



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Proposed Event – NI Schools Cup “Quarter Finals Day”
Date:	6 December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the Council received a request on 31 October 2012 from the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association (NISFA) to host the quarter finals of the NI Schools Cup at the City of Belfast Playing Fields (Mallusk). The event will have approximately 600 participants from schools across Northern Ireland. Approximately 25 schools have teams competing in the quarter finals. Age categories range from under 12's through to under 18's. The date proposed for the event is Wednesday 13 February 2013.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>This will be the third year running of this event at Mallusk and bringing the event to a single location has proved extremely successful. The use of a single venue enhances and promotes cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer, and has ensured effective and efficient running of the finals.</p> <p>The NISFA has once again formalised a relationship to work in conjunction with the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph to raise the profile of the schools cup. Both will be present at the event ensuring media coverage. Raising the profile of the Schools Cup will have a positive effect on participation levels in schools.</p> <p>Similar to last year the NISFA have requested Council representation at the televised draw for the finals which is planned to take place at the UTV studios.</p>

	<p>The Community Parks Outreach Manager will liaise with the Lead Communicator and Corporate Communications with regards to the potential media coverage and promoting the Councils role.</p> <p>The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan. It will address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of Council officers.</p> <p>As the event will be held mid week usage reports for the site show that there will be no displacement to regular users.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Each school participating will cover the cost of their own transport and the sponsors of the NI Schools cup will cover the cost of the referees. Potential revenue for the use of the pitches is £506.00 however the committee are asked to note that the organisers have made application for free use of both the pitches and the ancillary facilities. Committee are also asked to note that the organisers have requested that four pitches be re-marked to accommodate junior football. As a result of this these pitches will need to be re-marked again in time for the weekend league fixtures.</p> <p>It is estimated that the event will require two members of staff to supervise and assist with the allocation of dressing rooms. The ancillary facilities will then need to be cleaned afterwards for the weekend fixtures. Staffing costs for both is estimated at £138.00</p> <p><u>Human</u></p> <p>Two members of staff to supervise and clean the dressing rooms during and after the event</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	<p>There are no known associated equality considerations associated with this request.</p> <p>The competition runs at boys age groups U12, U14, U16, and U18 as well as girls at U18 level. The 600 participants represent a range of different age groups, gender, ethnic and religious background.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>The committee are asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the quarter finals are held at Mallusk subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of Council officers. 2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and ancillary facilities.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager and Jackie Turkington, Community Parks Manager
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	NISFA – Northern Ireland schools Football Association
8.	Documents Attached
	None