

Parks and Leisure Committee

Thursday, 12th April, 2012

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
Aldermen Humphrey and Rodgers;
Councillors Austin, Cunningham, Hargey,
Kelly, Kyle, Mallon, McCabe, McKee, McNamee,
Mullan, A. Newton, O'Neill and Robinson.

In attendance: Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks
and Leisure; and
Miss L. Hillick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Haire, Hendron, Mac Giolla Mhín and Thompson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Support for Sport

(Ms. C. Moraghan, Sports Development Officer, attended in connection with these items.)

Review of Support for Sport Scheme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 **Relevant Background Information**

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the revised Support for Sport grant scheme for their approval with a view to implementation from May 2012.

At the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting on 12th January, 2012, Members requested party briefings on the proposed revision of Support for Sport before approving the scheme.

The Party briefings took place throughout February and March and the table below summarises the final version of the revised Support for Sport Scheme which takes onboard feedback from Members with regard to the hospitality fund, contingency fund and proposed fund for individuals.

2 Key Issues

A summary of the present scheme and the key proposed revisions are presented in the following table:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Current Support for Sport Scheme</u>	<u>Proposed revised Support for Sport Scheme</u>	<u>Revised Allocation of Funds</u>
Payment process	Small grants - funding is retrospective on submission of final report and receipts	Funding is 50% up front and 50% on submission of final report and receipts	No change
Categories	Funding covers coach education, <i>Kick Start/Try-it</i> events, development competitions and equipment.	Categories will remain the same, however the allocation will be prioritised with the highest percentage going towards coach education and lowest towards medals/ certificates etc	No change
Support provided	Officers work with clubs to assist with applications	Officers will continue to provide this service	No change
Individuals	Individuals are not supported	15 high level athletes to be supported by £1000 each	£15,000

<u>Area</u>	<u>Current Support for Sport Scheme</u>	<u>Proposed revised Support for Sport Scheme</u>	<u>Revised Allocation of Funds</u>
Hospitality	Requests only supported if visitors from outside NI travel to Belfast for event.	Level of support to be staggered. Minimum number of visitors funded: 50	No change
Hospitality	Current allocation £31,000	Reduced to £25,000 and targeted at larger sporting events. £6,000 redirected to Individuals	£25,000
Application process	Applications submitted hard copy or electronically	Application to be developed for online use.	No change
Reward scheme	No incentive for clubs to develop and provide a quality service.	Provide a grant for clubs achieving ClubMark Quality standard	No change – to be allocated from overall S4S scheme
Contingency	Currently £14,000	£9,000 redirected to individuals	£5,000

Associated with the above proposals are a number of revisions to the allocation of the budget. There is no increase in total budget proposed, simply a re-distribution of the existing budget as follows (key areas of change are in italics);-

Current Support for Sport Scheme		Revised Support for Sport Scheme	
Large Grants	£60,000	Large Grants	£60,000
Small Grants	£120,000	Small Grants	£120,000
Individual Grants	£0	Individual Grants	£15,000
Hospitality	£31,000	Hospitality	£25,000
Contingency	£14,000	Contingency	£5,000
Total	£225,000	Total	£225,000

The review has mainly impacted on the following aspects of the scheme:-

- On-line application/evaluation
- Advanced payment
- Hospitality
- Individuals
- Clubmark

It is proposed that a management plan will be implemented by the Leisure Development Unit to ensure effective implementation of all changes to the scheme. It is also proposed that further consultation will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders at six months after implementation of the above changes.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

It is expected that the development of a web-based application/reporting facility will be developed internally by ISB.

The overall scheme budget for awards will remain the same at £225,000, but there will be a re-allocation of £15,000 from the Hospitality Grant and Contingency budgets to grants for individuals.

Human Resources

There will be no additional human resources required at this stage.

Asset and Other Implications

None at this stage.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no implications at this stage. However, equality screening of the recommended changes will be undertaken, internally, in line with the Council's existing procedures.

5 Recommendations

Committee is asked to approve the proposed changes to the Support for Sport scheme for subsequent implementation by 1 May 2012 including:

- **Advance Payment of 50% of total funding**
- **An on-line application form being developed**
- **Hospitality grant being re-focused and reduced to £25,000**
- **An Individual grant of £15,000 being developed with relocated funds from hospitality (£6,000) and contingency (£9,000)**
- **An award system being developed and implemented for accredited ClubMark.”**

After discussion, the Committee approved the above-mentioned changes to the Support for Sport Scheme.

Support for Sport Development Grants and Hospitality Applications

The Committee noted a schedule of Support for Sport applications in relation to small-scale development grants and hospitality applications which had been approved by the Director of Parks and Leisure in accordance with the authority delegated to him.

Active Belfast

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

At the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee on 6th December, 2011, the Committee noted the progress the department had made in developing the Active Belfast approach, working alongside the Belfast Health Development Unit (BH DU) and senior officers from the Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC).

The Active Belfast approach is a key strand of the council’s developing Active Belfast and Open Space Strategy. The work undertaken by Strategic Leisure Limited in 2009 to support the development of the strategic approach identified the need for better partnership working to get more people active more often.

The establishment of the Active Belfast Partnership as part of the framework for action of the Belfast Strategic Partnership which is chaired by the Director of Parks and Leisure provides a real opportunity to work with key partners in the city to develop joint initiatives and projects to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for people in the city.

This report summaries the key actions taken between December 2011 and March 2012 and highlights for Members several priority areas for the development of Active Belfast.

2 Key Issues

Active Belfast Workshop (Stakeholders)

On Thursday, 16th December, 2011 an Active Belfast workshop was held in Grove Wellbeing Centre. Stakeholders from a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations were invited to attend.

The purpose of the workshop was threefold:

- to bring together key stakeholders in the city involved in the delivery of an Active Belfast
- to explore strengths and improved ways of working for the future of an Active city
- to influence the development of an Active Belfast Partnership

In total 73 delegates attended the workshop representing over 40 different organisations. The key messages fed back from those attending the workshop were:

- positivity about the commitment shown by the lead partner organisations;
- a commitment to partnership and joined up working;
- the need for co-ordination of delivery and promotion of opportunities;
- a focus on community led change; and
- the need to pool resources across organisations.

Partners of Active Belfast

Following the December workshop senior representatives from a range of organisations linked to the thematic areas of Active Belfast (Active Living, Active Leisure and Active Sport) met to discuss and agree a way forward in improving the co-ordination, promotion and provision of physical activity across the City.

At this meeting it was agreed that:

- a partnership would be established to build on the commitment shown by the lead organisations and workshop participants;

- the partnership would provide a 'direction of travel' for physical activity across the City, by identifying key priorities and actions required to increase participation; and
- the partnership would direct the development and implementation of a citywide physical activity plan.

Community representatives have also been identified and approached to become partners of Active Belfast.

Active Belfast planning workshop

On Thursday, 8th March, 2012 the partners of Active Belfast met to discuss and agree immediate actions, both internal and external to the partnership, which are required to be taken forward in order to develop and provide visibility to Active Belfast.

The following agreed themes for the mission of Active Belfast began to emerge from the partner discussions. Active Belfast should be:

- people centred;
- complementary to existing strategies;
- concerned with improving health and wellbeing;
- outcomes focused;
- create visibility;
- signify change; and
- demonstrate positivity.

To continue the development of the Active Belfast approach, the partners have identified several priority areas which are currently being progressed.

These priority areas include:

- a single 'hard' launch event of Active Belfast under the theme of Active Living, to take place in May;
- the launch of Active Belfast being supported through a co-ordinated physical activity programme and marketing campaign to take place during the summer;
- the branding of these programmes to fall under the Active Belfast logo;
- to undertake an ongoing process of mapping and scoping all physical activity opportunities available in the city;
- to agree on 'quality control' issues for the use of the Active Belfast logo by other organisations / groups;

- to reach agreement on the role of the partnership in relation to commissioning funding to other organisations / groups; and
- the creation of an Active Belfast Fund.

Proposals for an Active Belfast Fund

Historically the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have allocated funding to a range of organisations including voluntary and community organisation to undertake projects to improve levels of physical activity in Belfast. There is currently £180k available for investment in 2012/13 financial year. Approximately £80k of this is already committed by the Public Health Agency to the Healthwise and Cardiac Rehab programmes. The Public Health Agency would like to make the remaining £110k available to the Active Belfast Partnership to assist with the creation of a fund to enable a targeted call for applications for schemes that deliver outcomes within the Active Living and Active Leisure areas of the Active Belfast Approach.

The Council has been asked by the partnership to consider contributing some match funding to help support a greater number of schemes. A possible framework to target calls for applications to the fund is attached.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has agreed in the 2012/13 revenue estimates a budget of £100k to support the health and wellbeing thematic area. Discussions with the Director of Health and Environmental Services have indicated that £70k of this could be made available from that to the Active Belfast Investment Fund in the 2012/13 financial year. It is proposed that an additional £20k is provided from the Parks and Leisure budget to create a joint fund of £200k.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

The provision of match funding to the Active Belfast Investment Fund will require £70k from the council's thematic budget and £20k from the Parks and Leisure revenue budget.

Human Resources

None.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee note the current position regarding Active Belfast and agree to match fund the Active Belfast Partnerships investment fund by agreeing to provide a total of £90k as outlined in the report.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendation.

Proposed Nursery School at Cliftonville Playing Fields

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 6th February, 2007 the former Parks and Cemeteries Sub-Committee approved the disposal of a total of approximately 1.54 acres of frontage land at Cliftonville Playing Fields to the Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain for the development of an Irish Medium School. This included an area of 0.54 acres which was to be jointly used by the school and the Council for vehicle parking and turning. The scheme at that time also provided for the potential development of a grass Gaelic games pitch on the remainder of the site. The map shows the proposed site utilisation approved by Committee in 2007.

The Bunscoil subsequently obtained Outline Planning Approval in February 2009 for development of a primary school, nursery unit and playing field on the Cliftonville Playing Fields site. This replaced a previous similar Outline Permission obtained in 2004.

The matter however went into abeyance because the Department of Education (DENI) could not commit to the arrangements until their own appraisal processes had been completed and was subject to the availability of funds. DENI have however continued to consider the original Bunscoil proposal, which includes a nursery unit, and the Council were recently approached by them in relation to disposal of land (by way of a lease and option to purchase) to facilitate the

nursery unit only at this stage. The current nursery unit is co-located with the Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain school at Wyndham Drive/Torrens Crescent, close to Cliftonville Playing Fields. The aspiration is to have the unit constructed and ready for use by the start of the autumn term in September 2012. DENI also wish to keep alive the prospect of developing a Bunscoil on the site in addition to the nursery unit and whilst they are currently unable to confirm whether the Bunscoil will be able to proceed, they would hope to be able to clarify the position later this year.

The current grass pitch at Cliftonville Playing Fields is used by two local Gaelic Clubs. In 2010 the Council installed temporary modular changing accommodation at the south eastern end of the site, fronting the Cliftonville Road. The approximate position of the modular changing accommodation is shown shaded blue on the map.

The development of a 3G Gaelic Games pitch and associated changing accommodation at Cliftonville Playing Fields now forms part of the Council's Pitches Strategy and following the more recent contact from DENI, Council officers have primarily sought to ensure that use of the existing modular changing accommodation and grass pitch is preserved until the commencement of any site works associated with the 3G pitch development. In addition officers have sought to ensure that the 3G pitch development is not in any way prejudiced by any short or longer term proposals being made by DENI.

The current proposals by DENI are based on a phased Masterplan approach with the initial phase being the nursery unit only with access and parking; but with a Phase 2 envisaging the full Bunscoil which can proceed either on the basis of an integrated changing room facility which would serve both the pitch and the school or an independent changing facility. This proposal also allows for potential for the use of the school's multipurpose hall outside school hours. Dependent on the timing in relation to DENI approval for the Bunscoil proceeding, the Council's pitch and changing accommodation proposals could run in parallel with the school and potentially a combined planning application could be submitted.

However, the development of the pitch and the changing accommodation are not contingent upon the Bunscoil proposal and the Council can still go ahead with an independent changing room facility if the Bunscoil proposal does not proceed.

In discussions with DENI, Council officers have sought to minimize the land that DENI wish to reserve for the 'longer term' Bunscoil development.

DENI and BCC officers have met with Planning Service and Roads Service and there were no major issues raised in relation to the proposed vehicle access arrangements associated with the potential ultimate development of the Bunscoil, 3G pitch and changing accommodation.

2 Key Issues

The proposed location of the pitches included in the Council's Pitches Strategy, including the Cliftonville site, were approved at a Special meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee on 17th January 2012. The proposed position of the pitch at Cliftonville presented at Committee took account of the plans for the Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain to the front of the site although it was recognised this was still under consideration by the Department of Education.

Consultants are being appointed in May to take forward the development of the overall Pitches Strategy, which includes Cliftonville. It is envisaged that the design, planning approval process, award of tender and subsequent development of the pitch and changing facility should be completed within a two year timeframe.

To facilitate the development of an Irish Medium nursery school the Department of Education are seeking a 5 year lease on an area of 0.29 acres at Cliftonville Playing Fields, as shown outlined red on the map. A rent of £1780 per annum has been agreed with Land and Property Services in respect of this area, subject to Committee approval. The site includes an area of 0.07 acres for car parking which would be available for shared use with the Council. DENI wish to include within the lease an option to purchase the nursery site from the Council, at market value, within the 5 year term, should the need arise, which would be subject to further Committee approvals.

DENI wish to preserve the longer term goal of developing the Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain on land which would adjoin the nursery site and the proposed 3G pitch. As outlined above, there is previous Committee approval to the disposal of the subject land to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadigan. Officers are continuing to work with DENI to minimise any additional costs associated with the co-location of the 3G pitch with the Bunscoil on the Cliftonville site. There is also the potential

for benefits in terms of joint use of changing accommodation and sports hall facilities within the Bunscoil. This integrated approach is in line with the 'One Public Estate' concept and the improved use of publicly owned assets across the wider public sector, voluntary and community sectors.

The site area being proposed for the nursery unit will allow continued use of the existing grass pitch and modular changing accommodation.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

A rental income of £1780 per annum would flow from the proposed grant of a five year lease to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain for the provision of the nursery school unit.

Human Resources

Resources in Property and Projects Department, Legal Services and Parks and Leisure Department associated with drawing up a legal agreement and agreement of detailed terms with the Department of Education / Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain in relation to the proposed 5 year lease. Further staff resource required in developing potential joint arrangements with the Department of Education/Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain regarding future use of the future facilities to be developed on the site.

Asset and Other Implications

The proposed integrated approach is in line with the 'One Public Estate' concept and the improved use of publicly owned assets across the wider public sector, voluntary and community sectors.

The proposed five year lease, with an option to purchase at market value, allied to the proposed positioning of the nursery within the site is considered to represent the best available solution for the Council in the current circumstances. The proposal also appears to satisfy the needs of the Gaelic Clubs and the Bunscoil.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

No known good relations or equality issues associated with this proposal.

5 Recommendations

Committee is recommended to approve the grant of a 5 year lease to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain of the lands outlined red on the map at a rent of £1780 per annum, subject to an appropriate legal agreement to be drawn up by Legal Services and subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 46. Committee is also recommended to note the continuing discussions with the Department of Education regarding the future overall site utilisation.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tropical Ravine - Award of Heritage Lottery Grant

The Committee considered a report in relation to the progress achieved in connection with the award of a Heritage Lottery Grant which had been submitted in relation to capital works to the Tropical Ravine at the Botanic Gardens site. The Director informed the Committee that the application, which was for a grant of £2,231,900 towards a total project cost of £3,761,900, had been successful in getting through the first stage process when considered by the Heritage Lottery Fund's National Board on 27th March, 2012. In addition, the Committee noted that the Heritage Lottery Fund had awarded the Council a development grant of £115,000 in order to progress the development phase of the Council's application which would be completed within a six to nine month period for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for final consideration.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that a letter be forwarded to staff within the Department expressing the Committee's appreciation for their efforts to secure funding in this regard.

St Patrick's Day Operations in Parks

The Committee noted a report in relation to the actions and activities which had been undertaken over the St. Patrick's Day weekend and Bank Holiday in order to keep the Council's Parks and Leisure spaces safe and free of anti-social behaviour. In addition, the Committee agreed that those staff and partners associated with the operations be forwarded letters of thanks and congratulations for their efforts thereon.

Summer Schemes 2012

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

Each year, summer schemes are organised in leisure centres providing a programme of sporting and play activities to young people over the months of July and August.

The Council's Community Services offer grant funding in support of summer activity programmes, to the voluntary community sector, subject to established qualifying criteria.

2. Key issues/events

Leisure Services provide quality play, recreation and sporting opportunities for the children of Belfast over the summer holiday period.

Free use of swimming pools has been offered in recent years to those community groups which are in receipt of Summer Scheme funding from Community Services, subject to availability.

Free entrance to the zoo has also been offered to children participating in Leisure Services Summer Schemes and concessionary entrance fees are offered to community groups which are in receipt of Summer Scheme funding from Community Services, subject to availability.

Free entrance to the Adventurous playground has also been offered to children participating in Belfast City Council Leisure Centre summer schemes, and free entrance before noon for community group schemes which are in receipt of Summer Scheme funding from Community Services, subject to availability.

During 2012 it is intended to pilot a "breakfast club" scheme within four centres, Avoniel, Olympia, Whiterock and Shankill in order to further enhance our service provision. If approved this pilot will make schemes within the designated centres available from 08.30 a.m. and will aim to facilitate parents / guardians wishing to book children in at earlier times. It is proposed that a fee of £2 is levied for this additional provision. £2 is proportionate to the overall charge associated with the scheme.

Since opening in 2008 the summer scheme at GWBC has sold all allocated spaces within three hours of tickets being made available.

Feedback from customers has resulted in a number of minor procedural adjustments being implemented relating to the booking process. To help address this issue it is recommended that for 2012 parents / guardians booking for the scheme at GWBC are permitted to book a child for a maximum of any four weeks out of the five which the scheme

is in operation for. This will, based upon analysis undertaken in 2010, make an additional 100 days immediately available for re-allocation and should assist in addressing concerns raised by a number of customers regarding availability.

All users of Belfast City Council leisure centres benefit from a subsidised service, funded through the rates. To support accessibility to holiday schemes it is recommended that the first day of holiday scheme enrolment is prioritised for Belfast residents only, and the second day onwards is targeted towards both Belfast and non Belfast residents.

Parks and Leisure Department are also currently working with other council departments to better align all summer intervention schemes.

3. **Resource Implications**

Financial

An allowance of £86,287 is allocated within revenue budgets to support holiday schemes in leisure centres with an anticipated £40,000 projected to be received in income from summer scheme participants.

Human Resources

Subject to the nature of the programme offered at each site, summer schemes are organised using Belfast City Council officers supported by the short term use of agency staff, for the duration of the scheme programme.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

4. **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

None.

5. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members agree that, as in previous years:

- 1) Free swimming, during July and August for community group schemes which are in receipt of summer scheme funding from the Community Services Section, and concessionary entrance fees to the Zoo.

- 2) Free entrance to the Zoo in July and August for children participating in Belfast City Council Leisure Centre summer schemes, and
- 3) Free entrance to the adventurous playground in July and August for children participating in Belfast City Council Leisure Centre summer schemes, and free entrance before noon for community group schemes which are in receipt of Summer Scheme funding from the Community Services Section, subject to availability.
- 4) That the Breakfast club pilot and associated charge be adopted.
- 5) That the adjustment regarding the maximum number of weeks being made available for booking at Grove Wellbeing Centre be adopted.
- 6) That the adjustment regarding priority booking for Belfast residents be adopted for 2012 and then evaluated and reviewed for 2013.”

After discussion, during which the Director pointed out that every effort would be made to ensure that those children of Belfast residents would be given priority for the places available on the Breakfast Club schemes, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Connswater Community Greenway – Revised Governance Arrangements

The Committee considered a report in relation to the revised structure which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd March, in relation to the governance arrangements for the Connswater Community Greenway.

Noted.

Development Plan for Falls Park and City Cemetery

The Committee noted a report in relation to the development plan for the improvement of the Falls Park, the City Cemetery and surrounding area which was being progressed in association with the Friends of Falls Park.

Revisions to the Boost Membership Scheme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

At the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee in December 2011 Members agreed the principles for a revision of the Boost Leisure Centre membership scheme.

At the December meeting the Assistant Director informed the Committee that the Council did not currently provide any Member or staff membership unlike a number of other councils. It was agreed that Members and staff should be encouraged to participate in healthy active living and to use the Council's leisure facilities. It was also noted that this membership would provide an additional income stream for the Council.

2 Key Issues

Member / Officer tariff

Officers have benchmarked across more than 10 other Councils in N Ireland, Scotland where a range of reduced rates are in operation. Based on the information available and the desire to promote an active and healthy lifestyle to staff and Members, it is proposed that the existing concessionary rate of £12.00 be extended to Members and Belfast City Council officers.

It is proposed that this reduced rate will apply to permanent and fixed term council staff both on a full and part time basis. It is also intended that the offer will apply to full and part time agency employees who have been in their council role for 12 successive weeks.

Re-validation of the status of staff will be required on a six monthly basis. This will ensure that the integrity of the offer is maintained and that any issues arising can be addressed.

Tennis and Table Tennis tariff

The scale of charges for indoor leisure agreed by Council at its March Meeting had indicated that Tennis and Table Tennis were to be charged at £4.00 per 30 minutes for full paying customers. This was an oversight. The rate is intended to be £4 per 60 minutes.

Ozone Climbing Course Charges

During the process of reassessing pricing for 2012-13 it was decided to recommend an activity price of £5 per 90 minutes of coached activity in relation to climbing lessons. Following reflection and customer feedback it is proposed to reduce this price to £4 per 90 minutes of coached climbing activity. This amendment will result in an increased income of 20% based upon 2011-12 pricing and will assist the centre in promoting and developing this popular activity.

School Swimming, Price Banding

An amendment was introduced in order to assist schools with budgeting in relation to the cost of children's lessons. The intention was to create a suite of standard price bands that schools would be aware of in advance of lessons therefore a small increase / decrease in children attending lessons would result in the levy not being altered. Feedback from schools has indicated that this approach will not suit all users.

Therefore, while it is proposed that the school swimming banding is retained in order that further awareness sessions can be conducted with appropriate teachers and that developments to this option can be considered. However, it is also proposed that the previous method of charging (2011-12) at a rate of £1.50 per child is re-introduced in order that schools may be afforded the choice of payment methods in line with their service requirements.

This will be kept under review during the initial six months of this financial year to inform decisions regarding the approach to charging in the 2013/14 financial year.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

None.

Human Resources

None.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

The revised Boost Membership Scheme will be subject to equality impact screening in line with the Council's existing procedures. Stage1 of this has already taken place

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee approve the proposed revisions to the Boost Scheme as outlined."

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- (i) the existing concessionary rate of £12 per month in respect of the Boost Membership Scheme be extended to Council Members, permanent and fixed-term Council staff employed on a full and part-time basis and full and part-time agency staff who had been in their roles for 12 successive weeks;
- (ii) the scale of charges for indoor leisure be amended to provide that the rate for tennis and table tennis be £4 per 60 minutes for full paying customers;
- (iii) a charge of £4 per 90 minutes of coached climbing activity be levied in respect of Climbing Courses at the Ozone Centre; and
- (iv) in order that schools be given a choice of payment methods for swimming, a charge of £1.50 per child be re-introduced in addition to the agreed approach to school swimming price banding.

In addition, the Committee noted that those charges would be kept under review in order to inform future charging scheme.

Tenders for the Procurement of Supplies and Services

The Director of Parks and Leisure sought and was granted authority to instigate tendering exercises in relation to the undernoted items:

Tender	Potential Annual Cost/Revenue
Repair and Maintenance of Grounds Maintenance Plant and Equipment	Demand led, call off contract
Hire of Miscellaneous Grounds Maintenance Services	Demand led, call off contract
Supply of Pitch Drainage works	Demand led, call off contract
Supply and Delivery of Print Service for Parks and Leisure	£25,000 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year
Provision of a Window Cleaning Service (Belfast Castle, Malone House, Belfast Zoo, Crematorium and Leisure Centres)	£20,000 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year

Tender	Potential Annual Cost/Revenue
Architectural and associated design services to Royal Institute of British Architects Design Development	£69,960 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year
Professional Fees Integrated Conservation Management planning	£30,900 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year
Professional Fees Audience Development and Interpretive planning	£15,000 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year
Professional Fees Botanical expertise	£12,000 per annum - for a period of three years, with the option to renew for a further year

The Committee noted that all tenders would be evaluated on both cost and quality and that contracts would be awarded to the most economically advantageous tenders submitted.

Commonwealth War Graves Request

(Ms. J. Wilson, Business Support Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Business Support Manager reported that correspondence had been received by the Cemeteries Office from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission indicating that twenty-four graves within the Council's facilities had been afforded war grave status. Ten of those graves were located within the City Cemetery and fourteen within the Glenalina plot, some of which were unmarked or contained family memorials.

She stated that the Commission was seeking permission to lay or erect standard war pattern type headstones at the head of those identified graves and had undertaken to cover any future costs in connection with upkeep or removal. In addition, the Commission had submitted proposals to replace or refurbish the existing Memorial Screen Wall at the City Cemetery and had requested that a memorial be erected in relation to three servicemen at the Shankill Memorial Gardens. The organisation would cover the costs of any associated works or future upkeep of those memorials.

The Business Support Manager stated that the Commission had requested also that the Council waive its fees in relation to those works, which would result in a loss of income of £4,068. Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee agree:

- (i) to authorise the War Commission to place headstones at graves identified within the City Cemetery, including the Glenalina section;

- (ii) to waive memorial fees in connection with those graves identified;
- (iii) subject to further information and the completion of legal agreements, authorise the refurbishment or replacement of the Memorial Screen Wall at the City Cemetery; and
- (iv) subject to the Council's agreement regarding location, the erection of a memorial at the Shankill Memorial Gardens.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Sculpture at Botanic Gardens

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report in relation to the erection of a sculpture at the Botanic Gardens to enable further information and costs to be obtained.

Glasgow Rose Trials 2012

The Director reported that the Glasgow Rose Trials would be held during the period from 23rd till 24th August and that the event was acknowledged as an integral part of the international rose trial circuit. The Council had been invited to participate by Glasgow City Council in trial judging and participation at the event would enable joint learning and the discussion of future developments. He reported that costs associated with attendance at the event would be £370 per person and he recommended that the Committee authorise the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Director of Parks and Leisure (or their nominees).

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation and authorised the payment of the appropriate travel and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

Blue Peters Big Olympic Tour - Filming of BBC Drama

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1. Relevant Background Information

Blue Peter Olympic LIVE Tour

The Blue Peter Olympic LIVE tour is an exciting opportunity for BBC Children's TV (CBBC) fans to get up close and personal with one of their favourite programmes. Blue Peter and BBC Learning will produce a live outdoor broadcast event opening up a bespoke Blue Peter set at nine locations near the Olympic torch relay route. Ormeau Park is the proposed Belfast location for one of the Blue Peter events.

It is proposed that on the morning of the event there will be a Blue Peter live outdoor broadcast with an invited audience. After the programme is broadcast the set will then open up to host up to 5,000 children and their families. Audiences attending will get the opportunity to see presenters and learn more about the programme. They will also get the chance to take part in shows and participate in hands on activities designed to inspire interest in the upcoming Olympics games.

The event set up will take place on the 2nd of June from approximately 9.30 am – 4.30 pm. Set up will begin on 1st June and take down will take place immediately after the event. It is anticipated that there will be no disruption to the Ozone Recreation Centre during the setup for the event. This is a free event open to the public.

BBC Drama Series

BBC requested use of Victoria Park in the filming of a new five part thriller 'The Fall' set in Belfast. The filming took place on Wednesday 4th April with delegated authority granted by the Director of Parks and Leisure.

2. Key Issues

- This provides opportunities to raise the profile of Belfast City Councils Parks and Leisure Department and showcase Ormeau Park and Victoria to a wide audience.
- The Blue Peter event requires the overnight use of the area around the Ozone to house staging and production equipment.
- As with all events but particularly because of the overnight element to this event, it is essential that Health and Safety and security issues are addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the event organiser to the satisfaction of Council Officers and the PSNI.
- The organisers of the event may require the use of the facilities within the Ozone Recreation Centre during the event which may have cost implications and impact on regular users of the centre.
- There may be potential need to reinstate grass areas used for the setting up of staging and production equipment.

3. Resource Implications

Finance

Organisers will cover the following costs:

- Fees for the use of the sites and Leisure Centre
- Costs to cover Leisure and Parks staff hours including overtime
- Additional utility costs
- Cost of ground reinstatement
- Potential loss of revenue from other bookings

Human Resources

Additional staffing costs may be incurred

Asset

Any damage to the assets during use will be reinstated to the Council's satisfaction by the organisers.

4. Equality and good relations implications

Potential to attract families and children from all backgrounds to participate in a range of activities.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee grant approval for the Blue peter event to take place subject to:

- An appropriate legal agreement being prepared
- The event organisers covering all costs incurred by the Council including fees for the use of the site and Leisure Centre.
- The Event Organisers provide an event management plan , including public liability insurance and health and safety risk assessments to the satisfaction of the council
- The event organisers meet all statutory requirements.

Committee is asked to note that delegated authority has been granted by the Director of Parks and Leisure in consultation with the Chair of the Parks and Leisure Committee for the filming of the BBC series 'The Fall' at Victoria Park. This was subject to the organisers meeting all operational and statutory requirements and the appropriate legal agreement being put in place."

The Committee granted the approval sought and noted that, in accordance with the authority delegated to him, the Director had granted to the British Broadcasting Corporation the use of the Victoria Park.

Refurbishment of the Dunville and Woodvale Parks

The Committee noted a report in relation to the progress which had been achieved in respect of the refurbishment of the Dunville and Woodvale Parks.

Mary Peters' Track

The Committee noted the contents of a report on the current progress in relation to the refurbishment of the Mary Peters' Track and noted also planning approval had now been received. In addition, six tenders had been received and evaluated and preliminary meetings had been held with the successful contractor. It was anticipated that the track would be ready to use by March 2013, with a practical completion date of 16th January, 2013 for the works.

Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland - Centenary Celebrations

The Committee noted that correspondence had been received from the County Grand Lodge of Ireland indicating that it wished to withdraw its request for the use of Council's parks sites for a planned event on 29th September.

Chairman