



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Facility Management Agreements
Date:	13 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager Elaine Black, Policy and Business Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update Members on the root and branch review of Facility Management Agreements (FMAs) which commenced in April 2011 and is part of one of the central action plans relating to the playing pitches strategy; and• Outline the proposed next steps for Members' and seek agreement on these. <p>Facility Management Agreements (FMAs) were first introduced in 1996 when an FMA was entered into by the council with respect to the Mary Peters Track. Since then further FMAs have been agreed (a total of 15 were in place in 2008).</p> <p>In April 2008 a new draft framework was agreed for entering into local partnership agreements with third parties (as a replacement for FMAs). The new agreements were to be known as 'partner agreements'. The focus of the framework was agreed for playing pitches only and agreements for City of Belfast Golf Club, the Mary Peters Track, bowling greens and MUGAs were to continue as is.</p> <p>Individual updates or revisions to existing FMAs have been brought to Committee on an individual basis as requests have been received.</p> <p><u>Current Position</u></p> <p>FMAs are legal agreements between the council and, normally, a sporting organisation or club in respect of a specific facility. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of the council and the club/organisation which are generally about minor pitch maintenance and bookings.</p>

	<p>Since February 2011 the total position with regard to FMAs is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seven of the 'pitch' FMAs have expired and are renewed on a month to month basis. - two of the FMAs are due to expire at the end of July 2012; - the remaining two will be due to expire in 2020 and 2027
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>In April 2011 it was reported to Committee that a root and branch review of FMAs was being commenced – this was to include consideration of whether the framework agreed in 2008 remained relevant and to identify the viable options in terms of implementation. This renewed focus on FMAs was timely given the ongoing work being undertaken within the department on the playing pitches strategy.</p> <p>Members will be aware that as part of the playing pitches strategy commitment was made to review management and sports development for pitches and the review of FMAs is now being completed in line with this process.</p> <p>Over the past year revisions have also been made to City of Belfast Golf Club, Suffolk, Musgrave and the Hammer FMAs.</p> <p>An internal officer working group is conducting the review and the main areas reviewed to date have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch/site maintenance. • Bookings of pitches and site facilities and the management thereof. • Programming of activities. <p>To date the review has involved a desk top analysis in order to gain as informed a picture as possible before implementing a wider engagement exercise – with Members and clubs.</p> <p>To this end it is proposed that Members agree to attend a consultation workshop in November to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand more of the detail on the current picture of FMAs, and • consider options for a revised new direction. <p>In addition to the workshop, Members are advised that officers will be progressing with external engagement with FMA clubs and a sample of non FMA clubs in the next months and that they may be approached on this matter.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Additional resources may need to be assigned to deliver the engagement with FMA clubs within the timeframe available.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Officer time to manage the review.</p>

	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the update on the review of FMAs and agree to a Members' workshop being arranged in November.

6.	Decision Tracking
	A further report will follow on from the Members' workshop in November.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	FMA: Facility Management Agreement MUGA: Multiuse Games Area

8.	Documents Attached
	None.