



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Natural Turf Sports Surfaces – Standing Select List Polymeric Sports Surfaces – Standing Select List Artificial Turf Sports Surfaces – Standing Select List and Tenders
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2008
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### Relevant Background Information

The Council's Capital Programme has yet to be endorsed politically and will have a major impact on the City Investment Strategy.

It is therefore proposed to ask the party groups to consider a draft Capital Programme during March, along with reports on the City Investment Fund and Asset Management.

However, there are a number of urgent projects which should be advanced now for valid reasons.

It is routine for the Council to create standing select lists of contractors from whom tenders for the provision of various types of sports surfaces might be invited as required.

Applications for inclusion on such Select Lists of potential contractors have been invited by public advertisement.

Reports regarding any future tenders are presented to the Committee if and when projects are proposed for development during the terms of the standing select lists.

Two such proposals, for the artificial sports surfaces option, are currently programmed for construction during the summer at Grosvenor RC (in conjunction with St Joseph's PS and part funded the Big Lottery Fund) and Ballysillan LC.

### Key Issues

The replacement of the pitch at Grosvenor RC, which is 85% funded by the Big Lottery Fund, was previously postponed as the site was utilised during the Westlink widening scheme, which is nearing completion.

The existing Ballysillan LC pitch has been in operation since 1995 and the surface was removed several months ago as it had reached the end of its operational life and due to safety concerns, leaving a tarmac hard sub-surface which cannot be used operationally.

The nature of the proposed works is such that they should ideally be executed during the summer months.

Tender documentation is currently being prepared for each of these locations.

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of quality and cost in order to ascertain those which offer the most economically advantageous bids for the works.

The projects may be amalgamated into a single tender/contract if it is considered to be to the Council's advantage.

### **Resource Implications**

The draft 08/09 Capital Programme includes amounts of £975,000 for the proposal at Grosvenor Recreation Centre and £650,000 for the proposal at Ballysillan LC.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee approves:

1. the invitation of tenders for the pitches at Grosvenor RC and Ballysillan LC;and
2. application being made to the appropriate Government Department for sanction to raise loans for the cost of the two projects.