



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Out of Hours use of Leisure Centres
Date:	13 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Katrina Morgan, Leisure Operations Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for an interim extension of out of hours agreements under which clubs use our leisure facilities for training purposes</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2008 agreed to extend out of hours use of leisure centres to all clubs and adopted a charging rate of £20 per hour as a contribution towards utilities costs.</p> <p>The Committee at its meeting of 11 June 2009 agreed to extend the out of hours use of leisure centres scheme to all sporting organisations throughout the city.</p> <p>Currently 7 water based clubs/governing body and 1 tennis club avail of the out of hours facilities totalling 31.5 hours per week.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The legal agreements for the first phase of the scheme ran from 1 Oct 2009 to 31 March 2011 and at this point all of the clubs are technically "over-holding" on their agreements which the council ought to have either formally continued or terminated.</p> <p>As soon as it was discovered that the timeframe for the agreements had expired, officers contacted Legal Services who advised that retrospective Committee approval should be sought for the extension of the agreements for the period from March 2011 to the present as well as authority to extend the existing agreements until March 2012.</p>

	<p>Subject to Committee approval it is proposed that the department writes to the groups to extend their agreements until 31 March 2012.</p> <p>The participating groups have been requested to submit interim reports giving feedback on the benefits of participating in the scheme and any other issues arising. A further report will be presented to Committee highlighting the benefits such as increased participation and sporting success, as well as revised proposals for continued implementation of out of hours contracts from 1 April 2012 in line with the service's plans for improvement and service development.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	None.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that Committee approve the extension of the out of hours agreements to 31 March 2011.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Leisure Operations Manager to action the committee's decision.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.