



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Mary Peters Track
Date:	10 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will be aware that work is continuing to upgrade the Mary Peters Track.</p> <p>As previously reported the new eight lane track has been laid and the infield area has been upgraded and the grass areas re-seeded, this requires time to grow and any use at this time could require it to be replaced which could impact on its availability for the World Police and Fire Games. In addition, work on the spectator stand is continuing and is scheduled to be completed in January 2013, once this is complete, it will be necessary to carry out some finishing works to ensure that the facility is of an appropriate standard when it is reopened for use to the public. For these reasons the track has remained closed.</p> <p>In order to operate as a track, it is necessary that the facility is accredited; this accreditation is obtained through Athletics UK and IAAF. At the present time, only the track would be ready for use, an application will be made to UK Athletics and IAAF in the New Year to have the facility accredited.</p>

2	Key Issues
	The Committee is asked to note:

	<p>1. The completion of the project remains on schedule and the facility should be available for use in April 2013. Members are asked to note that correspondence has been received expressing dissatisfaction with the continued closure of the track and with proposals to keep the track closed until March / April 2013. This correspondence has been circulated to several local councillors. Members are asked to note that whilst the track area is ready for use, the field area needs time to settle and any unauthorised use of it at this time could damage it and necessitate further remedial works which would impact on its use for the World Police and Fire Games. In addition to this there are several other factors to be taken into account: the construction of the stand is still underway; following the completion of the stand it will be necessary to undertake some finishing works to the paths, floodlighting and car park etc to ensure that the site is handed over in a satisfactory condition and complies with health and safety requirements. The new track and associated areas need to be accredited for use, at present the facility is not accredited and the necessary inspection will not take place until following completion of the spectator stand. Whilst it is our intention to open the track as soon as possible it is important that the contract be completed and the proper documentation is in place.</p> <p>2. The existing management agreement between the Council and Northern Ireland Athletics is currently renewed on a monthly basis. An advertisement was placed in November 2012 and the closing date is 15 January 2013. An evaluation of the tenders will be undertaken before the end of January with the aim of making an appointment in February 2013.</p> <p>3. Work on the statue of Dame Mary Peters is continuing and a procurement process is underway. It is anticipated that the statue will be ready March / April 2013, subject to approval from Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.	There are no equality implications

5	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be brought to Committee in February 2013.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None