



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Irish Football Association/Belfast City Council Grassroots Soccer Development Programme
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cormac McCann, Leisure Development Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>In 2006 Belfast City Council entered into a partnership with the Irish Football Association (IFA) to employ two Grassroots soccer development officers. One was based in Ballysillan to cover North and East Belfast and the other was in Andersonstown to cover South and West Belfast.</p> <p>The officers were initially employed for two years. In February 2008 this partnership was extended until 6 March 2009.</p> <p>A further extension was granted in February 2009 to extend the partnership until 6 March 2011</p> <p>It was agreed that for the period between 7 March 2009 and 6 March 2011 Belfast City Council would meet 50% of salary costs for these two posts to a maximum of £60,760</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The IFA has informed Belfast City Council that the financial future of the Grassroots Soccer Development Programme has been secured in agreement with the Executive Board of The IFA.</p> <p>This means that from 7 March 2011 Belfast City Council is no longer required to make a financial contribution to the Grassroots Soccer Development Officer posts. However given the success of the partnership between Belfast City Council the IFA wishes that Belfast City Council remains as a lead council within the IFA National Grassroots Programme.</p> <p>The IFA want their Grassroots Development Officers to continue to work with the Belfast City Council sports development officers to deliver a city wide grassroots soccer programme.</p>

	To continue this partnership the IFA has asked that Belfast City Council provide a hot desk within our leisure centres for the two Belfast grassroots development officers. The remit in terms of the areas supported by the two officers will also change with one now having responsibility for North and West Belfast and the other will have responsibility for South and East Belfast.
--	---

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> The new arrangements will see the IFA absorb the financial risk and cover total salary, pension and travel costs relating to the delivery of the IFA Grassroots Programme.</p> <p>The only cost to Belfast City Council will be the provision of a workstation at each of the two sites. This will require a telephone and internet access.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> The IFA will be the sole employers of the two Grassroots Development Officers.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this issue.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee accept the offer from the IFA under the terms set out above to host the two grassroots soccer development officers from 8 March 2011.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Officer responsible: Sports Development Officer to work with the IFA to implement the new partnership arrangements.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	IFA: Irish Football Association

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: key outcomes of programme for the current year.