



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Bridges Urban Sports Park – project update
Date:	9 December 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Adrian Dalton, Sports Development Officer

1. Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that funding was granted to the Council by SEUPB in August 2008 for the purposes of building an outdoor urban sport facility located between Little Patrick Street and Corporation Street under the M3 flyover bridge.

The total project cost of £500,000 is made up of:

- £370,000 funded by SEUPB under measure 2.1 of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2007-2013
- £80,000 funded by Belfast City Council through the Capital Build Programme
- £50,000 funded through the Brighter Belfast Landfill Tax Credits Scheme.

The Parks and Leisure Committee agreed the recommendation of the update report of 13 August 2009 to name the park Bridges Sports Park Belfast.

In September 2008, Freestyle Skateparks was selected following a tendering exercise as Contractor to design and build the skate park.

Building work is set to start on site this month, which should take approximately 20 weeks until the site is operational, which includes 16 weeks for building work and a 4 week 'settling in' period.

Work has been ongoing with Belfast Urban Sports (BUS), and they are ready to deliver coaching / events when the Park opens. The Sports Development Officer (SDO) and BUS have been running taster sessions and will continue doing this until the Park opens in 2011.

Quarterly progress and Financial reports have been completed and sent to Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to start drawing down the programme and staff costs to date.

	<p>Posters have been sent to all Belfast City Council (BCC) Leisure and Community Centres to promote 'Bridges Urban Sports Park'. A Facebook account has also been set up and is used as a marketing tool. The site is monitored daily and is growing on a monthly basis.</p>
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>A letter was sent to SEUPB requesting an extension to the Project life due to the timing difficulties experience with getting the project started. This was accepted and extended to January 2012. As building work has been delayed further, and the Park likely to open around April 2011, we plan to request a further extension, in order to achieve our 2 years performance objectives, as highlighted in the Letter of Offer. If the extension is agreed, it will be at no additional cost to the Council.</p> <p>The 'Service Level Agreement' (SLA) is due to be signed by both Belfast City Council and BUS. The SDO is working with the councils Legal Department and the SLA is due to be signed before Christmas 2010.</p> <p>An Urban Sports Conference took place on Thursday 25 November 2010. The conference was a huge success and an opportunity to promote Urban Sports and the 'Bridges Urban Sports Park Project'. Over sixty people attended the conference, including Belfast City Council partners, and representatives from Sport, Leisure, Education, Youth and Community backgrounds.</p> <p>A 'Steering Group' has been ongoing since this project started, between Parks and Leisure staff and members from BUS. The local PSNI, have agreed to sit in on steering group meetings planned prior to the opening of 'Bridges Urban Sports Park'.</p> <p>An action plan has been drawn up to aid the SDO in achieving all objectives as highlighted in the Letter of Offer. This action plan is set to be reviewed every 3 months from when the park becomes operational. A more detailed plan around activities and marketing opportunities will be brought back to committee prior to the launch of the park.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial:</u> The financial requirements are in place as identified above and the SDO is working closely with the Project Management Unit, Business Support and SEUPB to ensure that all of the requirements of the funding are being met. The overall budget will be re-profiled on approval of the extension by SEUPB to ensure the performance objectives of the project are met and all eligible funding drawn down.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The SDO is currently working with the internal steering group to address</p>

	<p>resourcing issues around anti social behaviour and service level agreements around maintenance requirements.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> When completed, the urban sports park will be an addition to the departmental/council asset portfolio and will require necessary maintenance and replacement budgets to be made in future financial estimates.</p>
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4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	Equality implications have been taken into account in the development of this project.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the progress of the project to date.

6.	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>BCC - Belfast City Council SDO – Sports Development Officer BUS – Belfast Urban Sports SEUPB – Special EU Programmes Body SLA – Service Level Agreement</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	None.