



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Key holding arrangements for Strangford Avenue Playing Pitches</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer Patrick Smyth, Community Park Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The department has received a request from Linfield Ladies Football Club to become key holders of the old pavilion at Strangford Playing pitches.</p> <p>Linfield Ladies wish to use Strangford Avenue as their home venue for match fixtures and training. They have been working closely with Sports Development to implement a pathway for the girls to progress to premier league football.</p> <p>Currently the site is bookable through the Outdoor Leisure Unit however all four pitches available at Strangford Ave are rarely used simultaneously due to both pavilions having to be staffed at the same time to accommodate teams.</p> <p>From 1 November 2012 to date the fourth pitch at Strangford Avenue has only been used on seven occasions. Therefore it is in good order and would be able to sustain the additional summer usage with the option to “flip” it for permanent summer play. Currently this area does not have any summer pitches.</p> <p>The club plan to run soccer fun and development week’s specifically targeting girls during the summer period.</p> <p>This request would enable Linfield Ladies to train at the site without the department having to staff the site and incur overtime costs with the added value of increasing female participation in the area.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>All usage, matches and training sessions must still be booked through the Outdoor Leisure unit and a cost without changing facilities will apply. This will ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are no fixture clashes</li> <li>2. The income that the site generates from usage is protected.</li> <li>3. The Park Manager has usage figures to assist with the appropriate management and maintenance of the site and the grass pitch.</li> <li>4. The Outdoor Leisure Unit can effectively manage all requests</li> </ol>
2.2	The agreement would increase usage on the pitches without incurring any additional cost to the department.
2.3	An appropriate legal agreement will be prepared by the Director of Legal services similar to that of the arrangement of key holding at Cliftonville playing fields. This legal document will outline the terms and conditions of the key holding arrangements and will protect the Council in relation to all operational and health and safety implications.
2.4	Training will be required in relation to all health and safety issues as regards to the use of the changing facilities and opening and closing of the site.
2.5	All usage will still take place within the parks opening and closing times in keeping with all other sports pitch usage across the city.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications anticipated at this time. This request will result in a saving to the department for staffing costs associated with opening and manning the changing facilities.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human</u> All appropriate training will be delivered by the Community Park Manager for the site.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset or other implications</u> None</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	There are no equality or good relations implications anticipated

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the committee grant authority for: Linfield Ladies to have key handling responsibilities for access to the pavilion changing facilities subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that:
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both clubs manage all operational and health and safety issues to the council's satisfaction</li> </ul>
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An appropriate agreement, to be prepared by the Director of Legal Services, is completed.</li> </ul>
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All bookings are arranged with the Outdoor Leisure Unit prior to actual usage.</li> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by Patrick Smyth, City Parks Manager and Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

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