



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Mary Peter's Track</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14 March 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will be aware that the £3m upgrade of the Mary Peter's Track is part of the Council's Investment Programme. The new facility will have a new eight lane athletic track, a new infield area, all of which are to IAAF standards and a new 400 seater spectator stand.</p> <p>Members will be mindful that the track will be used to host the athletics part of the World Police and Fire Games scheduled for August 2013.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that the upgrade has been completed and handed back to the Council. Further, the track has received the necessary accreditation to allow it to be used as an athletic facility by IAAF and UK Athletics.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note a number of issues.</p> <p><b><u>Opening of the facility</u></b></p> <p>Clearly many athletic clubs and individuals are anxious to make use of this high quality facility. As has been reported to Committee it has been necessary to keep the facility closed in order to complete the works and obtain the necessary approvals from the governing bodies of the sport. Whilst the track is ready for use, the infield requires further time for the turf surface to grow and be nurtured.</p>

	<p>Use of this area at present could result in damage to it. It is therefore proposed to erect signs to dissuade use of this area for a further period of time, perhaps until the end of April.</p> <p><b><u>Official Opening</u></b></p> <p>Following discussions with the Head of Corporate Communication it has been agreed that the facility will be opened during the week of 25 March. As this is the first project completed under the Council's Investment Programme it is proposed that it be opened by the Lord Mayor and the Chair of Strategic Policy &amp; Resources. Discussions are ongoing with the Lord Mayor's Office to schedule a date and time for the event and a provisional date of 28 March at 10:30 has been proposed, subject to confirmation with the Lord Mayor's Office. It is further intended that Dame Mary Peter's be invited to attend and be asked to make a short speech.</p> <p>Invitations will be issued to all Elected Members as well as those staff involved in the project and those whose responsibility for ongoing management once it is opened. Invitations will also be extended to Northern Ireland Athletics and some of the clubs who use the facility.</p> <p>The media will be invited to attend this event.</p> <p><b><u>A launch event</u></b></p> <p>Members will recall that previous reports have highlighted a launch event scheduled for 25 June 2013. It is proposed that this event goes ahead as scheduled but will be the first major event at the track and will act as a test event for the World Police and Fire Games.</p> <p>At this time it is proposed that a series of track and field events be held starting from approximately 6 pm until 9 pm. The events will be wide ranging and will include athletes at all levels including, schools, elite athletics and paralympians.</p> <p>It is also intended that the statue of Dame Mary Peter's will be unveiled at this event on 25 June 2013.</p> <p><b><u>Future Management Arrangements</u></b></p> <p>Tenders have been received for the future management of the facility. An evaluation process is nearing completion and an award will be made by the end of March 2013.</p>
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<b>3</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	There are no equality implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to note the report.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will be brought to Committee in April 2013.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	IAAF – International Association of Athletics Federation UK Athletics – United Kingdom Athletics

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None