



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Facility Management Agreements (FMA's) Update-Engagement on 'Draft Parks and Leisure Playing Pitches Agreement Policy'</b>
<b>Date:</b>	8 August 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager Maria McAleer, Policy and Business Development Officer

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this update report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advise members of forthcoming engagement with relevant partners on the Parks and Leisure Playing Pitches Agreement Policy and associated timeframe for delivery.</li><li>• Inform members that whilst the engagement on the policy has been subject to some delay due to changes in operational management officers will continue making the required changes in operational arrangements to support the new policy providing periodic updates to committee on progress throughout 2013/14.</li></ul>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Members will recall that a review of Facility Management Agreements began in April 2011, the findings of which were presented at a Members workshop on the 19 December 2011. At that workshop Members clearly acknowledged that the FMA review demonstrated that a fundamental revision was needed going forward and that developing a revised proposal would be a complex issue, the details of which needed furthermore in depth consideration.</p> <p>Following its meeting in December 2012 Belfast City Council agreed a draft 'Parks and Leisure Playing Pitches Agreements Policy' to be finalised and implemented in the incoming year. Further to that agreement</p>

	<p>the council will, following the conclusion of the current quotation exercise, commence engagement activity in early August 2013 and conclude it in September 2013. It is anticipated that the engagement process will result in relevant stakeholders both considering and finalising the policy which is to create mutually beneficial partnerships between the council and an external partner on a not for profit basis to deliver services.</p> <p>Member's engagement is also scheduled and will be conducted by council officers through a series of briefings and workshops dates to be agreed with the department and Member Services.</p> <p>Additional engagement on the policy includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with current partners (FMA holders, leaseholders, holders of licence agreements etc). This will involve meetings with 17 partners scheduled for August 2013.</li> <li>• Collaborative focus group made up of key stakeholders including representative bodies and sporting codes from all levels scheduled for early September 2013.</li> <li>• Focus group with Active Belfast Partnership also scheduled for early September 2013.</li> <li>• Series of workshops for sporting/community /voluntary stakeholders regarding the new approach and its implications also scheduled for September 2013.</li> </ul>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> Existing FMA payments will be re-distributed in the form of grant aid for "active" sports development plans. The total figure for this has not yet been defined.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Ongoing officer time from a range of officers across the department will be dedicated to implementation and ongoing management in the medium to long term.</p> <p>Legal services support and advice from Estates and Property/Projects also to be a requirement during the next stage of the process.</p> <p><u>Assets and Other Implications</u> Resource required for the engagement exercise this forms part of an already agreed research services budget</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	<p>The revised approach will be screened in line with the council's existing equality screening process.</p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are asked to note the update provided.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	An update report will be brought to Committee in October 2013 which will include a summary of the findings of engagement activities.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	FMA's - Facility Management Agreements

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