Belfast City Council

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<th>Report to:</th>
<th>Parks and Leisure Committee</th>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Progress Report on delivery of physical element of Pitches Strategy</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>11 October 2012</td>
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<td>Reporting Officer:</td>
<td>Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure</td>
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<td>Contact Officer:</td>
<td>Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager</td>
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1 Relevant Background Information

The Committee will recall that its meeting in January 2012 it received a presentation on the proposals regarding the physical element of the pitches strategy, namely the provision of the third generation pitches and changing pavilions. A copy of the presentation given at the time is attached as Appendix 1 for your information and convenience. The purpose of this report is to provide you with an update on the current position.

2 Key Issues

This section of the report is divided into a series of sub headings for ease of reference:

**Sites for Development**
The sites previously approved by the Committee and subsequently ratified by the Council have not been altered. The sites are:

- Dixon Park
- Victoria Park
- Ormeau Park
- Musgrave Park
- Cliftonville Playing Fields
- Falls Park
- Upper Waterworks
- Ballysillan Playing Fields
- Cherryvale Playing Fields
- Woodlands Playing Fields
The Committee is asked to note that the Cliftonville scheme is being progressed by the Department of Education as part of an integrated school scheme which is due to complete 2014/15.

**Specification of Works**
The Committee will recall that at the presentation a basic specification was set out, this is included within Appendix 1. This specification remains the working document at this time subject to one alteration. The standard proposed is that the changing room would cater for up to 20 people, following discussions it has been determined that 25 spaces would be required, this would cater for the additional playing numbers involved in Gaelic Games and take account of additional numbers at training sessions.

Discussions regarding the standards are ongoing with the governing bodies to ensure fitness for purpose and to seek to future proof facilities as far as possible. Should further amendments to the basic specification be made members will be notified through future update reports.

**Location of Facilities**
Members will recall that at the presentation initial thoughts on the location of the new facilities was presented. Members are asked to note that in 8 of the 10 sites locations have been firmed up.

There are two sites, Cherryvale and Woodlands which are subject to further discussion with the end users prior to a final decision on location of the new facilities. Members will be updated on this position at the November Committee.

**Current Position**
A design team has been appointed and there have been three meetings between the Team and Council Officers. The current position is that the sites have been grouped for purposes of preparing outline drawings: These groupings are attached as Appendix 2. Members are asked to note that this is not a prioritisation list, as projects progress there may be movement between the groupings as issues arise during planning or other technical considerations.

The design team has begun the process of developing outline drawings for the changing facilities. A copy of the standard four changing room pavilion will be presented to committee for information at its next meeting. Members should be aware that the standard specification may change according to the site.

The design team is currently commissioning a series of reports and surveys which will be required for planning purposes and to inform the design of the pitches and may impact on the location of changing pavilions. This will include Topographical surveys, contamination surveys, ecological surveys and lighting surveys.

It is proposed that outline drawings will be prepared by February 2013 for all of the sites and that work on planning applications will commence in
the New Year with a view to having planning applications lodged by April 2013.

Thereafter it is proposed that work will commence on the ground approximately September 2013 following planning approval, detailed design and procurement. A preliminary completion date for all the works is October 2015.

### 3 Resource Implications

| Financial | Provision for these works has been made in the capital programme. |
| Human Resources | There are no additional human resource implications at this time. |
| Asset and Other Implications | This investment will increase the opportunities for participation in sports across the city. |

### 4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

The pitches strategy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment

### 5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

### 6 Decision Tracking

A further report will be brought to Committee on this element in December 2012.

### 7 Key to Abbreviations

None.

### 8 Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Previous Presentation to Committee
Appendix 2 – Proposed phasing of preparation of outline drawings