinguish between AONBs and national parks in terms of their quality, needs or management the outcome would amount to little more than a change of name. This option could actually exacerbate the current situation as the national park label would bring more visitor pressure to bear but not provide for the necessary improvements in management and resourcing to cope with that influx.

**Option 3**

Introduce new enabling legislation for national parks that would meet the policy objectives outlined above. There would be provision for a park management body that would promote the area and produce a statutory management plan which would effectively be a blueprint for sustainable development. Other statutory bodies would be required to have due regard to the plan and the aims of the park. It is not proposed that the management body would exercise planning powers but it would have the capacity to deliver properly resourced integrated management.

## 4. Benefits

Option 1: No additional benefits would be likely to arise as a direct result of pursuing this option as this is the do nothing option. There is a possibility that some of the potential economic and social benefits could be achieved indirectly on a more limited scale if more sector-specific initiatives are pursued independently, but that would not be guaranteed and the wider benefits of more holistic and sustainable management through delivery of the park plan would not be achieved.

Option 2: A benefit of this option is that tourism would be boosted in the short term by virtue of having the national park label. However, this growth would not be sustainable in the absence of the integrated management and resources to deal with the increased visitor pressure.

Option 3: The establishment of a national park management body would create local employment opportunities, and the incomes associated with these new jobs could contribute to the strength of the local economy. It is possible, depending on the location of the first national park, that not all the new jobs would represent net increases in employment if it is the case that the national park management body is taking the place of an existing AONB management body.

Establishment of a national park would also be expected to lead to significant tourism growth in the chosen area, particularly for hotels and catering, retailers, museums and other visitor attractions. If the national park included an island or islands within the boundary, the increased number of visitors could lead to greater numbers of passengers on ferries, thus generating higher income and contributing to the viability and profitability of existing routes.

The benefits to tourism and associated sectors could also be felt for longer periods throughout the calendar year than the key visitor seasons at present. Increased tourism could also benefit local traditional industries such as fisheries and food processing as well as newer industries like aquaculture, as local demand through restaurants and other catering establishments is increased for premium products such as shellfish. These sectors could also exploit demand for green products through development of new branding opportunities to associate their produce with the national park, with the potential for these to facilitate expansion into new markets.

The development of a national park plan could lead to clearer information for local businesses on their operating environment as well as better signposting and assistance for people wishing to start up new businesses. Research into national parks in Great Britain indicates that properly managed and resourced national parks create economic growth and help businesses to prosper.

The national park designation and the associated development of a national park plan would also better ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of the area is safeguarded for the nation and future generations.

The Department welcomes representations on the potential benefits to assist with completion of the RIA.

**Business sectors affected**

The main beneficiaries of national park designation would be businesses directly or indirectly associated with the tourism industry, but there are also opportunities for local food producers/retailers to benefit from trading in national park branded produce. A national park could also be expected to provide opportunities for landowners to diversify farm-based activities, and to obtain grant aid for activities that enhance biodiversity and the landscape generally. Views on the implications for any other business sectors would be welcome.

**5. Costs****(i) Compliance costs**

It is proposed that the park management body would not be a regulatory body but would be an enabling and facilitating organisation. Thus the Department's initial conclusion is that farms and other sectors of business would have no costs to meet in terms of the compliance costs of additional restrictions or regulations.

**(ii) Other costs**

Under Option 1 – the do nothing option – there would be environmental costs associated with continuing degradation. It is difficult to put a figure on these costs but they are potentially significant as erosion of the landscape and the quality of the visitor experience could, over time, impact adversely on tourism revenue and the Northern Ireland economy generally.

Under Option 2 the additional unmanaged visitor pressure could lead to even higher environmental costs than those identified under Option 1.

Under Option 3 it is possible that some individual businesses may be affected in those sectors of the local economy in which restructuring could take place to exploit the new commercial opportunities arising from the establishment of a national park. It is difficult to be more certain about costs at this stage and views are invited from those who consider that they may be affected, but additional investments by some businesses in industries such as tourism to take advantage of new opportunities could lead to a reduction in competitiveness of other businesses. This would be likely to depend on the area selected for designation, and once a decision is taken on that a more detailed RIA would be produced as part of the consultation process.

**(iii) Wider costs to society**

A number of possible negative impacts of national park designation have been identified in research. For example, increased visitor numbers may lead to traffic congestion, greater pressure for access and recreation, and a possible increase in demand for second homes and associated rises in property prices. On the other hand, some would argue that likely candidate national park areas in Northern Ireland are already experiencing such pressures because of their natural beauty and a burgeoning tourism industry and that the creation of a properly resourced park management body would equip them to mitigate

these impacts. It is particularly difficult to be certain about such impacts in the absence of a specific park proposal, and the Department would be grateful if respondees are able to provide any further information on these issues.

As far as the voluntary sector is concerned, it is considered that the creation of national parks would have a largely positive impact. Park management bodies would be an additional source of funding for voluntary bodies engaged in activities that are conducive to the delivery of park aims. The only negative impact identified so far is that the creation of a statutory park management body could result in the winding up of any pre-existing voluntary sector management body. Any further information that the voluntary sector can provide would be gratefully received.

## **6. Monitoring and Review**

It is proposed that the designation of any specific park in Northern Ireland would involve subordinate legislation and that the process of enacting such legislation would include detailed site-specific impact assessments. It is further proposed that, once established, specific national parks would be subject to a review of their effectiveness at least every five years.

## **7. Consultation**

This proposal is being exposed to extensive public consultation.

## **8. Summary and Recommendation**

The Department's current thinking is that the proposals would not add to the regulatory burden on business. They would provide a framework for securing a sustainable future for our most pressurised special landscapes and their communities and would also open up opportunities for significant economic benefit to the Northern Ireland economy.

## Confidentiality of Consultation

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public the right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain the information in connection with the exercise of any Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature;
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see web site at:

**[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)**

## DOE Section 75 Equality of Opportunity Screening Analysis Form

### Section 1

#### Background

##### The Legal Background

Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

The main groups within each of the nine categories, highlighted above, are identified at the end of this form.

In addition, without prejudice to its obligations above, the Department is also required, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.

## Section 2

### 2.1 Please insert below a brief description of the policy/legislation, including the title and all the main aims and objectives

#### **Title** New National Parks enabling legislation

**Aims :** The new legislation would aim to address a number of shortcomings with existing legislation. It would for example define the difference between an AONB designation and a national park designation and provide a statutory basis for the integrated management and investment of resources that are needed by protected landscapes which are under intense visitor and development pressure. Essentially the objective is to secure a sustainable future for Northern Ireland's most pressurised cherished landscapes.

### 2.2 On whom will the policies / legislation impact? Please specify

The policy will impact on Northern Ireland society as a whole either directly or indirectly. People living within areas that are designated as national parks will see increased investment in those areas' landscapes, biodiversity and communities. Indirectly, people living outside the designated areas will also benefit as the economic benefits of national parks will be experienced beyond park boundaries and will ultimately impact positively on the Northern Ireland economy as a whole.

### 2.3 Who is responsible for (a) devising and (b) delivering the policy, eg is it DOE, a Whitehall Department or EU? What is the relationship and have they considered this issue and any equality issues?

(a) DOE is responsible for devising the policy.

(b) Delivery mechanisms will be determined in the wake of this consultation and may take the form of a local management body which could be either district council driven or a NDPB. Whatever management framework is chosen, DOE will be providing the funding and monitoring outputs and impacts. The establishment of a specific national park will be by means of subordinate legislation, a process which will include relevant impact assessments, including consideration of equality issues.

### 2.4 What linkages are there to other NI Departments/NDPBs in relation to this policy/ legislation?

There are linkages to DETI because of the close relationship between national parks and tourism, to DARD because of rural regeneration and diversification issues, to DCAL because of countryside recreation issues, and to DSD because of issues around economic and social well-being.

### 2.5 What data are available to facilitate the screening of this policy/ legislation?

The proposals contained in this consultation concern Northern Ireland-wide enabling provisions which are neither site-specific nor targeted at specific sectors of society. The question of availability of specific data for equality screening is therefore not relevant.

**2.6 Is additional data required to facilitate screening? If so, give details of how and when it will be obtained.**

No additional data is required.



## Section 3 – Screening Analysis

### 3.1 Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by the following Section 75 groups?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Gender		No
Disability		No
Dependants		No

#### Please give details

There is no evidence that any of the particular groups is, or will be, more affected by these proposals than any other or that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the policy proposals.

### 3.2 Is there any indication or evidence that any of the following Section 75 groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Gender		No
Disability		No
Dependants		No

**Please give details**

There is no evidence of this and no reason to suspect that any of the particular groups would gain any advantage, or be disadvantaged, by these policy proposals in terms of their particular needs or priorities.

**3.3 Have consultations with the relevant representative organisations or individuals within any of the Section 75 categories, indicated that policies of this type create problems specific to them?**

	Yes	No
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Gender		No
Disability		No
Dependants		No

**Please give details of any consultations carried out, and any problems identified.**

The Department will consult widely about the policy proposals, but the results of the consultation exercise are not expected to indicate that the policy proposals would particularly disadvantage any of the groups identified in Section 75, therefore the Department considers that equality issues do not arise.

**3.4 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or community relations by altering the policy, or by working with others, in Government, or in the larger community in the context of this policy?**

**No**

**Please give details**

No such opportunities have been identified. The policy proposals, by their nature, are considered neutral from an equality perspective.

**3.5 It may be that a policy/legislation has a differential impact on a certain Section 75 group, as the policy has been developed to address an existing or historical inequality or disadvantage. If this is the case, please give details below:**

No such impact identified.

**3.6 Please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to promote better equality of opportunity or good relations.**

**Please give details**

None identified

## Section 4

### EQIA Recommendation

- 4.1 Full EQIA procedures should be carried out on policies considered to have significant implications for equality of opportunity. Please fill in the following grid in relation to the policy/legislation.**

Prioritisation Factors	Significant Impact	Moderate Impact	Low Impact
Social Need.			Yes
Effect on people's daily lives.			Yes
Effect on economic, social and human rights.			Yes
Strategic significance			Yes
Financial significance			Yes

#### Please give details

The policy proposals, by their nature, are considered neutral from an equality perspective.

- 4.2 In view of the considerations in Section 3 and 4 do you consider that this policy/legislation should be subject to a full EQIA? Please give reasons for your considerations. If you are unsure, please consult with affected groups and revisit the screening analysis accordingly.**

There is no evidence that any of the particular groups is, or will be, more affected by these proposals than any other or that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the policy proposals.

- 4.3 If an EQIA is considered necessary please comment on the priority and timing in light of the factors in table 4.1.**

N/A

- 4.4 If an EQIA is considered necessary is any data required to carry it out/ensure effective monitoring?**

#### Please give details

N/A

## Section 5

### Endorsement

I can confirm that the proposed policy has been screened for equality of opportunity and good relations implications and has been screened out for equality impact assessment/requires a full equality impact assessment.

**Signed:** **Ken Bradley**

**Agency/Division:** Environment Policy Division

**Date:** July 2011

<b>Main Groups Relevant to the Section 75 Categories</b>	
Category	Main Groups
Religious belief	Protestants; Catholics; people of non-Christian faiths; people of no religious belief
Political opinion	Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party
Racial Group	White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Black Caribbean people; people with mixed ethnic group
Gender	Men (including boys); women (including girls); trans-gendered people
Marital status	Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people
Age	For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18, people aged between 18-65, and people over 65. However, the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration
"Persons with a disability"	Disability is defined as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities as defined in Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
"Persons with dependants"	Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with an incapacitating disability; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a dependant elderly person
Sexual orientation	Heterosexuals; bisexuals; gays; lesbians

## **Rural Proofing Statement**

Rural proofing is a process to ensure that all relevant Government policies are carefully and objectively examined to assess whether or not they have a different impact in rural areas from that elsewhere, because of the particular circumstances of rural areas; and, where necessary, what policy adjustments might be made to reflect rural needs and in particular to ensure that, as far as possible, public services are accessible on a fair basis to the rural community.

Approximately 35% of the population of Northern Ireland lives in rural areas. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency have defined such areas as settlements with a population of less than 4,500 (according to the 2001 census).

With their emphasis on cherished landscapes, the Department's proposals for enabling legislation for national parks will, by their nature, impact disproportionately on rural areas. However, it is considered that there will be no negative impacts on rural areas. On the contrary, with the argument for national parks based on growing the economic opportunities of our most cherished landscapes in a managed way, the proposals are likely to have a wholly positive impact on rural areas.

The Department is fully committed to continuing engagement with stakeholders, and any responses received in relation to the formal public consultation will be carefully analysed. Any actions identified during the consultation process as having a differential impact in rural areas will be further considered in the policy development.

## List of Consultees

Northern Ireland Assembly  
 MLAs  
 MEPs  
 Attorney General  
 North / South Ministerial Council, Joint Secretariat  
 Devolution and Legislation Division  
 Legislation & Parliamentary Unit  
 Departmental Equality Unit  
 The British Library, Legal Deposit Office  
 Bodleian Library, Oxford  
 University Library, Cambridge  
 National Library, Scotland  
 National Library, Wales  
 Library of Trinity College, Dublin  
 Library, Queens University Belfast  
 Northern Ireland Publications Resource  
 TSO Bibliographic Department  
 National Library of Ireland  
 Council of the Inn of Court of NI  
 The Law Society of Northern Ireland  
 Belfast Solicitors' Association  
 Queens University Belfast  
 University of Ulster  
 Northern Ireland Court Service  
 HM Council of County Court Judges  
 Law Centre (NI)  
 Civil Law Reform Division  
 Northern Ireland Law Commission  
 Human Rights Commission  
 NI Ombudsman  
 Equality Commission for NI  
 The General Consumer Council for NI  
 CBI NI  
 NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
 Federation of Small Businesses  
 Citizens Advice Bureaux  
 Forest Service  
 Rivers Agency  
 Loughs Agency  
 Committee for the Administration of Justice  
 Fire Authority for Northern Ireland  
 Geological Survey of Northern Ireland  
 Statutory Advisory Councils  
 Invest NI  
 Ministry of Defence  
 Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations  
 Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
 Northern Ireland Housing Council  
 Northern Ireland Tourist Board  
 Planning Appeals Commission  
 Sports NI  
 AFBI  
 Education and Library Boards  
 CCMS  
 NI Council for Integrated Education  
 Belfast Institute of Further & Higher Education  
 Chartered Institute of Housing  
 Institution of Civil Engineers  
 Landscape Institute NI  
 NI Association Engineering Employer's Federation  
 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
 Royal Society of Ulster Architects  
 Royal Town Planning Institute  
 Construction Employers Federation  
 Translink  
 George Best Belfast City Airport  
 City of Derry Airport  
 Belfast International Airport  
 Enniskillen Aerodrome  
 Harbour Commissioners  
 Quarry Products Association  
 Northern Ireland Water



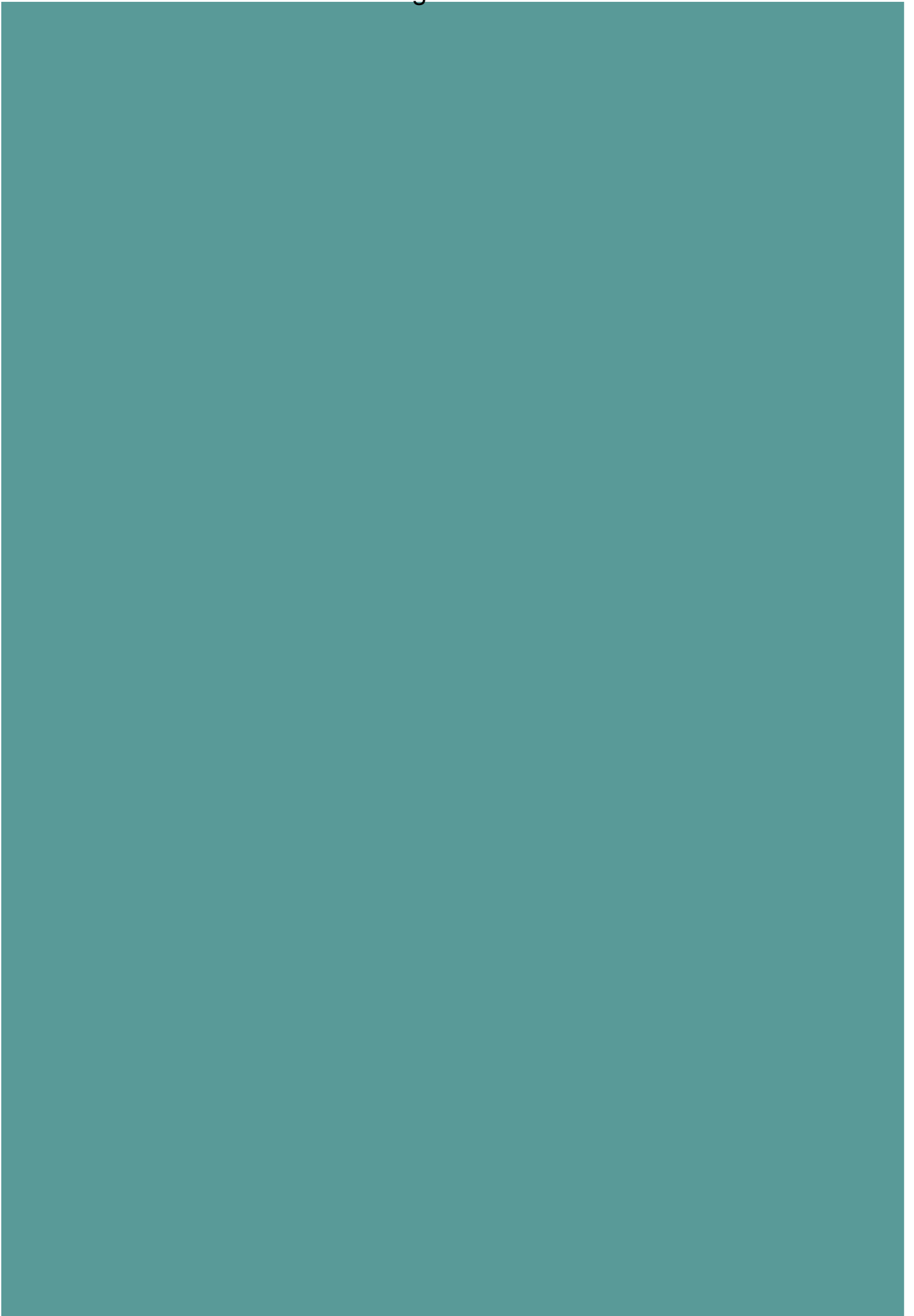
NI Chamber of Trade	CAAN
Food Standards Agency NI	Friends of the Earth
ICTU	Institute Of Directors
NICVA	Lagan Valley Regional
NILGA	Mourne Heritage Trust
Local Authority Chief Executives	National Trust
DGLS M o D	Northern Ireland Environment Link
HM Revenue & Customs	NIPSA
Judicial Appointments Commission NI	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland	Rural Community Network
Community Relations Council	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership
Participation & The Practice of Rights Project	Ulster Angling Federation Ltd
NIACRO	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Director of Ports and Public Transport	Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside
Director Regional Planning & Transportation Division	Ulster Wildlife Trust
CAFRE	Wildfowl and Wetland Trust
Woodland Trust	FPA NI
World Wildlife Fund (NI)	Gingerbread NI
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland	Green Party
Tidy NI	Indian Community Centre
Groundwork Northern Ireland	Institute of Directors
Northern Ireland Marine Task Force	Law Centre (NI)
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group	Local Government Staff Commission for NI
Northern Ireland Coastal and Marine Forum	Lower North Belfast Community Council
Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association	Magherafelt Women's Group
Ulster Farmers Union	MENCAP
Landscape Institute Northern Ireland	Parent's Advice Centre
Northern Ireland Retail Trade Association	Methodist Church in Ireland
Local Biodiversity Officers	Multi-Cultural Resource Centre
Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd	Newry & Mourne Women
Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation	NI Anti-Poverty Network
Waterways Ireland	NI Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions
National Parks and Wildlife Service	NI Human Rights Commission
DARD Countryside	NI Islamic Centre
Forest Service	Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network
Loughs Agency	NI Women's Aid Federation
District Councils	NIACRO
Government Departments	North West Forum of People with Disabilities (Derry)

Local Political Parties	Niamh
Age Concern Help the Aged	Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	NSPCC
An Munia Tober	Older People's Advocate
Bahai Council for NI	POBAL
Barnardos NI	Polish Association Northern Ireland
Belfast Butterfly Club	Presbyterian Church In Ireland
Belfast Hebrew Congregation	Royal National Institute for the Blind (NI)
Bishop of Down and Connor	Royal National Institute for the Deaf (NI)
British Deaf Association (NI)	Rural Community Network
Bryson Charitable Group	Rural Development Council
Carafriend	Rural Support
Carers Northern Ireland	Save the Children
Children's Law Centre	SENSE NI
Chinese Welfare Association	The Senior Citizens Consortium
Chrysalis Womens Centre	The Cedar Foundation
Volunteer Centre	The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
Coiste-na n-iarchimi	The Rainbow Project
Commissioner for Children & Young People	The Women's Centre
Committee on the Administration of Justice	Training for Women Network Ltd
Community Development and Health Network (NI)	ULTACH
Community Relations Council	UNISON Northern Ireland
Community Places	Volunteer Development Agency
Cruse Bereavement Care (NI)	West Belfast Economic Forum
Foyle Women's Information Network	Women's Resource and Development Agency
Derry Well Woman	Women's Support Network
Disability Action	Women's Forum Northern Ireland
Down's Syndrome Association	Youthnet
Employers Forum on Disability	NI Fire & Rescue Service
Sustrans	ANPA
Knockbracken Healthcare Park	Campaign for National Parks
Falls Community Council	
Falls Women Centre	









**Belfast City Council's response to the Consultation Document on Enabling Legislation for National Parks (August 2011)**

**1. What are your views on the proposed aims of national parks?**

Belfast City Council welcomes the proposed aims of national parks and views these as aiming to balance conservation of natural and cultural resources with developing tourism and sustainable business.

**2. What are your views on the proposed criteria for identifying areas that may be suitable as national parks?**

We would see the criteria as appropriate and sufficiently challenging to ensure that appropriate locations are designated. One point that we feel requires clarification is whether or not there is a minimum size requirement for areas to be considered for national park status.

**3. What are your views on the proposed arrangements for consulting on a proposal to designate a specific area as a national park?**

We are in agreement with the proposed arrangements for consulting on a proposal to designate a specific area as a national park and welcome the proposal that any decisions will be Executive rather than Ministerial. We would suggest that the point in the process at which a public enquiry may be justified needs to be carefully considered.

**4. What are your views on the proposed management framework arrangements for national parks?**

The Council believes that the management framework arrangement that is chosen for national parks needs to ensure both local and wider interests are taken into account, as national parks will be of regional significance. We would concur that the management body requires a long-term commitment from Government to support it.

**5. What are your views on the proposed duties, functions and powers of a national park management body?**

The Council agrees that it would be important for any national park management body to provide the leadership needed to bring together all relevant organisations and individuals and to engage all relevant players in developing a vision and drawing up plans for the national park.

**6. What are your views on the proposed role of a national park management body in planning matters?**

The Council would suggest that the management body should be a statutory consultee and we would welcome clarification on whether this will be the case.

**7. What are your views on the governance options?**

The Council advocates any proposals which would strengthen the role of local government, and we would agree that the governance of national parks by district councils, as set out in option 4, would sit comfortably with proposed devolved powers such as land use planning and community planning. It would also complement areas that local authorities already have responsibility for such as local tourism and economic development. We recognise that there may be an issue with this option in that any site chosen may straddle several district council areas, and that there may be a conflict of interest in relation to planning issues. We also acknowledge that elsewhere there has been experience of this model not working.

With respect to option 1, we would have concerns that, with DoENI acting as Northern Ireland's National Parks Service, governance would be too centralised, with limited local focus and the danger that local needs would not be sufficiently considered.

We would also have concerns over options 2 and 3 as we feel that local representation is important on any body that oversees national parks and/or AONBs, and we feel that neither option would facilitate sufficient local representation.

We would agree that option 5 'would permit a flexible, responsive and innovative approach' and allow for local decision making with local buy-in. If this option is chosen, we believe that the appropriate and balanced involvement of district councils should assist in providing vital links to a wider knowledge base and be to the mutual benefit of both councils and the independent bodies.

The Council believes that the chosen governance option needs to ensure both regional and local interests are represented. Indeed, national parks are of regional significance and, as gateways to Northern Ireland, their governance could benefit from suitable inputs from Belfast City Council and/or the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau.

**8. What are your views on the proposed constitution of a national park management body?**

We are in agreement with the proposed constitution of a national park management body and welcome the proposed mix of local and regional representation.

**9. Do you share the Department's analysis in the Partial RIA that national parks will have little or no negative impact?**

The Council does not feel that it is in a position to comment, as national park locations have yet to be designated.

**10. Are there any other comments which you wish to make about the Department's proposals?**



In relation to the section on access and occupiers' liability, the Council would like to highlight the following points:

The document states that 'it is proposed that district councils would continue to exercise their powers under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order within the national park'.

The only piece of legislation in Northern Ireland that relates to access to the countryside is the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983. Under this order the Council has a duty to assert rights of ways and this is currently carried out through the Countryside Officer. However, whilst the legislation imposes a duty on Councils to assert, protect, keep open and free from obstruction rights of way, it does not actually empower the Council to enter another person's land to do so. We would also suggest that the legislation may need to be revisited with a view to making it more user-friendly for landowners, and that consideration should be given to issues such as removing liability from landowners to encourage promotion of access.

If a national park were to be instated, then there may be a perception that there is open access to all land within the park - as in England and Wales under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This would require careful consideration in order to protect private landowners.

Under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983, it is only possible to enter into a public path agreement, ie dedicating land in perpetuity, which is not favourable to many landowners. It is possible through the Recreation & Youth (NI) Order 1986 to enter into a permissive path order thereby constraining the land for a limited time. This approach is generally more favourable with landowners, and if access is to be achieved then this opportunity needs to be explored and strengthened.

We would also seek clarification around payment for land access with regard to the value and source of this money.

The Council would also ask that consideration is given at any site designated as a national park to the proper management of waste and adequate public toilet provision.

Whilst the Council welcomes developments that increase tourism to Northern Ireland, we would be concerned that tourism funding would be directed towards new national parks to the detriment of other areas.

The Council feels that In advance of proposed designations, equality issues are difficult to define and that equality issues may be become apparent when preliminary designations are published.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Healthier Families Progress Report
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Steenson, Health and Fitness Officer

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The link between leading a sedentary lifestyle and increased risk of ill health and disease has long been established. It is widely recognised that sedentary lifestyles increase all causes of mortality, double the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity, and increase the risks of colon cancer, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, lipid disorders, depression and anxiety.</p> <p>According to World Health Organisation (WHO), 60 to 85% of the population lead sedentary lifestyles, making it one of the more serious public health problems of our time. It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of children are also insufficiently active, with serious implications for their future health.</p> <p>Parks and Leisure Department have been working with partners for a number of years to develop and deliver a range of activity programmes which promote an active lifestyle and bring about sustained behaviour change at an individual level. These programmes include Healthwise, Cardiac Rehab Phase 4 and FRESH.</p> <p>With support from the Health and Wellbeing Inter-departmental Group, the department developed a family based intervention programme, Healthier Families, designed to promote and sustain healthy lifestyle habits for both parents and children.</p> <p>Healthier Families was based on guidelines and recommendations of the UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) which concluded that programmes incorporating behavioural treatment alongside physical activity and diet were effective as a health intervention tool, particularly if parents were given the responsibility for behaviour change.</p>

	<p>This is supported by primary research which shows that 'family based behavioural treatment (FBBT) targeted at parents and child together is more effective in developing long term healthy lifestyles than targeting child or parents alone.</p> <p>Given the limited locally based academic research on the area of family interventions tackling sedentary lifestyles, the University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) were contracted to carry out an independent evaluation on the Healthier Families programme. The full report is included in appendix 1.</p>
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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>The Healthier Families programme has shown some success in developing and maintaining health related behaviour change over a prolonged period of time (12 months). As a result of the programme the physical activity levels for adults involved has increased and the dietary habits and self esteem for both adults and children has improved. There has also been an improvement in the general health of those participating in the programme, with a decrease in systolic blood pressure and weight in adults, and a continued healthy weight gain in children.</p> <p>Through the continued delivery of Healthier Families and learning from the independent evaluation and experiences of the participating families, the department is provided with the opportunity to share learning with partners while adding to the content of Healthier Families, to develop methods of delivering the programme to a wider audience. This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of a healthy lifestyle through educational resources, including input from a range of internal partners within the Development and Health and Environmental Services Departments and external partners including the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT). This would include providing information on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, how and where to be active, help with planning and food shopping and preparing meals.</li> <li>• Delivery of a yearly co-ordinated citywide family based activity programme, which provides opportunities for families to be active in a wide range of settings including leisure centres, parks and open spaces, community centres and partner owned facilities. Beyond increasing opportunities to participate and be active, this programme will assist in the development of social support and family networks.</li> <li>• Embed ownership and create sustainability for the programme through the development of volunteers to work as mentors and provide support, motivation and inspiration to other families.</li> </ul> <p>Research from this programme has also highlighted the need for further work with families experiencing greater health related risk factors and reporting lower self esteem. We will continue to work with partners to develop similar research based programmes and explore potential funding sources for this work.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> Provision for the development of this programme will come from current revenue budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	N/A.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>WHO: World Health Organisation  FRESH: Food Relaxation Exercise Self-Esteem Health  NICE: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence  FBBT: Family based behavioural treatment  UUJ: University of Ulster Jordanstown  PHA: Public Health Agency  BHSCT: Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Monitoring and evaluation of Belfast City Council Healthier Families Programme

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**Monitoring and Evaluation of Belfast City Council  
Healthier Families Programme**

**Final Report August 2011**

Prepared by:

Prof Marie Murphy, Mr Noel Munnis, Dr Gavin Breslin, Dr Andrea McNeilly,  
Mr Kyle Ferguson and Prof Alan Nevill

## Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Participants</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 Anthropometric Measures</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4 Physical Activity</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5 Health Measures</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6 Psychosocial Measures</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7 Nutritional Habits</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>8 Conclusions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>9 Recommendations</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>26</b>



## **Executive Summary**

Being overweight increases an individual's risk of a range of chronic diseases. Overweight and obese adults are more likely to have overweight children and it is likely that children's food choices and physical activity behaviours are influenced by the family environment. Community efforts to tackle obesity therefore have begun to focus on the family unit. The Belfast City Council Healthier Families Programme was a 13-week pilot programme designed to promote weight loss and encourage active lifestyles. Participants were assessed at baseline, week 6 and at the end of the programme and then again at 3,6 and 12 months following the end of the programme. This report describes the effectiveness of the programme in altering a range of physical, physiological, psychosocial and dietary parameters.

Weight decreased among adults while children maintained weight over the 13 week intervention period. Physical activity showed an upward trend among adults and was maintained during follow up but activity declined in children during the 12 month post-intervention period. Following the intervention there was evidence of improvement in self-esteem and favourable alterations in dietary intake through improved nutritional habits. 43 out of the 99 individuals initially recruited failed to complete the intervention and a further 23 individuals did not attend all of the follow-up assessments. Although disappointing, this rate of compliance is not atypical for such interventions.

Our analysis suggests that participants with the highest body weight and lowest perception of physical attractiveness at baseline were the most likely to drop out of the intervention or follow-up assessment. Tailoring the intervention at the level of the individual and providing greater support for the most overweight individuals and those with the lowest level of self-esteem at baseline may be required to improve the effectiveness of future weight-loss programmes.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Being overweight increases an individual's risk of a range of chronic diseases including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and stroke and it is thought that approximately 30,000 deaths per year results from diseases associated with obesity (Haslam & James, 2005). In addition overweight and obese individuals are more likely to exhibit low self-esteem, anxiety and depression and suffer social exclusion. Overweight and obesity are caused by an imbalance between energy intake from food and drink consumed and energy expenditure from physical activity and that both of these behaviours (food intake and physical activity) must be addressed in an effective weight management programme. Overweight and obese adults are more likely to have overweight children. Although genetic factors may play a role in this association – it is likely that children's food choices and physical activity behaviours are influenced by the family environment. Efforts to tackle obesity have therefore begun to focus on the family unit.

### **1.2 Healthier Families Programme**

The Belfast City Council Healthier Families Programme was a 13-week pilot programme designed to promote weight loss and encourage active lifestyles. The programme consisted of group and individual family counselling and physical activity sessions designed to increase physical activity and encourage family members to consume a healthier diet.

### **1.3 Monitoring & Evaluation**

A team of researchers from the University of Ulster's Sport & Exercise Sciences Institute and N3C Leisure Solutions were commissioned to assess the effectiveness of the pilot programme in altering a range of physical, physiological, psychosocial and dietary parameters. Participants in the programme were assessed at baseline, at 6 weeks at

the end of the 13 week intervention and at 3, 6 and 12 months following the end of the intervention.

#### **1.4 Purpose**

This report describes the monitoring and evaluation of the Belfast City Council Healthier Families Programme conducted by Belfast City Council from April 2010 – June 2011. The report outlines the results of a range of assessments carried out on the 25 families who participated in the 13 week lifestyle intervention conducted by Diet Express (April-June 2010) at baseline, at the midpoint of the 13 week intervention, immediately post intervention and 3, 6 and 12 months post-intervention (Sept 2010, Jan 2011 and June 2011). The report makes several recommendations which are intended to inform plans for expansion of the pilot and/or future weight loss programmes for families.

## 2. Participants

### 2.1 Recruitment

25 families (46 adults 52 children) were recruited by Belfast City Council through the Leisure Services department. Recruitment through local community, leisure and healthcare facilities was supplemented by a media advertisement through a television news feature. Families were recruited from four geographical areas within the BCC area.

### 2.2 Drop Out & Attendance at data collection sessions

Families were required to attend 6 data collections sessions (pre-intervention, mid-intervention, post-intervention and at 3 months, 6 months and 12 months following the end of the intervention). Numbers attending each of the data collection sessions are shown in Table 1. Not every participant who attended a data collection session participated in all tests, therefore attendance data has been compiled from weight measurements since this was the primary outcome measure in the evaluation.

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Families	25	21	18	16	13	11
Adults	46	36	29	27	21	20
Children	52	41	31	24	25	19
TOTAL	98	77	60	51	46	39

**Table 1 Number of participants attending each data collection session**

Not all families who took part in the intervention attended all 6 follow-up sessions. In addition not every member of the family attended each session. Table 2 therefore describes participation in each family. There were 5 families where every family member took part in all 6 data collection points.

<b>Fam</b>	<b>Ad</b>	<b>Ch</b>	<b>Participation in Data collection session</b>
1	2	1	All family members attended all 6 sessions
2	2	2	All family members attended all 6 sessions
3	1	3	All children attended all 6 sessions Adult participated in all sessions except midpoint
4	2	2	All family members attended all 6 sessions
5	2	3	All family members attended first 2 sessions then dropped out
6	2	1	All family members attended first 2 sessions then dropped out
7	2	4	2ad 3ch attended first 2 session, 2ad 1ch attended 12mos follow-up
8	2	3	All family members attended first session then dropped out
9	1	1	All family members attended first 2 sessions then dropped out
10	1	3	All family members attended pre mid and post intervention but no follow-up
11	2	3	All attended baseline 1ad 2ch attended pre mid and post no follow-up
12	2	1	All family members attended all 6 sessions
13	2	2	All family members attended pre mid post and 3mos follow-up 1ad 2ch attended 6 mos follow-up no attendance at 9 mos follow up
14	1	2	All family members attended pre mid post and 3mos and 6 mos follow-up no attendance at 9 mos follow up
15	2	3	All family members attended first session then dropped out
16	2	1	All family members attended first session then dropped out
17	2	2	All family members attended first session then dropped out
18	2	2	2ad 1ch Attended pre mid and post intervention but no follow-up
19	2	1	All adults attended all 6 sessions Child attended all but 6 mos follow-up
20	2	2	All family members attended pre mid post and 3mos follow-up 1ad 1ch attended all 6 sessions
21	2	3	2ad 2ch attended all 6 sessions. 1ch attended pre, mid, post, 3 mos and 6 mos follow-up
22	2	3	2ad 2ch attended all 6 sessions. 1ch attended pre, mid, 6 mos and 9 mos follow-up
23	1	1	All family members attended pre, mid, post and 3 mos follow-up
24	2	2	All family members attended all 6 sessions
25	2	3	All family members attended pre and mid. 2ad and 2ch attended post and 3 mos follow-up

**Table 2. Family participation in data collections sessions**

Since the data collection was divided into 3 intervention (pre mid and post) and 3 follow-up (3 mos, 6 mos and 12 mos) sessions, those participants attending the pre mid and post intervention assessments were deemed to have completed the intervention.

**Pre to post intervention data** and statistical analysis of the change from baseline to

post-intervention is therefore reported for **56 participants (28 adults 28 children)** who attended baseline, 6 week and post intervention assessments.

Participants who completed all 6 assessments were deemed to have completed the intervention and follow-up. **Full data** pre intervention to 12 month post intervention follow up and statistical analysis of the change from baseline to the end of follow-up is therefore reported for **33 participants (17 adults 16 children)**

56 participants completing the intervention from an initial recruitment of 99 represents 57% adherence to the 13 week programme. 18 of the 25 families initially recruited remained involved in the programme through to the post-intervention assessment at week 13. 33 participants completing the intervention and all subsequent follow ups represents 33% adherence at the 15 month time point.

A significance trawl indicated that drop out from the programme was not random. Individuals who had the highest initial body mass were more likely not to complete the 3 intervention assessments (pre mid and post) and even more unlikely to complete the follow-up assessments.

### **2.3 Demographic information on participants**

#### **Gender, age and prevalence of overweight and obesity**

##### **Intervention participants (n=56)**

15 female and 13 male adults took part in the intervention. The age distribution of the adult participants is shown below:

	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years
Female	3	8	4
Male	1	7	5

11 girls and 17 boys took part in the intervention. The age distribution of the children who participated is shown below:

	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
Female	0	8	3
Male	5	7	5

### **Intervention and follow-up participants (n=33)**

10 female and 7 male adults took part in the intervention and all follow-ups. The age distribution of the adult participants is shown below:

	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years
Female	1	6	3
Male	0	4	3

7 girls and 9 boys took part in the intervention. The age distribution of the children who participated is shown below:

	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
Female	0	5	2
Male	3	3	3

### 3. Anthropometric Measures

#### 3.1 Weight

At the start of the intervention mean ( $\pm$  SEM) weight of adults was 95.0 ( $\pm$ 3.4) kg. Using adult BMI cut-off points of BMI >25 for overweight and BMI > 30 for obese 15 adults were obese at the start of the intervention and a further 11 adults classified as overweight. There was a statistically significant decrease in weight to 92.2 ( $\pm$ 3.3) kg by the end of the intervention. 24 of the 28 adults lost weight from baseline to post intervention. Weight loss ranged from 1.5 to 6.8 kg over the 13 week period.

At the start of the intervention mean ( $\pm$  SEM) weight of children was 48.4 ( $\pm$ 3.5) kg. Using child cut-off points and assigned age bands (as opposed to actual age) for children we estimate that 9 children were overweight or obese at the start of the intervention. There was slight non-significant increase in mean weight among children over the 13 week intervention. In growing children weight gain is expected over time. The aim of overweight and obesity prevention is not to achieve weight loss but to prevent unhealthy weight gain.

The mean weight (kg) of participants (n=56) completing the intervention is shown below:

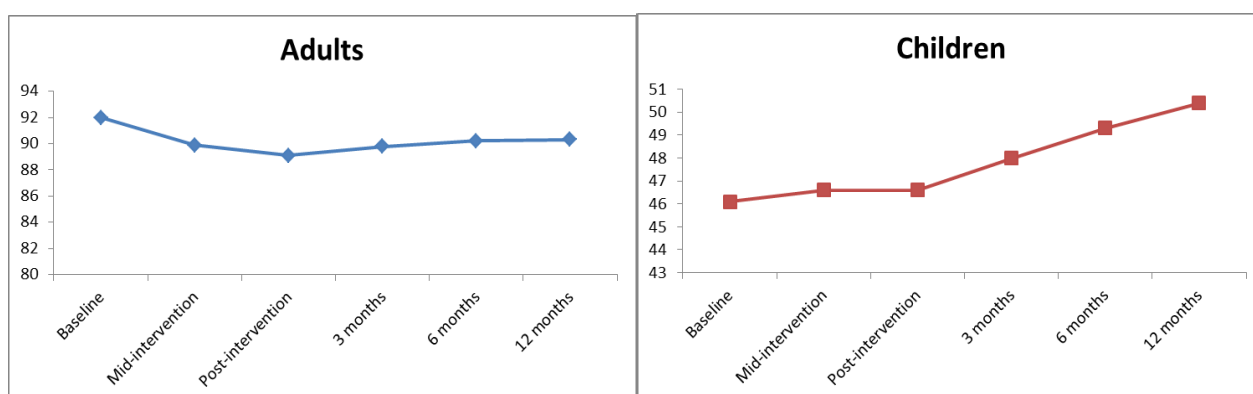
	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Adults (n=28)	94.9	92.8	92.2
Children (n=28)	48.4	48.7	48.7

For adults who took part in the intervention and follow up weight decreased significantly during and following the intervention and rose during the 12 month follow-up period. However even at the 12 month follow-up weight was still significantly lower than at baseline. Children's weight did not change over the course of the intervention



but rose during the 12 month follow up period. Weight of participants who took part in all assessments is shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adults	92.0	89.9	89.1	89.8	90.2	90.3
Children	46.1	46.6	46.6	48.0	49.3	50.4



### 3.2 Body Mass Index (BMI)

BMI is a measure of weight for height. The decrease in mean weight among adults participating in the intervention resulted in a significant decrease in BMI from baseline to post-intervention. Likewise there was no alteration in mean BMI among children who participated in the programme. Mean BMI ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2$ ) of adults and children who participated in the intervention (n= are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Adults	32.9	32.1	31.9
Children	21.4	21.3	21.2

For adults who took part in the intervention and follow up BMI decreased significantly during and following the intervention and rose during the 12 month follow-up period. However even at the 12 month follow-up weight was significantly lower than at baseline. BMI in children did not change during the intervention but rose during the 12

month follow-up. BMI of participants who took part in all 6 assessments is shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adults	31.4	30.7	30.4	30.7	30.7	30.8
Children	20.0	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.5	20.7

### 3.3 Waist Circumference

Waist circumference was measured as an indicator of visceral or abdominal fat. In adult, storage of fat in this region is considered to increase cardiovascular disease risk to a greater extent than storage of a similar amount of fat on the hips and thighs. There was no change in mean waist circumference in adults taking part in the intervention and a small but significant increase in the waist circumference of children taking part. Mean waist circumference (cm) of adults and children who participated in the intervention are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Adults	106.9	106.8	107.4
Children	77.0	79.9	80.3

For participants who took part in the intervention and follow up there were no significant alterations in waist circumference during the intervention or the 12 month follow-up period but a steady significant increase in this measure in children. Waist circumference of participants who took part in all assessments is shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adults	104.0	103.3	103.8	104.5	106	103.9
Children	75.2	77.3	77.0	78.3	79.6	78.2

#### 4. Physical Activity

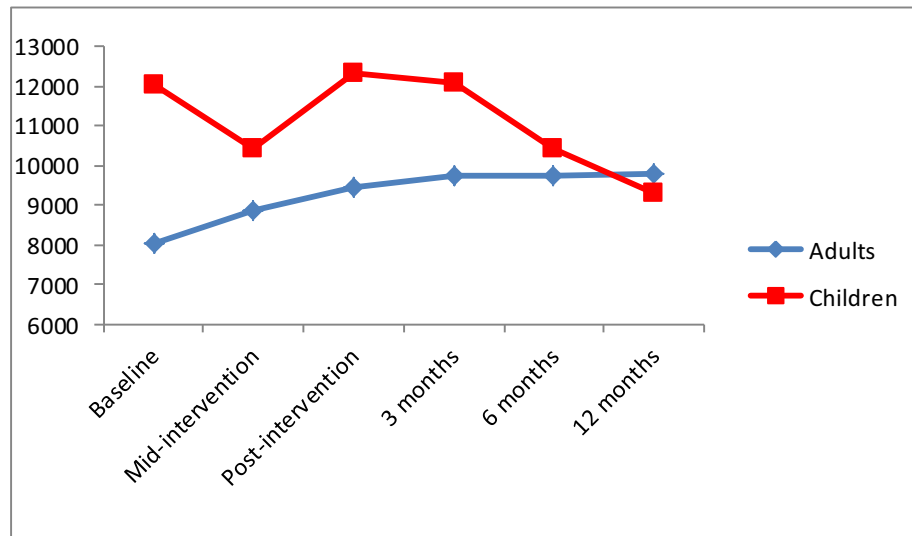
Physical activity was measured using pedometers. Pedometers were worn for 4 days (Friday to Monday inclusive) in advance of each of the assessments. Although not statistically significant mean total step counts for 4 days increased from 28,833 at baseline to 36,550 at the post-intervention assessment. Guidelines suggest that adults should accumulate 10,000 steps per day (40,000 over 4 days) with children aiming to accumulate 12,000 -15,000 steps per day (48,000-60,000 over 4 days). Mean steps over the 4 day period are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Adults	26,967	29,945	34,847
Children	41,896	41,004	48,465

For participants who took part in the intervention and follow up there were no significant changes in the number of steps taken over the 4 day assessment during the intervention or the 12 month follow-up period. Step counts for children declined during the 12 month follow-up. 4 day step counts for participants who took part in all assessments are shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adults	32,134	35,360	37,741	38,834	38,865	39,124
Children	48,113	41,740	49,255	48,293	41,597	37,231

As indicated steps per day guidelines exist for children and adults, we have therefore converted the 4 day step counts into mean daily steps for adults and children at all 6 assessments and these are shown below:



Adults who took part in all 6 assessments were more active at baseline at the midpoint of the intervention and at the end of the intervention than those who did not take part in the follow-up assessments. Children's physical activity declined during the post intervention follow up. Physical activity among children shows a downward trend with age and the decrease observed may reflect this change in age (children all 1 year older).

## 5. Health Measures

### 5.1 Blood Pressure

Blood pressure and resting heart rate was measured in all participants. Mean ( $\pm$ SEM) systolic blood pressure in adults was 135.5 ( $\pm$ 5.9) mmHg at baseline and showed a non-significant decrease to 129.6 ( $\pm$ 1.2). Diastolic blood pressure showed a statistically significant decrease from 91.1 ( $\pm$ 3.7) to 82.2 ( $\pm$ 0.9). At baseline 13 participants had diastolic blood pressure  $>$  140mm Hg and/or diastolic blood pressure  $>$  90 mmHg by the post intervention measurement 4 of these participants had blood pressure beneath these cut-offs points.

Mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure in adults and children at baseline, 6 weeks and post intervention are shown in the table below:

	Baseline		Week 6		Post-intervention	
	Systolic	Diastolic	Systolic	Diastolic	Systolic	Diastolic
Adults	136	91	129	85	130	82
Children	119	78	109	70	111	63

Adults who took part in the intervention and follow-up showed a significant decrease in both systolic blood pressure from baseline to 12 months post intervention. There were no significant changes in children's blood pressure:

	Baseline		Midpoint		Post		3 months		6 months		12 months	
	Sys	Dia	Sys	Dia	Sys	Dia	Sys	Dia	Sys	Dia	Sys	Dia
Adults	136	87	125	82	128	83	132	88	124	81	128	86
Children	117	79	105	66	108	64	127	69	104	62	112	72

## 5.2 Total Cholesterol

Total cholesterol was measured from a sample of capillary blood in all adults who participated in the intervention. Mean ( $\pm$ SEM) total cholesterol in adults at baseline was 4.2 mmol·l<sup>-1</sup>. This remained statistically unchanged throughout the assessments. This total cholesterol is within normal ranges for adults aged 25-54 and therefore a reduction as a result of a lifestyle intervention would not be expected. At baseline 8 participants had total cholesterol levels which could be regarded as elevated ( $>5.1$  mmol·l<sup>-1</sup>). At the end of the 13 week intervention 5 of these individuals had total cholesterol values within normal range. Mean total cholesterol (in mmol·l<sup>-1</sup>) in adults at baseline, 6 weeks and post intervention are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Male	4.1	4.2	4.2
Female	4.9	4.1	4.1

For adults who took part in the intervention and follow up there were no significant alterations in total cholesterol. Total cholesterol of participants who took part in all assessments is shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Male	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.4
Female	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5

## 5.3 Resting heart rate

Resting heart rate (RHR) was measured at each assessment as a crude index of cardiovascular fitness. Although there were fluctuation in HR over the three time points these do not represent any perceptible change in cardiovascular fitness. RHR across the 3 assessments are shown in the table below

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
All	69.9	66.3	71.3
Male	79.2	68.4	76.0
Female	68.3	65.9	70.6
Adults	69.3	65.6	70.3
Children	73.0	71.0	77.7

For participants who took part in the intervention and follow up there were no significant changes in resting heart rate during the intervention or the 12 month follow-up period. Resting heart rate for participants who took part in all assessments is shown below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adults	73.3	68.5	72.4	69.5	66.9	69.1
Children	76.9	73.2	77.9	77.0	77.4	76.7

## 6. Psychosocial Measures

Participant's self-esteem was assessed using previously validated questionnaires. Questionnaires were self-completed by participants at each assessment. Responses to questions were used to determine participants' perceptions of themselves in a range of areas. Different questionnaires were used for adult, adolescents and children.

### 6.1 Adults

Individual perceptions of global self-worth, physical attractiveness, athletic competence and sociability were assessed from the adult's responses to the questionnaire items at baseline, after 6 weeks and at the end of the intervention. Each item was scored out of a maximum of 4 points.

Mean global self-worth, scores increased from baseline to week 6 and this increase was sustained through to post-intervention measurement. Mean scores for physical attractiveness, athletic competence and sociability increased from baseline to post-intervention. Scores on each of the 4 scales are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Global self worth (GSW)	2.3	2.7	2.8
Physical attractiveness (PA)	2.1	2.2	2.4
Athletic competence (AC)	1.8	1.9	2.0
Sociability (SOC)	2.8	2.9	3.0

Only 12 adults (6F 6M) completed the 4 psychological inventories at all 6 timepoints. The mean scores on each scale are shown below.

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
GSW	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.7
PA	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2
AC	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.5
SOC	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9



A significance t-test revealed that adults reporting higher initial Physical Attractiveness were more likely to complete the pre and post intervention assessments and more likely to complete the follow-up assessments.

## 6.2 Adolescents

Adolescents' perceptions of global self-worth, physical attractiveness and athletic competence were assessed from their responses to the questionnaire items at baseline, after 6 weeks and at the end of the intervention. Each item was scored out of a maximum of 4 points.

In adolescents there was no change in global self worth, physical attractiveness following the intervention. Perceptions of athletic competence increased from baseline to post-intervention.

Mean scores on each of the 3 scales are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Global self worth	3.1	3.0	2.9
Physical attractiveness	3.1	3.0	2.8
Athletic competence	2.9	3.1	3.8

Only 4 adolescents completed the assessments at all 6 time points making any statistical analysis of change over the programme impossible.

## 6.3 Children

Children's responses to their questionnaires were used to determine their perception of their global self-worth, scholastic competence, athletic competence and social acceptance at baseline, after 6 weeks and at the end of the intervention. Each item was scored out of a maximum of 4 points.

In all 4 measures mean scores increased from baseline to post intervention however none of these increases were statistically significant. It is likely that this lack of statistical significance is due to the small sample size.

Scores on each of the 4 scales are shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Week 6	Post-intervention
Global self worth	3.0	3.2	3.4
Scholastic competence	2.8	2.8	3.2
Athletic competence	2.8	3.1	3.2
Social Acceptance	3.2	3.2	3.6

Only 3 children completed the assessments at all 6 timepoints making any statistical analysis of change over the programme impossible.

## 7 Nutritional Habits

Nutritional habits of families were assessed using a Food Frequency Questionnaire completed by participant at all 6 assessments. Families were required to indicate how many times per day or week that they consumed a range of foodstuffs. This information was used to describe dietary habits at each time point. In total 31 participants completed the food frequency questionnaires at all 6 time points. Mean frequency of consumption per week of key foodstuffs for adults is shown in the table below:

	Baseline	Midpoint	Post	3 months	6 months	12 months
Meat & Fish	16.7	16.1	16.3	15.0	13.0	13.3
Bread & Savoury biscuits	7.7	6.8	7.1	6.0	3.5	3.3
Potatoes Rice and Pasta	11.3	9.5	9.5	10.7	8.4	8.4
Dairy products and fats	16.5	15.2	15.2	15.0	8.9	9.7
Sweets and Snacks	17.0	12.8	12.8	14.0	13.9	15.0
Sugary drinks	9.1	10.6	10.7	14.2	10.6	11.6
Fruit	10.3	14.6	14.6	12.5	10.5	10.6
Vegetables	18.9	23.7	23.7	25.4	20.5	23.7

Significant decreases in consumption of meat and fish, bread and savoury biscuits, bread rice and pasta, dairy products and fats, and sweets and snacks and a significant increase in the consumption of fruit and vegetables appears to have occurred over the course of the intervention and follow-up. These results should be interpreted with care as it is likely that self-report measures of food intake exhibit considerable variation and are affected by misreporting (Subar et al 2003)

## **8 Conclusions**

The 13 week intervention which engaged families in a range of activities designed to encourage weight loss among those family members who were overweight and obese and improve the nutrition and physical activity habits of all families showed some success in altering several of the selected outcome measures. Weight decreased among adults while children maintained weight over the 13 week period. Physical activity showed an upward trend among adults but remained stable in children. The increase in physical activity was maintained during follow up in adults but activity declined in children during the 12 month post-intervention period. Following the intervention there was evidence of some improvement in self-esteem and favourable alterations in dietary intake through improved nutritional habits.

Drop out and/or non-compliance by 43 out of the 99 individuals initially recruited failed to complete the intervention. This high drop-out although disappointing is not unusual for lifestyle interventions targeting overweight and obesity. Adherence to changes in physical activity and dietary behaviours is notoriously difficult to achieve with most research indicated only modest adherence to such changes over 12 to 24 months.

In order to alter morbidity and mortality on a population level, such interventions need to induce changes which are sustained over time. Accordingly, The Standard Evaluation Framework for weight management interventions (2009) recommends that follow up should be at a minimum of 3 points including at 1 year. The assessments at 3, 6 and 12 months following the end of this intervention allowed an evaluation of whether the favourable changes induced by the intervention can be sustained over time. In total 33 participants from 9 families attended all 6 assessments representing one third of the initial sample. Such adherence to follow-up measures at 15 months may not allow an assessment of the impact of the intervention, as some families and participants may have altered nutritional and physical activity habits as a result of the intervention but

failed to attend follow-up. Incentivising attendance at assessment may encourage participation and result in follow-up measurements which provide a more accurate reflection of the medium-term impact of a weight loss or weight management intervention.

Our evaluation was not designed to elicit qualitative information from participants on the quality of the programme, reasons for adherence or drop out or other factors affecting weight loss and physical activity behaviour changes observed. Qualitative feedback from both participants and from the professionals delivering the intervention may provide the type of rich data which could guide the interpretation of our quantitative results and provide further information on reasons for adherence and non-adherence to both the intervention and follow-up assessments.

Our analysis showed that those individuals with the highest body weight at the start of the intervention were less likely to attend all 6 assessments. Individuals with higher body weight may have already tried and failed on several occasions to address weight loss. In addition physical activity may be less pleasurable and more embarrassing for heavier individuals (Kwak et al 2006). Additional efforts to engage the heaviest individuals or those most likely to benefit from weight loss interventions may be required. A recent review by Elfhag and Rossner (2005) suggests that successful weight maintenance is associated with more initial weight loss, and reaching a self-determined goal weight. Including realistic individually agreed weight loss targets and efforts to ensure compliance with the intervention to ensure these targets are achieved may be necessary. Research suggests that weight loss maintenance becomes easier after 2-5 years, emphasising the importance of interventions and support which help people maintain a stable healthy weight in the first few years after this has been achieved (Wing and Phelan 2005). In the current intervention participants received ongoing but significantly reduced support after the initial 13 week programme. This may have affected attendance at follow-up assessments and/or maintenance of weight loss.

We also identified that individuals with the highest self-reported Physical Attractiveness at baseline were most likely to attend all 6 assessments. This highlights the importance of self-esteem and self-efficacy in weight-loss interventions. Although the evaluation assessed a range of psychological factors, the intervention did not explicitly attempt to improve participants self-esteem or apply behavioural models to achieve physical activity and dietary change. The role of behavioural psychology as a component of weight loss programmes has been identified and it is likely that success in achieving and maintaining weight loss is associated with factors such as internal motivation, social support, coping strategies, self-efficacy, autonomy, and psychological strength stability. (Elfhag and Rossner 2005).

An analysis of data from those individuals who attended all 6 assessments suggests in general that the intervention was successful in achieving weight loss in adults and that although weight gain occurred during follow-up reductions in weight from baseline were still present 12 months after the intervention had ended. This suggests that intervention may have caused some longer term alteration to physical activity and dietary behaviours although this remains somewhat speculative. In children there was maintenance of body weight over the course of the intervention and an increase in body weight during the 12 month follow-up. Such an increase in body weight is not unexpected as children grow and develop. The small number of children (n=16) the age range (5-19) and the lack of information on status make any further interpretation of the rate of increase in weight over this period difficult.

In conclusion the 13 week weight loss programme focused on families with 1 or more overweight or obese members appears to have been successful in promoting weight loss, increasing physical activity and improving self-esteem in individuals who attended pre and post intervention assessments. Those who engaged in follow-up assessment showed some degree of maintenance of these positive changes.

## 9. Recommendations

On the basis of monitoring and evaluating the BCC Healthy Families programme the following recommendations are advanced. It is intended that these recommendations might be used to guide future family-based weight loss interventions planned by Belfast City Council:

- Elicit feedback from participants on the quality of the intervention, perceived barriers to adherence and attendance at follow-up assessments. This information could be used to shape future interventions to achieve improved adherence
- Seek qualitative feedback from the professionals delivering the intervention to inform the design of future interventions
- Incentivise participation at follow-up assessment to ensure that any evaluation is more robust
- Tailor the intervention at the level of the individual providing greater support for the most overweight individuals and those with the lowest level of self-esteem at baseline.
- Where the intention is to focus on the family unit, consider identifying the 'key influence' individual (for example, main food buyer/preparer or activity leader) within the family unit and target additional support to maximise the impact of their key role
- Conduct a thorough standardised needs analysis, including SMART goals, with each adult and adolescent participant at the pre intervention stage. The needs analysis should include any history of similar interventions/attempts and their outcomes along with any perceived barriers to future success

- Further qualitative evaluation to explore the types of activity that were engaged in and whether these were family based activities or performed alone and which explore the challenges faced by family members in motivating others in their family to be active.
- Qualitative focus groups with participants who increased their activity, asking them about their motivations and insights into the programme and how activity could be sustained in the future.
- If you dietary behaviour change is a primary objective of the intervention more reliable methods of dietary analysis such as using day weighed diet diaries or food photography and picture plate waste (PPW) methods which have been successfully used to avoid the issue of under reporting/over estimating could be employed (Black, 1993; Nelson et al., 1996).



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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	APSE Service Awards 2011
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Victoria Law, Lead Communicator

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The annual Association for Public Service Excellence Awards are presented to those organisations that have 'demonstrated their ability to innovate within service delivery and actively demonstrate new concepts and examples of best practice, which continuously improve the level of service to local communities'. The awards are designed to help promote and demonstrate new concepts and examples of best practice in service delivery.</p> <p>In March, the department submitted one entry for the 2011 awards in the category of Best Efficiency for the Parks and Leisure departmental improvement programme. The awards were announced at the annual APSE conference, which this year took place in Bristol.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The Department was selected as one of the top finalists in the Best Efficiency category, but was unsuccessful in winning the award.</p> <p>The award for this category was won by Solutions SK, a Stockport Council company.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	None.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are asked to note the content of the report.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	None.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	APSE: Association for Public Service Excellence

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Support for Sport Development Grants
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the decision taken by the Director of Parks and Leisure under delegated authority regarding Support for Sport small development and hospitality applications received during September 2011.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The Director and relevant officer met on Monday 3 October to discuss small development and hospitality grants.</p> <p>The small development applications (delegated authority September) are listed in Appendix 1, the hospitality grants (delegated authority September) are listed in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Detailed applications are held in the Parks and Leisure Department and can be viewed by Members on request.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>				
	<p><u>Financial</u> The table below indicates the amounts allocated from the 2010/2011 budget.</p>				
	<b>Area</b>	<b>Total available</b>	<b>Allocated to date</b>	<b>Proposed allocation for September</b>	<b>Remaining after allocation</b>
	Small Development	£120,000	£66,879	£11,115	£42,006
	Hospitality	£31,000	£28,835	£4,250	£-2,085
	<p>Members are asked to note the over allocation of the hospitality budget due to the cancellation of an event previously recommended and the occasional instances of full amounts not being drawn down as a result of changes in circumstances and number of guests. In effect the £31,000 budget will not be overspent.</p>				

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	<p>All applications have been assessed in line with the current Support for Sport scheme.</p> <p>When the review of the Support for Sport scheme has been completed, the revised scheme and award framework will be re-screened through the council's equality screening process.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>That Members note the content of this report with regard to Support for Sport development and hospitality applications.</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Sports Development Officer to arrange the award of all Support for Sport Small Grants by 30 October 2011.</p>

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>None.</p>

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Small Development Applications September 2011 Appendix 2: Hospitality Applications September 2011.</p>

ID	Club/Organisation	Activity details	Amount recommended	Recommendation and reason	Breakdown
D-699-12	North Star Netball Club	Requiring funding for club members to qualify for the UKCC Level 1 and UKCC Level 2 courses to develop the junior section of the club and establishing an U16 section.	£980 + £250 equipment	To fund up to a maximum of £980 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs. +£250 equipment grant	Coach Education: £1305 Total: £1305-75%= £980+£250 equipment grant
D-700-12	St Pauls Ladies Gaelic Football	Mini indoor girls football blitz over 6 weekends between November and February to develop skills, teamwork and gaelic girls profile. Plan to invite other local clubs to participate and this type of event is a first for this age group in Belfast. Hosted at De La Salle.	£990	To fund up to a maximum of £990 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coaching costs: £720 Faculty hire:£600 Total:£1320-75%=£990
D-701-12	Orangefield Community Association	Mini Soccer coaching programme aimed at males aged 11-20 years over a 12 week period. Aimed at encouraging males who have no experience in playing soccer to develop their soccer skills, social development, increase physical activity and enjoyment	£675	To fund up to a maximum of £675 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coaching costs: £900 Total:£900-75%=£675
D-702-12	Setanta Water Polo Club	A water polo weekly tournament starting in October lasting 8 weeks for mainly males aged 8-29. Tournament hopes to develop coaching/refereeing skills at all levels both within the club and other clubs, Hosted at Falls LC	£1000	To fund up to a maximum of £1000 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coaching Costs: £674 Facility Hire: £659 Total:£1333-75%= £1000
D-703-12	Westside Netball Club	Only club working out of West Belfast playing at De La Salle. They want to skill up coaches to work from closely with the juniors. Funding for 4 club members to qualify for Umpiring C Badge, UKCC Level 1 and UKCC Level 2 plus equipment grant	£743+250 Equipment	To fund up to a maximum of £743 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs. +£250 equipment grant	Coach Education: £990 Total: £990-75%= £743+£250 equipment grant

D-704-12	Graduates Netball Club	Funding required to train up volunteers that currently help out at the club, sustaining them with long term goal of establishing a junior team. Courses are UKCC Level 1 and 2, Netball Europe 'A' Umpiring courses	£736	To fund up to a maximum of £736 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coach Education: £968 Total: £968-75%= £736
D-705-12	Chung Do Kwan Belfast	New club based at Avoniel Leisure Centre who hope to expand through Martial Arts seminars, Olympic sparring competitions and purchasing new equipment. Also to develop current players to high performance, recruit new players and developing coaches/instruct	£1000	To fund up to a maximum of £1000 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs. +£250 equipment grant	Coaching costs:£921 Facility Hire: £412 Total: £1333-75%=£1000+£250 Equipment
D-706-12	Ballysillan Youth F.C	Kick start programme aimed at increasing soccer participation for children aged 10-18 years in the North Belfast area. Equipment grant required to buy additional training aids for the new soccer teams	£753	To fund up to a maximum of £753 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coaching Costs:£256 Coach Education:££220 Facility Hire:£382 Trophies:£143 Total: £1004-75%=£753
D-707-12	Ulster Deaf Sports Council	Costs to teach 30 deaf children to swim with the long term aim of helping them compete at national and international swimming events.	£1000	To fund up to a maximum of £1000 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coaching Costs: £533 Facility Hire:£800 Total:£1333-75%=£1000
D-709-12	Ulster Deaf Sports Council	To book fully qualified hearing interpreters to assist with sport coaching and strategic sports development events so that deaf participants can understand and engage. Sports include swimming, bowls, badminton, ladies basketball and golf to benefit 200+ participants	0	Only £1000 is available per financial year per organisation. We are in discussion with the club to assist with other funding opportunities to cover interpreter costs.	
D-708-12	Hollywood Netball Club	Funding for UKCC Level 2 coaching courses to develop the club and equipment grant for the anticipated development section the club hope to establish	£653	To fund up to a maximum of £653 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coach Education: £570 Facility Hire: £300 Total: £870-75%=£653



D-710-12	Orangegrove Athletics Club	Coaching award for new assistant coach to deliver sessions to mini section aged 8-11. Club to host Victoria Park relay event (which had achieved championship status, the club hope to reinstate it within the NI Athletic calendar. The event to allow club members to compete with other clubs in Ireland.	£585	To fund up to a maximum of £585 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs.	Coach Education: £470 Marketing:£20 First Aid/officals:£90 Trophies £200 Total: £780-75%=£585
D-711-12	Ulster Rockets Club	The Ulster Rockets is a "superclub" that has brought together all the top senior players from clubs in Belfast and has given them a pathway to play in the All Ireland Super League - the only NI team to do so. Assistance is requested for facility hire and officals costs to host the other super league teams.	£1000+£250	To fund up to a maximum of £1000 not representing more than 75% of eligible costs. +£250 equipment grant	Facility Hire:£900 Officals costs:£433 Total:£1333-75%=£1000+£250
<b>Total Amount allocated to date</b>		<b>£66,879</b>	<b>Total amount allocated October</b>	<b>£11,115</b>	<b>£77,994</b>

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Appendix 2 Support for Sport Hospitality Grants September 2011

ID	Club/Organisation	Title of event	Tourism Appeal	Recommendation	Amount recommended
H-101-12	St Pauls GAC	Visit of Passage West GAA from Cork, Clann Eireann from Armagh and Carryduff ladies from Carryduff	Total of 195 people over 2 days	Recommend	£400
H-102-12	NI Association of Visually Impaired Bowlers	UK Indoor Singles Championships for Visually Impaired	85 people travelling from England, Scotland and Wales	Recommend	£500
H-103-12	Ligoniel Working Men's Club	Cross Community Football Fest	Cross community event for 60 people	Do not recommend - Guests from Belfast only.	-
H-104-12	Clonard Amateur Swimming Club	Clonard Waterpolo ASC-90th Year	350 guest, President of Swim Ireland, President of Ulster Branch IWPA, Lord Mayor and Past players	Recommend	£2,000
H-105-12	Ulster Rockets	All Ireland Super-League	Over 9 home matches a total of 270 anticipated to visit and stay in Belfast	Recommend	£1,350
<b>Total Amount allocated to date</b>		<b>£28,835</b>	<b>Total amount allocated September</b>	<b>£4,250</b>	<b>Overall Total: £33,085</b>

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