



<b>Subject:</b>	Pitch Partner Agreements Update
<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paddy McGrattan, Leisure Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																
1.1	This purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of Pitch Partner Agreements for 1 April 2024 – 31 December 2024 and to recommend extension of partner agreements from 1 April 2025 through until 31 March 2026 or earlier if new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Belfast City Council Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.																
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites up to the end of Quarter 3 (31 December 2024).																
2.2	That partner agreements are extended until 31 March 2026 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Belfast City Council Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.																
2.3	That an additional amount of up to £2,000 per month is allocated to Rosario FC to support the costs of operating the site until the community asset transfer process is completed at that site.																
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																
3.1	<b>Legal Agreements</b>																
	Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements in 2015 at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The Agreements were for a period of 5 years with an option to extend for up to a further two years based on satisfactory performance. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the original dates.																
3.2	<b>Agreement Extension</b>																
	On 12 March 2024 People and Communities Committee agreed to extend existing Pitch Partner Agreements until 31 March 2025.																
3.3	<b>Partner Agreement Sites</b>																
	<table border="1" data-bbox="341 1375 1273 1720"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="341 1375 932 1420"><b>Location</b></th> <th data-bbox="932 1375 1273 1420"><b>Partner</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1420 932 1464">Dixon Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1420 1273 1464">Sirocco Works FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1464 932 1509">Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park</td> <td data-bbox="932 1464 1273 1509">East Belfast FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1509 932 1554">Woodlands Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1509 1273 1554">Co. Antrim Board GAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1554 932 1599">Loughside Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1554 1273 1599">Loughside FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1599 932 1644">Shore Road Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1599 1273 1644">Grove United FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1644 932 1688">Orangefield Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1644 1273 1688">Bloomfield FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 1688 932 1720">Ulidia Playing Fields</td> <td data-bbox="932 1688 1273 1720">Rosario FC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner</b>	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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3.4	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.																

**3.5 Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans**  
 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.

**3.6 Additional payment to Rosario FC**  
 Rosario FC which holds the Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields, following the conversion of one pitch from grass to floodlit 3G, submitted a request for additional funding in the amount of £2,000 per month to support their additional costs of operating the site over the extended opening hours. This payment will terminate when the Community Asset Transfer is completed.

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

**3.8 Sports Development Impact**  
 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 bring positive achievements across the sites and demonstrate the diversity of use with nearly 7,000 uses by members of different sports.

Over the course of the first three quarters of the year significant targets have been surpassed including; providing nearly 10,000 participant opportunities for females, 800 for people with disabilities, 7,800 for older people and over 9,000 for ethnic minorities.

The clubs collectively worked with 2800 young people at risk, nearly 600 volunteers and provided over 10,500 health and well-being opportunities in socially deprived areas.

The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarters 1 to 3. (April-December 2024) Full table attached in Appendix 1.

<b>A. Participation type</b>	
1. Members of different codes (see a below)	6930
2. People with a Disability	832
3. People from a minority ethnic background	9241
4. Females	9920
5. Older people	7858
6. Schools / youth organisations	165

(a) Different codes relates to other sports making use of the facilities at Orangefield Playing Fields (Rugby and Cycling) and Dixon Playing Fields (Tag Rugby)

**3.9 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. An amount of £24,000 is available within the revenue estimates to support the additional costs of Rosario FC operating the 3G pitch at the site.

	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b> None.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 – Table 2