



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>£750K Fund for Enhancement to School Pitches</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Members will be aware that they have previously agreed to the allocation of £750,000, to a fund for capital enhancements to playing pitches owned by schools, as part of the Playing Pitches Strategy.</p> <p>The purpose of the capital enhancement is to achieve greater community access to pitches facilities, for example the installation of flood lighting to allow the pitch to be used by the local community in the evenings. Any application to the fund would have to demonstrate that the capital enhancement would increase wider community usage of the playing pitch.</p> <p>At its meeting in November 2012 this Committee agreed the application process for the £750k for schools. Within this process it was agreed that there would be a minimum award of £70,000 and a maximum award of £150,000. The Council would fund up to 100% of the construction costs, up to a maximum of £150,000. Design costs would not be eligible.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Members will be aware that the application process opened on the 10 December 2012 and closed on 29 March 2013 and we received a total of 15 applications requesting a total of £2,017,818.96.</p> <p>A panel consisting of the Director and Business Manager from the Parks and Leisure Department and a representative from the Department of Education met to assess the applications against the prioritisation matrix.</p> <p>On assessment 5 of the applications were deemed ineligible in that they did not meet the criteria of the fund.</p> <p>The remaining 10 applications were assessed and received the following scores out of 300:</p>

<b>School</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Description of project</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
St Marys Christian Brothers Grammar School	£85,211 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Floodlighting for all weather pitch	300
Aquinas Grammar School	£150,000 (part of large scale project and funding being sought from several sources)	Upgrade of existing grass pitch and concrete basketball area to synthetic area, floodlit grass pitch and MUGA	260
Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh	£73,000 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Upgrade existing MUGA to 3G surface	235
Grosvenor Grammar	£150,000 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Floodlighting	205
Corpus Christie College	£150,000 (part funding being sought elsewhere)	Construction of 3G MUGA	195
Belfast Royal Academy	£150,000 (shortfall in funding being covered by the school)	Floodlighting of existing synthetic hockey pitch	190
Ashfield Girls	£150,000 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Floodlighting	180
Belfast Girls Model	£150,000 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Floodlighting	155
Methodist College	£150,000 (shortfall in funding being covered by the school)	Construction of new all weather synthetic pitch	150
De La Salle College	£73,712.16 (no funding being sought from elsewhere)	Replace and extend surface of existing pitch and replacement of current fence with ball stop fencing	70

Based on the scores and the amount of money available it is recommended that the following applications are forwarded for delivery and cost screening as a due diligence exercise:

St Marys Christian Brothers Grammar School - £85,211  
Aquinas Grammar School - £150,000  
Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh - £73,000  
Grosvenor Grammar - £150,000  
Corpus Christie College - £150,000

	<p>Belfast Royal Academy - £150,000</p> <p>Total applications - £758,211</p> <p>The due diligence process will test both deliverability and provide cost assurance. As part of this schools will be asked to provide a project plan; risk management framework; procurement strategy; costs and designs; and necessary approvals. It will also give assurance where match funding is required.</p> <p>No letters of offer will be forwarded to schools until this due diligence has been completed.</p> <p>It may be that the costs will vary or that the process will identify high risk projects and it is therefore recommended that the Ashfield Girls School as 7<sup>th</sup> highest scoring application is also forwarded for delivery and cost screening, as a contingency.</p> <p>We anticipate that funding agreements, with the necessary terms and conditions, will be issued by December 2013.</p> <p>All projects will have to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> £750k has been allocated for this element of the Playing Pitches Strategy.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional human resources known at this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and other Implications</u> None at this stage although the implementation of the strategy will have implications on the number and type of playing pitches provided by the council.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	<p>Policy Arc Ltd was appointed to externally verify the equality dimensions to the development of the strategy which has been subject to an EQIA. The full EQIA can be downloaded from the Council's website.</p> <p>This element of the overall strategy has been screened out and a screening form has been forwarded to the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in relation to the award of funding.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	The Director will ensure the next steps outlined will be progressed.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	BELB – Belfast Education and Library Board MUGA – Multi Use Games Area
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None