
Parks and Leisure department

Member workshop on Monday 19 December 2011

Appendix 1: Member information pack

Background information on Facility Management Agreements (FMAs)

What is a FMA?

Facility management agreements (FMAs) are made by the council with a partner organisation who is paid to:

- manage part or all of a council owned asset and;
- provide the functions relating to it which are maintaining a general standard at the site and bookings.

Committee decision trail on FMAs

- The first FMA was created in **1996** for the Mary Peters Track;
- In **2002** Committee considered the management of FMAs as many of the initial agreements were due to expire. It was agreed that a list of suitable sites should be identified and expressions of interest sought from interested clubs through public advertisement;
- An all party working group was set up to determine a policy and strategy for FMAs in relation to football pitches;
- In March **2003** it was agreed to tender the following sites through public advertisement for assessment under an agreed criteria:
 - Alexandra park;
 - Dixon park playing fields;
 - Musgrave park;
 - Shore Road playing fields;
 - Suffolk playing fields;
 - Ulidia playing fields;
 - Upper Whiterock road open space
- Committee noted FMAs were already set up at the following locations:
 - Alderman Tommy Patton park
 - Clarendon playing fields
 - Cliftonville playing fields
 - Lenadoon Community park
 - Woodlands playing fields.
- In **2006** it was agreed that no further agreements be entered in to;
- The management of FMAs was again discussed in 2007-2008 and a framework approach for the future was approved in March 2008;
- The approach agreed was for any new agreements to be known as 'partner agreements'.

- The framework included a revised scheme and proposed that:
 - All pitches be offered for an expression of interest call;
 - Three year agreements to be put in place subject to annual review and ongoing monitoring;
 - Further expression of interest calls to be made at the end of the 3 years and all clubs would be required to re apply;
 - Maintenance role to be brought in-house;
 - Bookings to be retained in house – a portion of the income to be used to support development activities through a revised Support for Sport;
 - Booking privileges to be retained by agreement holder;
 - Future agreement to be based around sporting and community development commitments from clubs;

The recommendations from this report were never progressed. In 2009 work commenced on the development of a Playing Pitches Strategy and the issue of the future of FMAs was to be further examined in the context of a new strategy for pitch provision in the city.

- In February **2011** it was noted that seven of the 'pitch' FMAs had expired and are renewed on a month to month basis. Two of the FMAs are due to expire at the end of July 2012 and two will expire in 2020 and 2027;
- In April **2011** the root and branch review of FMAs commenced as part of one of the central action plans relating to the draft Playing Pitches Strategy;
- More recently decisions have been made on FMA associated arrangements with regard to :
 - Suffolk;
 - Musgrave and;
 - Hammer;
- The consultation exercise on the Playing Pitches strategy was completed in the last month;
- Committee agreed to a Member workshop on FMAs in order to gain political input to the review process;
- At Parks and Leisure Committee in November **2011** a request from Michael Davitts GAC for a FMA arrangement was considered but deferred on the advice of the assistant Chief Executive, pending the completion of the review of FMAs and the agreement of a framework and set of criteria for the consistent management of requests coming from sports clubs.

A list of current FMAs (December 2011)

Site Name	Agreement Holder	Current Annual Payment	No of Pitches	Renewal status/ date
ATHLETIC TRACKS				
Mary Peters Track	Athletics NI	£ 69,527.00	Complete facility	Monthly
BOWLING GREENS				
Alderman Tommy Patton	Sydenham Bowling Club	£ 18,696.00	Green & Pavilion	Monthly
MULTISPORTS				
Waterworks	North Belfast Play Forum	£ 14,418.00	MUGA	Monthly
Willowbank	Willowbank Multi-sports Facility	£ 10,818.00	MUGA	2013 (Mar)
PITCHES/PAVILION				
Alderman Tommy Patton	East Belfast Football Club	£ 18,157.00	4	Monthly
Clarendon Playing Fields	Clarendon Football Club	£ 13,852.00	3	2015 (Oct)
Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Football Club	£ 6,321.00	2	Monthly
Hammer	Lower Shankill Football Club	£ 4,394.00	1	Monthly
Lenadoon Playing Fields	Lenadoon Community Forum	£ 8,625.00	1	Monthly
Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside Football Club	£ 9,820.00	2	Monthly
Musgrave Playing Fields	St. Brigid's GAA	£0.00	2	2029 (Sept)
Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield Football Club	£ 19,501.00	5	Monthly
Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove Utd Football Club	£ 9,110.00	2	Monthly
Suffolk Playing Fields	Suffolk Football Club	£ 18,823.00	5	Monthly
Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario Youth Club	£ 17,866.00	2	Monthly
Woodlands Playing Fields	Antrim GAA	£ 24,041.00	5(4Gae, 1Soc)	Monthly
GOLF				
City of Belfast Golf Course	City of Belfast Golf Club	£ 24,896.00	Complete facility	Monthly
FISHING				
Waterworks Fishing	Families at the Waterworks	N/A	Upper pond	Monthly
Total payments		£288,865.00		



Review of Facility Management Agreements


Member workshop

19 December 2011

Director: Andrew Hassard




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Outline of Workshop

- Review of History and current position
- Pitches Strategy Context
- Discussion on potential options for arrangements to meet strategic objectives and demand
- Next steps




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Summary of history & current position

- Committee decision trail in briefing paper, including a definition
- In short - Council has had an ad-hoc approach since 2003
- We pay-out over £288K per year in FMAs
- We do the majority of the grounds maintenance
- A small proportion of clubs operating in Belfast have FMAs
- Many more clubs would like a FMA than can be provided
- Not a position which aligns with the Council's aspirations in terms of community access to assets in local neighbourhoods; helping people become more active
- FMAs are held by teams or clubs




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A FMA holder...

- Has control of the site
- Manages the bookings of the site
- Generates income from the bookings (level of which is difficult to define)
- Has no requirement to deliver local community sports development / programmes
- Has no obligation to deliver BCC aims
- May / may not employ staff
- Should operate on a not for profit basis




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FMAs do not

- Bring in income for the council
- Provide local, community-based sports development;
- Ensure equality of access to all interested clubs in the area / neighbourhood
- Provide good source of robust data in terms of activity levels and engagement
- Ensure the sites / venues are open at all times to the communities in their area
- Ensure "off-peak" usage of the site / venue by other interested groups
- Help the Council / Department deliver on its strategic objectives such as; - community engagement in participation; most effective use of neighbourhood assets; youth diversion through healthy activities



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Pitches Strategy

- Objectives
 - To deliver and working in partnership enable a programme of capital development, enhancements and maintenance investments
 - **To implement a range of management options with community and statutory partners so as to maximise participation**
 - Working in partnership to develop a sports development to maximise peoples participation



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