



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Proposed Loughside Sports Educational Village</b>     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 13 February 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure            |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of an emerging proposal from Seaview Enterprises in respect of Council owned land at Loughshore. A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix A. The land in question is the site of the Loughside Recreation Centre and associated football pitches at Loughside, which is adjacent to Shore Road / Mount Vernon. Clearly at this stage of the Leisure Transformation Programme no decision has been taken about the future of the Recreation Centre.</p> <p>Members may be aware that the Department of Education has recently released a call for expressions of interest in respect of its Shared Education Campuses Programme. This is part of the wider 'Together: Building a United Community' initiative from the First Minister / Deputy First Minister.</p> <p>A preliminary meeting between Council Officers and representatives from Seaview Enterprises (SE) has indicated that it wishes to make application to the programme for funding to deliver a 'Shared Campus'. To do SE has identified the Loughshore site as its preferred location and has asked for the Council's support in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To agree in principle to lease land to SE to enable the project to proceed; and</li><li>2. To be a partner to the bid and participate in the development of the bid and the project moving forward</li></ol> <p>Appendix B sets out the preliminary proposal coming forward. Members will note that paragraph 1.2 which outlines the indicative scheme. This includes a 5,000 seat stadium, however, at this time; this is not included in the proposal going forward to Department of Education, although the proposal will include the provision of a 3G artificial turf pitch.</p> |

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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|           | There are a number of issues which members may wish to consider at this time; |

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This project is at a very early stage in development;</li> <li>2. The proposal cannot proceed without the land;</li> <li>3. At this stage, detail regarding the terms and conditions of the funding are not known;</li> <li>4. Based on the guidance notes accompanying the call for expressions of interest there is no requirement at this time in relation to security of tenure; a copy of the guidelines is attached as Appendix C</li> <li>5. The proposal presents the Council with a potential opportunity to secure funding which would enable an existing sport and leisure facility to be regenerated and offer potential benefits to the wider community in North Belfast;</li> </ol> |
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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b> |
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|  | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications at this time. There has been no request for financial support.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The proposal presents an opportunity to regenerate the site within similar existing land use parameters and would provide additional modern facilities to support programmes for the local community.</p> |
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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and good relations implications</b> |
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|  | To be determined. |
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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b> |
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|  | The Committee is asked to give consideration to agreeing to authorising Officers to represent the Council on a Project Board to progress the bid to Expression of Interest Stage with a view to the potential use of the existing land at Loughside Recreation Centre to facilitate the proposal; |
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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
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|  | Director of Parks and Leisure |
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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
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|  | SE Seaview Enterprises |
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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
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|  | <p>Appendix A – Request from Seaview Enterprises</p> <p>Appendix B – Outline proposal from Seaview Enterprises</p> <p>Appendix C – Share Education Campuses Programme – Guidelines</p> |
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