



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Mary Peters Track
Date:	9 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Parks and Leisure Department Dermot Black, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>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. Members are reminded that the scope of construction works includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The replacement of the existing six lane track with an eight lane track and field events area, to IAAF standard; the track will be surfaced with a Mondo SX prefabricated track as used in the London 2012 Olympic venues;• The provision of a 400 seater stand incorporating storage and changing facilities; and• An upgrade of existing floodlighting, site access and car park lighting <p>This report deals with four issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An update on the construction works;2. Proposals to erect a sculpture of Mary Peters at the track; and3. An update on the launch event for the new facility.

2	Key Issues
	<p><u>Physical works</u></p> <p>The Committee is asked to note steady progress has been made in relation to the construction of the upgrading of the facility. The earth works have been completed and work on the laying of the new track is scheduled to commence mid August, subject to favourable weather conditions. Foundations have also been laid for the new spectator stand.</p>

	<p>The project remains on schedule for completion in January 2013.</p> <p><u>Erection of sculpture of Dame Mary Peters</u> Earlier this year the Council was approached on behalf of the sculptor John Sherlock regarding the potential for a sculpture of Mary Peters to be erected at the Mary Peters Track. John is a former lecturer in Art and is a successful businessman and is also one of Northern Ireland's leading sculptors. John has known Dame Mary Peters for a number of years and is keen for her achievement in the 1972 Munich Olympics to be recognised with installation of a sculpture of her at the Mary Peters Track. John has developed a number of pieces of sculpture of Mar and is prepared to 'gift' to the Council the original mould of a sculpture based on Mary's celebratory way on the Olympic podium. He is also prepared to supervise and maintain at no cost to the Council all foundry work including his travel costs etc. The cost of casting the sculpture will be in the region of £8000 to £10,000 and the cost of a suitable plinth to host the sculpture will be in the region of approximately £10,000. It is prepared that should Members agree to the erection of this sculpture that these costs be met from the existing capital budget subject to the approval of the SP&R Committee.</p> <p><u>Launch event</u> The Committee will recall that its meeting in June 2012 it agreed to hold a launch event to mark the official opening of the new facility. A small officer working group has now been established. The group will work with Northern Ireland Athletics and Dame Mary Peters to work up proposals. Owing to the scheduling of the athletics season it is not anticipated that the official re-opening and launch will be before May 2013.</p> <p>A further update on this matter will be brought to Committee in October 2012.</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u> The estimated cost to the Council associated with the acquisition and installation of the sculpture is approximately £20k. this will be included in the capital budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; work can be progressed within existing resources.</p> <p><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.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
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5	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and to agree to the erection of the stature of Mary Peters at the tack subject to the approval of the SP&R Committee.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>A further report will be presented to Committee in September 2012.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>SP&R: Strategic Policy and Resources</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Image of the Mary Peters sculpture.</p>