



Subject:	Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2024-2025 update and work plans for 2025-2026
Date:	Tuesday 8 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan – Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative for 2024/2025 quarters 1-3, and to present the initial work programme for April 2025 – March 2026 for approval, with the final collaborative work plan to be presented subsequently. It should be noted that this will be the final year of the SCBI initiative.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Members note the progress of the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative to date ii. Members approve the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative initial work programme for 2025 - 2026
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In 2012 Council approved the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the city. This programme has been influenced by the partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.
3.2	The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme at the redeveloped Olympia site and adjoining stadium and committed to work together to maximise these benefits. They agreed to establish a Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.
3.3	The aim of the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') was to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.
3.4	In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia were being developed in Belfast it was anticipated that other sports governing bodies would become parties to the agreement.
3.5	At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in Gaelic Games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities became fully incorporated into the action plan at the start of financial year 2019-2020, with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at the Delivery Board and the Policy and Performance Group.
3.6	The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports are to be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary.
3.7	The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of coaching sessions provided b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching c. Number of sessions improving club governance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Number of volunteering opportunities e. Participation opportunities for under 16s f. Female participation rates g. Number of people completing skills development programme h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups i. Number of sessions for school and youth groups j. Community group usage of stadia k. Number of clubs attaining club-mark l. Educational opportunities m. Number of programmes targeting ASB n. Improved collaborative working o. Number of disabled participants p. Number of older people participating
3.8	The policy and performance group held their meeting on Friday 14 th February to review performance for 2024/25 and to be updated in terms of the programme for 2025/26.
3.9	Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, workplans are developed each year. The Action Plan for 2024-2025 was produced by the partners and included a mixture of sports specific programmes with both National Governing Bodies and collaborative initiatives delivered jointly by both the sporting organisations.
3.10	Initial action plans from the sporting partners were agreed for 2025-2026 and detailed in appendices 4 and 5. As this is the tenth and final year of the Initiative, the final collaborative action plan is nearing completion and will be presented to a subsequent committee for.
3.11	<p><u>Performance</u> Delivery up to the end of Quarter 3 2024/2025 has now been completed and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p>Joint programme- a joint conference was held in Black Mount Shared Space Centre on Sunday 24th November, with a theme of Coaching Through Games. Focusing on Physical Literacy & Skill Development through Games and Involve and Empower – Small Sided Games. The conference was very informative for coaches with 47 coaches signing up to the day, 35 in attendance. OBA attached in appendix (1)</p>
3.12	<p><u>Financial Implications</u> In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 will be contributed in total to the Project by the end of year 10 (2025-2026).</p> <p>The budget spend for 2024/2025 has been approved by the Policy and Performance Group and are on course for full spend. The budget spend for 2025/2026 will be approved following completion of the collaborative work plan.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OBA for conference (appendix (1)) 2. IFA Performance Report Q1-3 2024/2025 (appendix 2) 3. GAA Performance Report Q1-3 2024/2025 (appendix 3)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="327 150 933 190">4. IFA Work Plan 2025/2026 (appendix 4)<li data-bbox="327 208 992 248">5. GAA Work Plan for 2025/2026 (appendix 5)
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