



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Sport NI Active Communities Midpoint Review
<b>Date:</b>	15 November 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Active Communities is a Sport NI investment programme, running from 2010 to 2015, delivered through 11 council groups including Belfast City Council. The programme seeks to employ, deploy and train a network of full time and part time sports coaches and leaders to deliver activities in community and club settings across Northern Ireland, with a view to increasing participation in sport and physical recreation, especially among under-represented groups.</p> <p>As the programme approaches its midpoint, Sport NI is reviewing the impact and successes of Active Communities to date, and is identifying areas for improvement.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>On 13 September, Sport NI wrote to the Chief Executive inviting the Council to contribute to the Partner Consultation element of the review, to <i>ascertain the views of project partners in relation to Active Communities with a view of influencing future programme development</i> (letter provided at Appendix 1).</p> <p>Key officers involved with the programme since it began and the Parks and Leisure Departmental Management Team were consulted for their views. These were compiled to form a response (provided at Appendix 2) which was submitted to Sport NI on 30 October, subject to subsequent Committee and Council approvals.</p>

	<p>In summary, the response sets out views with respect to the Active Communities programme including the following:</p> <p><i>A range of positive aspects to the programme</i> - as a valuable coaching resource which has been well supported by Sport NI, and which has led to high levels of participation in the city whilst providing opportunities for partnership working; and</p> <p><i>A range of areas for improvement</i> – focusing on the need to review the purpose, strategic outcomes and means of evaluating the programme, and the need to ensure sufficient funding going forward in order to build on the success of the programme to date.</p>
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<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>
	Members are asked to review and approve the response subject to any amendments or comments provided.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Policy and Business Development Manager to notify Sport NI of any committee amendments to the response.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Copy of the invitation letter from Sport NI. Appendix 2 – Copy of the response submitted to Sport NI.