



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Out of Hours use of Leisure Centres
Date:	13 February 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Adrian Walker, Leisure Operations Manager Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to extend the of Out of Hours agreements under which sports clubs use our leisure facilities for training purposes.
1.2	The Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2008 agreed to extend out of hours use of leisure centres to all clubs and adopted a charging rate of £20 per hour as a contribution towards utilities costs.
1.3	At subsequent Committee meetings members agreed to extend the out of hours use of leisure centres scheme to all sporting organisations and to reduce the rate to £10 per hour on 11 June 2009 and 10 September 2009 respectively.
1.4	Clubs currently pay £11 per hour and this will increase to £11.60 from April 2014 in line with the new scale of charges.
1.5	Currently 7 water based clubs avail of the out of hours facilities totalling 23 hours per week. They also utilise 18 hours during normal opening times at full price and regular competition bookings.
1.6	Centres using out of hours include; Andersonstown, Avoniel, Ballysillan, Falls, Olympia and Whiterock.
1.7	Comments from the clubs indicate that the out of hours service is highly valued and allows the clubs to keep costs down ensuring their membership fees are manageable. Many have spoken about the increased opportunity to train when it is increasingly difficult to get access to pool time during normal opening hours due to demand from the public.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The legal agreements have now expired and at this point all of the clubs are technically “over-holding” on their agreements.
2.2	Legal Services have advised that retrospective Committee approval should be sought for the extension of the agreements as well as the authority to extend the existing agreements until March 2015.
2.3	Delegated authority is also requested to extend or amend the out of hours contracts as required in line with the service’s plans for improvement and service development.
2.4	Subject to Committee approval it is proposed that the Department writes to the groups to extend their agreements until 31 March 2015.

3.0	Resource Implications									
3.1	The table below indicates estimated costs and income based on the current usage.									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Out of Hours Usage</th> <th>Usage at full rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total No. hours</td> <td>23</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Participant opportunities weekly</td> <td>365</td> <td>405</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Out of Hours Usage	Usage at full rate	Total No. hours	23	18	No. of Participant opportunities weekly	365	405
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4.0	Equality Implications
4.1	None.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Committee approve the extension of the Out of Hours agreements until 31 March 2015 and grant delegated authority to the Director of Parks and Leisure to subsequently extend as required.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	The Leisure Operations Manager to action the committee’s decision.

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.0	Documents Attached
	None