



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Playing Pitch Strategy
Date:	11 November 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek permission from the Committee for a special meeting on the draft playing pitch strategy.

Relevant Background Information

Strategic Leisure was asked by the council in December 2008 to develop a playing pitch strategy. Members considered the findings of this report at committee in December 2009 and during a subsequent series of party group briefings held in April/May and August this year.

The committee is reminded that it has agreed a multi-layered approach which will ensure that the council provides and enables the provision of high-quality, accessible, well-planned outdoor provision. It will address 3 key areas of action:

- Capital assets
Includes proposals on: addressing deficiencies (e.g. acquisition of new pitches, improving access to alternative venues); protecting existing provision (e.g. rolling programme of upgrades); and enhancing existing provision (e.g. improved changing facilities).
- Programming and sports development
Includes proposals on: inclusion programme (e.g. increasing access for women and those with disabilities); increasing connectivity and shared space; and supporting new teams.
- Management
Includes proposals on: reviewing community management models; reviewing pricing policy; engaging in joint asset management with statutory partners.

A full strategy has now been drafted, including a prioritisation matrix and consultation process, and is ready for presentation to committee. In order to provide sufficient opportunity for discussion, it is proposed that a special

meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee is convened at the earliest opportunity.

Following this, the intention is to issue the draft strategy for public consultation and presentation of the final strategy to committee by April 2011.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree to convene a special meeting for the purposes of considering the playing pitch strategy.

Decision Tracking

The actions will be completed by the Director by 10 December 2010.

Key to abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.