

Appendix 1:

Bi-annual Departmental Plan Highlights for 2013-14 include:

Significant work has taken place with the citizens of Belfast over the past six months to create an active, healthy and vibrant city.

The Parks and Leisure Department has worked towards improving the quality of life and wellbeing of residents, encouraging healthy, safe and active lifestyles, working with partner organisations and communities to realise the city's full potential.

Phase 1 of the **Connswater Community Greenway** is well underway, including work in Victoria and Orangefield parks. All major works have been completed around Roselawn, Mercury abatement. As part of the delivery of the **pitches strategy** we are continuing to develop new 3G pitches and changing accommodation at 10 sites across the city. We have submitted our Round 2 application for Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) towards restoring the **Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens**, with a decision due from the HLF Committee in December.

Over the past 6 months we've launched **three new community gardens** at Finlay Park, Knocknagoney Linear Park and Whiterock Leisure Centre. In partnership with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) we have delivered a **programme of gardening and healthy eating activities** across the city which enabled local communities of all age groups and abilities to come together in a spirit of social cohesion to grow their own fruit, flowers and vegetables while encouraging them to be active outdoors.



We have delivered a programme of **city wide events** including Rose Week, Spring Fair and Autumn Fair and delivered a range of **health and wellbeing and outreach programmes and activities** across the city including the park run and the Active Communities Programmes. The department has continued to deliver the **safer neighbourhood programme** of work to help tackle antisocial behaviour and help people feel safer in our parks and leisure facilities.

Work is progressing on the **implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy**. Four applications from boxing clubs across the city were successful in receiving funding under the Support for Sport Scheme.

Through the first half of this year we have been committed to delivering a sustainable approach to service provision, contributing to a cleaner, greener and healthier environment. The department has achieved a total of **12 Green Flags** and is working towards the application within **3 additional parks**.



The department continues to **invest and support in our staff** and has delivered an internal bespoke World host training programme to staff. We will continue to improve our processes, deliver a proficient service and finally listen and learn from our **customers**.

Over the 6 months we have:

Encouraged people to have healthier, more active lifestyles and making the best use of our assets.

Provided a service for almost **870,000 leisure facilities users**

200 children took part in the **Teenage Kicks programme**, including 50 people with special needs

Worked with **830** participants throughout planned events and programmes at the **Bridges Urban Sports Park**

Provided services to almost **13,500 'Boost' members** at our leisure centres

Provided a programme of **events** attracting almost **170,000 people**

Provided **outreach programmes** and activities to **160,000** people within communities

Supported **332 coaches and volunteers** through coach education training

Created a greener city playing a key role in protecting and linking the city through our parks, open spaces and greenways:

Provided residents and visitors with **48 parks and open spaces** and maintained more than **1,100 hectares of open spaces**

Provided and maintained quality standards for the public at **135 sports pitches, 79 playgrounds, 12 bowling pavilions, 3 cemeteries a crematorium, a golf course and an adventure playground**



Improved **park quality** so that **68%** of residents now live within 1000m of green flag rated parks

Surveyed approx. **30,000 trees** in the Greater Belfast area, which have **stored 20.6 M kg of carbon**

Enriched the city's cultural and tourism offering

Attracted nearly **200,000 visitors to Belfast Zoo**



The Grove and Whiterock **Community Gardens** won prizes in the annual **Autumn Flower show at Botanic Gardens**

Welcomed **115,000 visitors to Belfast Castle and Malone House** properties

Promoted positive relations and shared space

As part of the **Belfast Games Development Programme**, assisted **1100** young people to play small sided games

200 children took part in **Mary Peter's freedom of the city event**

Improved quality of life by reducing inequalities and tackling disadvantage delivering a range of health and wellbeing programmes and activities:

Delivered over **8000** coaching hours to **15,606 participants** on the Sport NI Active Communities Programme

Welcomed **19,300 children** to our summer scheme programmes

Provided **£210,000 in sports grants**, supporting **176 sports clubs**