



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Proposed event: The Greater Belfast Invitational Cup Easter 2011
Date:	11 November 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Lynne McCreery Park Manager

### **Purpose**

To inform the committee of a request from Youth Soccer Tournaments NI to hold a soccer tournament at several Belfast City Council Playing Fields (17 pitches) and to seek committee approval for the event to proceed.

### **Relevant Background Information**

The Committee is asked to note that the council has received (September 2010) a request from Youth Soccer Tournaments NI to host a soccer tournament over 2 days using a number of Belfast City Council facilities. It is proposed to hold this tournament on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011. It is anticipated, at this time, that the four venues will be Boucher Road, Strangford Avenue, Ormeau Park, and either Blanchflower Stadium or Victoria Park playing fields. However, Members are asked to note that, depending on the suitability of the venues at that time, it may be necessary to use other sites.

The tournament is being planned by Youth Soccer Tournaments NI on the back of the success of the Christopher Shaw Cup Tournament which this year saw 32 teams participating. The Christopher Shaw Cup has grown significantly since its inception in 2003 with only four teams participating. The tournament was held in memory of 12 year old Christopher Shaw who was passionate about football and who died as a result of a road traffic accident.

Due to the success of the Christopher Shaw Cup, the organisers are proposing the Greater Belfast Invitational Cup as an annual event to be held in the style of the Milk/Foyle Cup.

The Greater Belfast Invitational Cup has the potential to attract teams from England, Scotland and Wales to join the many local Belfast teams who have been supporting the Christopher Shaw Cup event for a number of years. The final will be hosted by Cliftonville Football Club at Solitude on Sunday 24 April 2011.

Organisers have informed officers that there has been interest from approximately 82 football teams ranging from under 10s through to under 18s. It is proposed to charge an entry fee of £80 per team to cover the cost of the tournament.

## **Key Issues**

As many of the leagues will have completed their fixtures by this time, there are no block bookings beyond 31 March 2011 therefore no club will be disadvantaged by holding this event. However, experience suggests that owing to winter postponements some local leagues may use this period to catch up with any backlog of fixtures. The ability to provide this extra capacity would be restricted if this event is permitted.

As with all such events, health and safety issues with regard to the holding of the event will be addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the organisers to the satisfaction of Council officers.

## **Resource Implications**

### Financial

Loss of potential revenue for the pitches used by the leagues each Saturday would be in the region of £760.

Potential revenue from this tournament is £2,600 over the two days. However, the Committee is asked to note that the organisers have made application to another Council Department (Development) for funding to off set the cost of using facilities.

As outlined below £1,500 will be required to meet the additional staffing costs.

### Human Resources

It is estimated that the event will require 4 members of staff to cover and clean the facilities over three days at a cost of £1,500.

### Asset and Other Implications

Early consultation with the football leagues and council officers will take place to minimise any disruption to the leagues on Saturday 23rd April 2011.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee give consent to Youth Soccer Tournaments NI hold a football tournament from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of Council Officers.

## **Decision Tracking**

All actions will be completed by Lynne McCreery, Parks and Cemeteries Park Manager, by 30 April 2011.

## **Key to abbreviations**

None.

## **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Request from Event Organiser.