



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Underutilised Funds
<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August the potential for underutilised funds becoming available for re-allocation was highlighted. The reason for funds becoming available is due to slippage in a number of capital projects and a reduced vehicle replacement requirement.</p> <p>At SP&amp;R on 23 September it was agreed to allocate £800,000 of the underspend to Parks and Leisure to supplement the department's budget on a non-recurrent basis. The following areas were identified as being suitable for non-recurrent financing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A programme of 3G and grass resurfacing which has been identified as being required through the Pitches Strategy.</li><li>2. The resurfacing of the cycling track at Orangefield Park which is used as a training facility for national cyclists who compete in the Commonwealth and Olympic games.</li><li>3. A programme of improvements and renewals in parks and leisure facilities, including lighting and equipment.</li><li>4. A programme of community initiatives including playgrounds, community gardens and local community events.</li></ol> <p>The SP&amp;R Committee, agreed, however, and that the Parks and Leisure Committee should agree the final allocation of money to specific initiatives.</p>

## 2. Key Issues

The table below sets out the proposed areas for allocation of funding:

<b>Proposed allocation of Underspend</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Provision of Outdoor Gym Equipment at various park sites to be agreed (8 sites @ £10,000, working in partnership with the Public Health Unit)	£80,000
Replacement Leisure equipment now at end of life (all centres)	£250,000
Development of Community Gardens at 4 locations to be agreed across the city	£200,000
Essential work on Orangefield Cycle Track	£220,000
Grass Pitch Maintenance in line with resurfacing needs identified through the Pitches Strategy	£50,000

The Director of Finance and Resources reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 4 November that the introduction of the new Local Government Finance Act 2011 would give greater flexibility to how the capital programme is managed. With the new Act, if the full budget for the capital programme loan repayments is not needed in a particular year, that element of the budget which is not required may be reallocated in that year to pay for other capital schemes, on a one-off basis. Members will therefore be able to re-prioritise schemes that the council had not previously been able to commit to for affordability reasons and deliver new smaller scale schemes without impacting on the level of district rate set.

Although the governance arrangements for these smaller schemes has still to be considered by SP&R it is proposed that a number of projects are developed to a state of readiness to be progressed as funding becomes available and to allow some flexibility in delivery should other projects not progress. These include:

<b>Projects identified to be prepared in readiness for funding</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Pitch and Mitch Playground development	£130,000
Provision of lighting at sites	£80,000
Resurfacing of various MUGAs	£600,000
Development of MUGAs at various locations	£600,000

Consultation and work on specifications are required after which projects will be brought before committee for agreement on locations and delivery.

A number of procurement exercises will be required to be under taken to ensure the delivery of the projects within the tight timescale and work is currently underway to work up the relevant specifications.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> The cost/value of each tender will be reported back to committee as soon as the detail of the procurement needed is completed. The £800k will be used for both revenue and capital projects subject to the appropriate business cases being developed. All revenue expenditure will be required to be spent by the end of March 2012.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Completion of the identified work will enable the Department to continue to provide a high standard service while still effectively managing our resources.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	The tendering process requires companies to include their equality policy within their submission.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Members approve the proposed use of the under spend on the initiatives as set out and agree for the tendering exercises required to be initiated and authorise the Director, under the scheme of delegation, to award the successful tenders.</p> <p>Work will continue with Finance and Resources to develop the required business cases to progress the capital items included in line with the gates process.</p> <p>Further reports will be brought before committee to seek agreement on locations and delivery.</p>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All tenders to be issued, evaluated and approved during the financial year 2011/12 by the Business Manager.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	None.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.