



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee Committee.
Subject:	Shore Road Playing Fields – Community Capital Programme
Date:	9 February 2012
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The committee is reminded that during 2011 it received several reports regarding applications made by organisations and sporting clubs for funding through the Sport NI Community Capital Programme ie the development of a mountain bike trail at Barnett's Demesne and the upgrading of grass pitches at the Hammer Open Space and Marrowbone Millennium Park to third generation surfaces. In the case of Marrowbone, associated ancillary structures, fencing and floodlighting have been included.</p> <p>Members are reminded that it has previously agreed to enter into appropriate agreements with Sport NI and the respective organisations in relation to satisfying the security of tenure requirements of Sport NI. Members are further reminded that the committee has agreed to make a financial contribution to support the three projects, up to a maximum of £375,000.</p> <p>Officers have been approached by representatives of Grove United football club regarding an application that it made for funding to Sport NI under the Community Capital Programme. Initially the application had been placed on a call off list however, the application has now been moved up the list and the club has been asked to work on the application.</p> <p>The club has asked the council to provide the necessary security of tenure required to draw down the funding from Sport NI, estimated to be in the region of £245,000.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The committee is asked to note the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The application is still at a preliminary stage; while the club has an

	<p>outline of its proposal to upgrade the pitch, erect ball stop fencing and install floodlighting, it has no design detail, no planning application has been submitted and there is a shortfall in funding, possibly in the region of £250,000;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The site is quite tight and further consideration needs to be given to establish any encroachment which may occur from the proposal on the adjacent grass pitch which is currently used by Malachians football club; 3. The club has indicated that it wishes to construct permanent changing facilities on the site. The proposal at present is to locate them on the current site on which the temporary changing facilities are located. This would be a second phase and is not part of the current application to Sport NI; 4. The committee has previously agreed in principle to support applicants who have made submissions to Sport NI. 5. Significant further detailed work on the proposal will be required before the council would be in a position to take a decision on the project.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no current additional financial implications however there is the potential for a request for financial assistance to meet all or part of the short fall in funding.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; work is being progressed within existing resources.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The provision of a third generation synthetic surface would enable the facility to increase use and help address shortfall in provision. It would support the development of programmes to support initiatives around health and wellbeing; community safety and the creation of shared spaces. At present, the grass only facility restricts the ability to generate programmes.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<p>There are no equality considerations. The creation of a synthetic pitch to replace the grass pitch would support Good Relations initiatives in the area through increased access to the facility.</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the committee note the report and agree that officers continue to meet with club representatives and Sport NI as the process moves forward.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be presented to committee at a later date.
7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.
8.	Documents attached
	None.