



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Shore Road Playing Fields
Date:	11 November 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	

Purpose

To consider the legal opinion requested by the Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2010 regarding a request by Grove United FC and Malachians FC in respect of the potential development of Shore Road playing fields.

Relevant Background Information

A request was received by Grove United FC and Malachians FC at the end of August 2010 regarding their desire to undertake a development project on the Shore Road playing fields. The clubs jointly have a facilities management agreement for the site.

The details of their request which was for an in principle agreement for a 25 year lease for the current playing fields to assist in their pursuit to obtain funding to deliver their development plan were presented to Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2010. A copy of the report presented is attached at Appendix 1.

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to allow a legal opinion to be sought on whether the council could accede to the request without inviting expressions of interest.

Key Issues

The legal advice indicates that in the normal course of events the council would seek expressions of interest by public advertisement to test if there was any legitimate competitive interest other than that received from Grove United and Malachians.

However if in this case there is a unique income stream available to the club(s) which would benefit the council owned property then the Committee could

consider entering into an arrangement with the clubs.

This would require the clubs to develop the business case for the proposal and to provide written proof of funding to enable a decision to be made.

Currently there are no plans to invite expressions of interest for any further development of the facilities at Shore Road playing fields. Therefore to enable the Committee to consider agreeing in principle to enter into a 25 year lease arrangement with the clubs a detailed proposal outlining the business case and the benefit which would accrue to the council property as a result of the development would have to be submitted for consideration.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree to request Grove United FC and Malachians FC to submit a detailed proposal for the development of the Shore Road playing fields (that report to address in particular the sourcing of funding) for consideration within six months.

Decision Tracking

Responsible officer: Director of Parks and Leisure.
Actions to be completed by end December 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

FC: Football Club.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Report to Parks and Leisure Committee of 16 September 2010.