



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee.
<b>Subject:</b>	Mary Peters Track
<b>Date:</b>	12 January 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Manager Dermot Black, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in September 2011 it asked that a monthly progress report be submitted to Committee on the refurbishment of the Mary Peters Track.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Physical Refurbishment</u> The current position is as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Detailed design work has been completed and the specification has been issued, at risk, for tender.</li><li>2. Tenders are due back for evaluation on 9 January 2012 with the evaluation scheduled to be completed by the end of January.</li><li>3. There are several issues emerging from the statutory planning process which will require attention. The first relates to the provision of additional car parking to cater for proposed events at the track and work is progressing to respond to the Roads Service comments. The second relates to comments from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and clarification on these matters is currently being sought from the Planning Service.</li><li>4. A third issue was raised by the Lagan Valley Regional Park Partnership Board. The Board was largely supportive of the project and participated in consultation by the Council. The Board highlighted the need to construct buildings in a manner sensitive to the surrounding environment and highlighted the need to ensure that additional lighting did not spill over on to adjacent residential properties. Work is currently underway in relation to the issue of lighting.</li></ol>
2.2	As previously indicated: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Discussions have been held with Northern Ireland Athletics and</li></ol>

	<p>arrangements are place to inform members during closure of the facility. Flexible arrangements have been put in place with members on notice that the facility could close from as early as March 2012.</p> <p>2. Signs and information boards will be erected in the run up to the commencement of the works.</p> <p>2.3 The Committee will recall that its attention was drawn to the possibility of the need to close off the access during all or part of the works and the possible need to keep the Japanese knotweed on site until it can be relocated in line with the disposal requirements. These matters remain to be determined following the appointment of the contractor. Pending further discussions with the consultant, the contractor (once appointed) and the Countryside Officer, it is proposed to meet with representatives from the Board of the Lagan Regional Park to discuss the matter. Depending on the outcome of the discussions, should closure of the access route be necessary, appropriate signage will be put in place to inform users of the park of the position and highlight alternative access points.</p> <p>2.4 <u>Future Management of the Facility</u> The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in March 2011 it approved an extension to the existing Facilities Management Agreement in operation at the Mary Peters Track and agreed that a revised agreement be subject to expressions of interest in 2012.</p> <p>2.5 Work is nearing completion on a revised agreement which will incorporate three main elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine maintenance and management of the pavilion, track and grandstand. This will deal with relative responsibilities around the opening and closing of the track and associated facilities as well as management of the track in terms of appropriate usage, membership etc.</li> <li>• Sports development and participation. This will deal with how we will use the track to increase participation and encourage sports development.</li> <li>• Sponsorship. This will deal with how we will manage the issue of sponsorship around events at the track.</li> </ul> </p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; work is being progressed within existing resources.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The refurbishment of the track will safeguard the future of facility and provide improved facilities for users of the track and spectators.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	<p>Equality considerations will be taken account of in the design of the facility which will be DDA compliant.</p> <p>When completed it is proposed to have a delivery plan in place which will seek to ensure wide access to the facility.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to note the report.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will be presented to Committee in February 2012.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	DDA: Disability Access
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents attached</b>
	None.