



Subject:	Pitch Partner Agreements Update
Date:	12 th March 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales - Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann - Lead Officer, Community Provision

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of Partner Agreements for October 2023-December 2023.
1.2	To recommend extension of partner agreements from 1 April 2024 through until 31 March 2025 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date at partner agreement sites.
2.2	That partner agreements are extended until 31 March 2025 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.

3.0	Main report																
3.1	<p>Legal Agreements</p> <p>Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The Agreements are for a period of 5 years with option to extend for up to a further two years. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the initial 5 year period and up to 31 March 2023.</p>																
3.2	<p>Agreement Extension</p> <p>On 7 March 2023 The Committee was asked to note that, under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director had extended the current Partner agreements for all the sites until 31 March 2024.</p>																
3.3	<p>Council is currently developing a new policy regarding the management of assets within the community with a pilot being delivered across a number of sites. One of the sites included in the initial pilot is Ulidia Playing Fields and this site has been assessed using the pilot approach. At their meeting in October, Strategic Policy and Resources committee endorsed this committee’s recommendation to transfer the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia to a long term lease. It is anticipated that, following review of the CAT pilot process, a number of the sites listed below may also be made available for consideration under new management arrangements.</p>																
3.4	<p>Until that time, and to ensure continuity of service provision, it is proposed that the existing Partner Agreements continue until the new arrangements are put in place.</p>																
	<table border="1" data-bbox="323 1003 1256 1283"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="323 1003 914 1037">Location</th> <th data-bbox="914 1003 1256 1037">Partner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1037 914 1070">Dixon Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1037 1256 1070">Sirocco Works FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1070 914 1104">Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park</td> <td data-bbox="914 1070 1256 1104">East Belfast FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1104 914 1137">Woodlands Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1104 1256 1137">Co. Antrim Board GAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1137 914 1171">Loughside Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1137 1256 1171">Loughside FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1171 914 1205">Shore Road Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1171 1256 1205">Grove United FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1205 914 1238">Orangefield Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1205 1256 1238">Bloomfield FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1238 914 1283">Ulidia Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="914 1238 1256 1283">Rosario FC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Partner	Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC	Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC	Woodlands Playing Fields	Co. Antrim Board GAA	Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC	Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC	Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC	Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC
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3.5	<p>Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance have been completed at all sites. The reporting documents were amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines. All partners are compliant on these matters.</p>																
3.6	<p>All existing agreements will terminate on or shortly after the 31 March 2024.</p>																
3.7	<p>Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans</p> <p>Successful partners submitted their plans in early 2023 to improve sports development outcomes at each site in the 2023 – 2024 financial year. Funding of up to £20,000 per annum has been available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.</p>																
3.8	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring meetings with our delivery partners continue to take place. These meetings include updates on site management and bookings, health and safety, finance and their sports development plan. Action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during</p>																

these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved and improvements identified where required.

Sports Development Impact

3.9 In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the partner agreement sites. Programme delivery continues to achieve positive achievements across the sites.

3.10 The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarter 3 (October-December) 2023.

A. Participation type	
1. Members of different codes	2770
2. People with a Disability	106
3. People from a minority ethnic background	1685
4. Females	2022
5. Older people	1289
6. Schools / youth organisations	6
B. Participation usage	
Number of full pitch/adult matches on site	188
Number of full pitch/adult match participations	5103
Number of small sided/youth matches on site	197
Number of youth match participations	7602
Number of training sessions held on site	263
Number of training session participants	7530
Number of other bookings / activities on site	55
Number of other bookings/activity participants on site	1850
C. Partnership working	
1. Working with Belfast City Council	8
2. Sport's Governing Bodies	13
3. Other teams / groups in your sport	9
4. Other teams / groups in different sports	3
5. Community / voluntary groups	6
D. Social value	
1. Young people at risk	231
2. Encourage participation of under- represented groups	219
3. Promote positive cross community relations	215
4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities	1820
5. Promote Volunteering skills	70
6. Develop skills that will improve employability	20

3.8 **Financial & Resource Implications**

A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites.

3.9 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.

4.0 Appendices – Documents Attached

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