



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject	Northern Ireland Annual Youth Football Festival at City of Belfast Playing Fields
Date:	15 November 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association holds an Annual Youth Football Festival at the City of Belfast Playing Fields. This year the event took place on August 25 and September 1. As in previous years the event consisted of a mixture of 7-a-side Mini soccer and normal 11-a-side football requiring access to all 21 pitches.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association requested the use of all the facilities at the City of Belfast Playing Fields for the two days of the festival free of charge. They have been holding this festival at the City of Belfast Playing Fields ever since the site opened 36 years ago.</p> <p>As in previous years the association has requested a financial contribution of £1,500 towards the cost of the festival.</p> <p>Everyone taking part in the event is a winner with each player receiving a participation medal. The emphasis of the event is always on participation and the promotion of fair play, fun, enjoyment and lasting friendships.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Free use of the pitches for the tournament this year represented a loss of</p>

	<p>income to the Council of £2,024. The Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association has also requested a financial contribution of £1,500 towards the Festival.</p> <p><u>Human Resource</u> There are no human resource implications other than officer time coordinating the event.</p> <p><u>Asset</u> No implications</p>
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4.	Equality and good relations implications
	No equality implication as this is a cross community event.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that the Youth Soccer Festival took place at City of Belfast Playing Fields in August/September 2012 • Approve free use of the site • Approve a financial contribution of £1,500 towards the cost of the festival. <p>Given that this is an annual event it is recommended that the Committee delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Leisure to approve this event for the next three years, subject to a formal request and confirmation that the event is similar to previous years.</p>

6.	Decision Tracking
	City Park Manager (North)

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.