



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Sport NI Consultation on a New Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In December 2011, the Council received an invitation from Sport NI to contribute to a pre-consultation on a Ten Year Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland, the response to which was approved by Members at the Committee Meeting on 15 March 2012.
1.2	In November 2012, the Council received an invitation from Sport NI to respond to a final consultation on the above plan. Sport NI is seeking responses to this consultation by 15 February 2013.
1.3	It was agreed that the Parks and Leisure Department would coordinate preparation of a response on behalf of the Council. The Policy and Business Development Unit has prepared a draft response following a request for input from relevant officers across the Council.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The aim of the consultation is to seek views on <i>Our Great Outdoors – The Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland</i> (a copy of which is provided at Appendix 1). Full details of the consultation are available at http://www.sportni.net/about/Consultations .
2.2	The Draft Plan sets out recommended actions for a range of bodies including Government departments and agencies, and local authorities

2.3	<p>under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures; - Policy and Legislation; - Funding; - Communication; - Making the outdoors more accessible; - Volunteering; and - Research and monitoring. <p>In summary, the consultation asks for views and comments on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Content of the Plan</i> - including key issues covered, required changes and suggested structures; and 2. <i>Structure of the Plan</i> - including clarity, language and possible case studies. <p>The consultation also requests views on the outcome of its equality screening process with respect to the Draft Plan.</p>
2.4	<p>A proposed response from the Council is provided at Appendix 2. Subject to approval by this Committee, it is proposed that the final response is submitted to Sport NI by 15 February with the proviso that this is subject to full Council approval at its meeting in March.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> None required.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> None required.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
4.1	<p>Screening undertaken by Sport NI of the impacts of the Plan with respect to Section 75 legislation has concluded that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.</p>

5.	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to approve submission of a response subject to any comments provided.</p>

6.	Decision Tracking
	Policy and Business Development Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - <i>Our Great Outdoors – The Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland.</i> Appendix 2 – proposed consultation response.