



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Outdoor Gyms: Criteria for selection of potential sites
<b>Date:</b>	12 January 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Steenson, Health and Fitness Officer

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee on Tuesday 6 December, the Committee agreed to the installation of outdoor gym equipment within seven sites and requested further information on the scoring matrix for how these sites were selected. A list of the seven sites agreed by Committee are provided in this report.
1.2	This report outlines the process and scoring criteria followed in order to identify the seven sites recommended for installation of outdoor gym equipment.
1.3	An officer working group was established to discuss and agree a range of criteria that could be used in the selection of potential sites for outdoor gym equipment. This group comprised of the health and fitness officer, a sports development officer and 2 parks outreach managers.
1.4	The criteria consisted of eight areas which were agreed within the group to be “fundamental requirements” (elements each site must meet in order to be considered) and “desirable requirements” (elements that could be scored to allow for prioritisation of sites).
1.5	In order to ensure that it was operationally possible to meet the terms and conditions of the funding as set by the Public Health Agency, it was agreed that city park managers and parks outreach managers would be asked to propose 5 sites in each of the 3 parks operational areas which would meet the fundamental requirements outlined above. These sites would then be scored on a list of desirable requirements.

2.	Key Issues																																																
2.1	<p>The “fundamental” requirements for each site which were scored yes or no, were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• each site should have adequate space to locate outdoor gym equipment without significant disruption to the park space;</li> <li>• the land should be free from contamination;</li> <li>• the sites should be located to facilitate connection with the existing playground safety inspection programme ; and</li> <li>• physical inactivity is a citywide problem and the selection of sites should represent the fairest geographic spread across the city.</li> </ul>																																																
2.2	<p>The “desirable” requirements for each site were weighted to balance issues of health and safety, connectivity and participation. The range of the score available for each criterion is included below in brackets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sites should have low levels of recorded antisocial behaviour (0-10);</li> <li>• potential to maximise usage of the equipment, sites should be in close proximity to other assets such as community centres, bowling pavilions, playgrounds and/or sports pitches (0-15);</li> <li>• sites should have staff on or nearby each outdoor gym location, these could include park rangers, community development workers or pavilion attendants (0-10); and</li> <li>• each site should provide increased accessibility to physical activity opportunities (0-15).</li> </ul>																																																
2.3	<p>Detail on how the range of scores for each of the criteria was further broken down can be found in Appendix 1.</p>																																																
2.4	<p>Following the application of the desirable requirements and associated scoring, each park was ranked in order. The overall score and rank for each of the 15 identified parks can be seen below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="438 1384 1310 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Venue</th> <th>Score</th> <th>Rank</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Falls Park</td> <td>44</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orangefield Park</td> <td>42</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Musgrave Park</td> <td>41</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grove Park</td> <td>40</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ligoniel Park</td> <td>38</td> <td>=5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountforde Playground</td> <td>38</td> <td>=5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ormeau Park</td> <td>37</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alderman Tommy Patton Park</td> <td>35</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballymacarrett</td> <td>34</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waterworks</td> <td>34</td> <td>=9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hammer Complex</td> <td>33</td> <td>=11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballysillan</td> <td>33</td> <td>=11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park</td> <td>33</td> <td>=11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barnett Demesne</td> <td>31</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drumglass Park</td> <td>27</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Venue	Score	Rank	Falls Park	44	1	Orangefield Park	42	2	Musgrave Park	41	3	Grove Park	40	4	Ligoniel Park	38	=5	Mountforde Playground	38	=5	Ormeau Park	37	7	Alderman Tommy Patton Park	35	8	Ballymacarrett	34	9	Waterworks	34	=9	Hammer Complex	33	=11	Ballysillan	33	=11	Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park	33	=11	Barnett Demesne	31	14	Drumglass Park	27	15
Venue	Score	Rank																																															
Falls Park	44	1																																															
Orangefield Park	42	2																																															
Musgrave Park	41	3																																															
Grove Park	40	4																																															
Ligoniel Park	38	=5																																															
Mountforde Playground	38	=5																																															
Ormeau Park	37	7																																															
Alderman Tommy Patton Park	35	8																																															
Ballymacarrett	34	9																																															
Waterworks	34	=9																																															
Hammer Complex	33	=11																																															
Ballysillan	33	=11																																															
Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park	33	=11																																															
Barnett Demesne	31	14																																															
Drumglass Park	27	15																																															

2.5	<p>This resulted in the following sites being recommended:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ligioniel Park Grove Park Ormeau Park Mountforde Playground Orangefield Park Falls Park Musgrave Park.</p> <p>Committee is reminded that this is the first phase of a programme to install outdoor gym equipment in council parks and open spaces in partnership with PHA.</p>
-----	--

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> None.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Committee note the content of this update report.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A progress report will be brought before Committee in April 2012.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	PHA: Public Health Agency

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Desirable elements and scoring weights