



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Event – NI Schools Cup “Quarter Finals Day”
<b>Date:</b>	09 December 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Outreach Manager

<b>Purpose</b>
To inform the Committee of a request from the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association (NISFA) to hold the quarter finals of the NI Schools Cup at Mallusk Playing Fields. To seek committee approval for the event to proceed and free use of the facilities be granted.

<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
The committee is asked to note that the Council has received (November 2010) a request from the (NISFA) to host the quarter finals of the NI Schools Cup at the City of Belfast Playing Fields (Mallusk). The event will have approximately 600 participants from schools across Northern Ireland. Approximately 25 schools have teams competing in the quarter finals. Age categories range from under 12's through to under 18's. A definite date has not yet been agreed but it is proposed that the event will take place week commencing 24 January 2011.

<b>Key Issues</b>
This is the first time the quarter finals will be held in a single location. The benefit of bringing the quarter finals to one location is that it will enhance and promote cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer.  <b>Media Coverage</b>  The NISFA has formalised a relationship to work in conjunction with the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph to raise the profile of the schools cup. Both will be present at the event ensuring media coverage. Raising the profile of the Schools Cup will have a positive effect on participation levels in schools.  The NISFA have requested council representation at the later stage of the event

	<p>to make the draw for the semi finals, discussions are taking place regarding the possibility of televising the draw.</p> <p>The Community Parks Outreach Manager will liaise with corporate communications with regards to the potential media coverage and promoting the councils role.</p> <p><b>Event Management</b></p> <p>The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan. It will address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of Council officers.</p>
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	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Each school participating will cover the cost of their own transport and the sponsors of the NI Schools cup will cover the cost of the referees.</p> <p>Potential revenue for the use of the pitches is £327.00 however the committee are asked to note that the organisers have made application for free use of both the pitches and the ancillary facilities. Committee are also asked to note that the organisers have requested that 4 pitches be re-marked to accommodate junior football. As a result of this these pitches will need to be re-marked again in time for the weekend league fixtures.</p> <p>As the event will be held mid week there will be no displacement to regular users.</p> <p>It is estimated that the event will require 2 members of staff to supervise and assist with the allocation of dressing rooms. The ancillary facilities will then need to be cleaned afterwards for the weekend fixtures. Staffing costs for both is estimated at £138.00</p>
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	<p><b>Equality Implications</b></p> <p>It is expected that there are no equality implications to run the event.</p> <p>The competition runs at boys age groups U12, U14, U16, and U18 as well as girls at U18 level. The 600 participants represent a range of different age groups, gender, ethnic and religious background.</p>
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	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The committee are asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the quarter finals are held at Mallusk subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of Council officers.</li> <li>2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and subsequent facilities.</li> </ol>
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	<p><b>Decision Tracking</b></p> <p>All actions will be completed by Paula Irvine Community Parks Outreach Manager and Patrick Smyth Outdoor Leisure Officer by 31 January 2011.</p>
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	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
NISFA – Northern Ireland Schools Football Association.	

	<b>Documents Attached</b>
N/A	