



Subject:	Woodvale Park MUGA Upgrade
Date:	12 th March 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update members on progress towards the upgrade of the Woodvale Park MUGA to an artificial pitch and to seek approval to formalise a relationship with Shankill Juniors FC for the delivery of sports development outcomes at the site.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that members agree to Shankill Juniors FC becoming the IFA affiliated sports outcomes delivery partner for the new pitch at Woodvale Park.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 April 2023, Members approved an application to the IFA DCMS Grass Roots Funding scheme for the upgrade of

	<p>the polymeric MUGA at Woodvale Park to a 7-a-side artificial pitch. The application has been successful and £120,000 has been awarded subject to the conditions of funding. The match funding element was agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and is to be met from a ringfenced amount already allocated by the AWG from Social Outcomes Fund for the improvement of the MUGA.</p>
3.2	<p>The IFA DCMS funding conditions state that where the applicant is not a soccer club, as in the case of the Council, the funding offer is conditional on the applicant demonstrating a partnership with an Irish FA affiliated local ‘partner’ football club which, in the words of the funder:</p> <p><i>“will subsequently become that facility’s ‘anchor’ club for significant football development activities.”</i></p>
3.3	<p>The SMART targets submitted as part of the application process were based on a development plan put forward by Shankill Juniors FC who satisfy the criteria above. Members are therefore being asked to approve a formal relationship with the club as the sports development partner at the site. This is needed in order to secure the £120k funding. Officers will then work with the club to agree a development programme which the IFA will then periodically monitor to confirm outcomes.</p>
3.4	<p>Colleagues in Property and Projects have advised that procurement of a contractor is underway with the aim of completing the project by early summer. If members are in agreement with Shankill Juniors FC being the sports development partner, officers would expect to engage with the club across a period of several weeks to confirm that the programme of activities will be in place for handover of the pitch. It is understood the club have aspirations to take on aspects of the operation of the site. Officers will work to identify and allocate roles and responsibilities associated with the management of the new pitch as appropriate to the club’s capabilities but as a minimum the club will be expected to take a keyholding role for changing facilities and to manage the bookings for the pitch.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The match funding element of capital costs is already ringfenced within the Social Outcomes funding stream.</p> <p>As no revenue budgets currently exist to support delivery of the SMART targets associated with the funding award it is proposed that the club manage pitch bookings and retain the income as a means of financing the sports development activities.</p> <p>Should the club be in a position to maintain the pitch officers will seek to realign current resources to reimburse the club.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None