



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request for Financial Assistance – North Belfast Play Forum
Date:	13 March 2008
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council has a management agreement with the North Belfast Play Forum (NBPF), which organises a range of activities on the multi-sports facility at the Waterworks.

The Client (Community and Leisure) Services Sub-Committee of 5 August 2003 approved a request from the North Belfast Play Forum for a grant of £15,000 to assist with salary costs of a Facility Co-ordinator post. This finance has continued annually and allowed the Forum to establish its programme over the last five years.

The attached letter and proposal submitted by the NBPF summarises the services provided. The NBPF has indicated that, whilst it has been very successful in obtaining funding for some posts, it does not have the core funding required to sustain their position of Facility Co-ordinator.

Key Issues

The Waterworks project has considerable positive impacts over and above Sports Development, with a number of the Forum initiatives relating to Community Safety and Good Relations.

Whilst the Client (Community and Leisure Services) Sub-committee supported this organisation in 2003 and in subsequent years, there is no decision making framework in place for Leisure Services to guide decisions on the provision of funding for posts in community managed facilities. Leisure Services does not provide financial support for other posts in community managed facilities.

Resource Implications**Financial**

Funding of £63,673 has been requested, over a 3 year period. Funding for one year has been allocated in the 2008 – 2009 revenue budgets to support this post, pending Member approval.

Recommendations

That Committee consider funding offering funding for the year 2008/09 and that the North Belfast Play Forum is advised that this will conclude the Council's funding commitment in relation to this post.

Key to Abbreviations

NBPF – North Belfast Play Forum.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Letter and proposal from North Belfast Play Forum.