



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>BCSDN 'VFM' Review Update</b>
<b>Date:</b>	5 December 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At its meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2009 the Committee supported an application for funding to Sport NI to participate in the Active Communities Programme. This was successful and the programme has been running since 2011.
1.2	Active Communities is an investment programme delivered by Sport NI that seeks to employ, deploy and train a network of full time and part time sports coaches and leaders to deliver activities in community and club settings across Northern Ireland, with a view to increasing participation in sport and physical recreation, especially among underrepresented groups.
1.3	A package of funding and business a plan was put together to support BCSDN (Belfast Community Sports Development Network) as the lead delivery partner for Sport NI's Active Communities programme under the auspices of the Active Belfast Consortium (ABC).
1.4	The Committee gave approval for the Director of Parks and Leisure, in consultation with the Chair of Parks and Leisure, to agree the Council's contribution to the overall package of funding up to a maximum of £50,000 per annum.
1.5	Committee at its meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2013 considered the VFM review and agreed that officers should engage with BCSDN on the development of an Improvement Plan. The Committee also agreed that a review of the options for the delivery of the Active Communities Programme is required.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers have now met with BCSDN to discuss the findings of the report and have agreed the approach of the preparation of an Improvement Plan. It was also agreed that BCSDN engage with the Council and the consultants to ensure that the information provided in the 'VFM' review is as accurate as possible. This has been a constructive engagement with BCSDN demonstrating its commitment to the continued delivery of the programme and to the introduction of any necessary improvements.</li> <li>• Officers have also met with Sport NI to provide assurance that the Active Communities Programme continues to be delivered satisfactorily and that targets continue to be met.</li> <li>• Work will commence shortly on the development of the options for future delivery and a report will be submitted to Committee in due course.</li> <li>• It should be noted that this 'VFM' review forms part of the processes which are in place to continue to improve delivery of the Active Communities Programme. Routine ongoing monitoring and supervision of the programme is undertaken by officers from the Leisure Development Unit. The programme continues to deliver the targets agreed between Sport NI and the Council.</li> </ul>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p>Sport NI provides funding of £3.03 million over 5 years to the Active Communities Programme.</p> <p>An annual Council contribution of £50k has been provided for in the 2013/14 budget.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality or Good relations issues.

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

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	The Director of Parks and Leisure.

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

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