



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	FIFA Schools Super Festival at Mallusk.
Date:	12 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Committee are asked to note that the Council received a request on 23 January 2015 from the Irish Football Association (IFA) to host a schools super festival for girls at the city of Belfast Playing fields (Mallusk).
1.2	The event is funded through the FIFA "Live your Goals" programme and it is estimated that the event will attract approximately 1200 girls from 55 schools in Northern Ireland. Age categories range from 11yrs to 15yrs. The proposed date for the event is Wednesday 10 June 2015.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	This will be the second year of running this event at Mallusk. The use of a single venue has made it the biggest ever event for woman and girls football in Northern Ireland. It has enhanced and promoted cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer and the sheer size of the location allows the efficient and effective running of this tournament.
2.2	The event organiser has requested in kind support which is in the form of a waiver of the hire charges.
2.3	The teams will also need access to the changing and toilet facilities.
2.4	The organiser has requested that 26 small sided pitches be marked out but this will have no impact on the users as the event is scheduled to take place during the closed season.
2.5	The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan.

	The plan will address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of Council officers.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are financial implications associated with the granting of free use of the pitches and ancillary facilities. It is estimated that the loss of income would be in the region of £806.13; however the pitches are not open for regular soccer bookings at this time so the loss of income is not pertinent.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resource implications as the pitches can be marked and changing facilities staffed during normal working hours.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other implications</u> Positive use of City of Belfast Playing fields to promote soccer for women and girls.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	<p>There are no known associated equality considerations associated with this request. The competition aims at girls aged 11 – 15 years old. Approximately 1200 participants will take part from different age groups, ethnic and religious backgrounds.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>Committee are asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the schools super festival be held at City of Belfast Playing fields subject to the completion of all the appropriate paperwork; and 2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and ancillary facilities.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions to be carried out by Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach manager and Jackie Turkington, Community Parks Manager.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>IFA – Irish Football Association FIFA – Federation International Football Association</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	None