



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: **Capital Programme:
Replacement of Sports Hall Floor at Shankill Leisure Centre**

Date: 21st August, 2009

Reporting Officer: Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext: 6217

Contact Officer: Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager, Ext: 3555

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting of 11 June 2009, the Parks & Leisure Committee approved the submission of an application under the Sport NI Places for Sport fund proposing the upgrade of the sports hall floor at Shankill Leisure Centre.

The Council application was successful at stage one of the assessment process and the Council was invited to present pre-tender information to be assessed for stage two.

The Places for Sport programme provides funding for projects which build or upgrade playing surfaces and can demonstrate strategic fit and additionality through increased participation in sport in Northern Ireland. Proposed projects, in the first year of this funding package, must be in a high "state of readiness", with all relevant approvals in place in order to complete project spend by 31 March 2010. The programme provides up to £245,000 for capital projects - to which local authorities must make a contribution of approximately 25% to works costs, as well as all design costs.

Key Issues

At its meeting on 13 August 2008, the Parks & Leisure Committee approved the preparation and management of a tender for the refurbishment of the sports floor at Shankill LC and authorised the delegation of the development of a select list and acceptance of the successful construction tender to Director of Parks and Leisure.

A proposal for the replacement of the sports floor at Shankill LC was previously submitted for the Capital Programme but remains "*uncommitted*" due to the continuing uncertainty as to the affordability of capital funding.

The floor is in poor condition and if it is not replaced in the near future soon it will become unusable and the main hall will have to be closed.

The timescale set by Sport NI means that the proposal has not been through any prioritisation mechanism; however, the later stages of the Council's Gates process will be applied throughout the development and delivery of the project.

Resource Implications

Approval by the Committee would be stepping outside the agreed process for approval of capital projects but the potential grant aid presents an opportunity to proceed with the proposal at a significantly reduced cost to the Council of approximately £50,000 against the overall anticipated cost of £163,000.

The Parks & Leisure Department have confirmed that the expenditure will be met from reallocations within the existing revenue budget and consequently no capital expenditure is required.

However, a requirement of the grant is that expenditure is authorised by Councils Transition Committees as expenditure will happen in the 2010/11.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider the decision of the Parks & Leisure Committee to proceed with the replacement of the floor at Shankill LC and to approve the invitation of tenders, subject to the award of grant aid from the Sport NI Places for Sport fund and that any contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer in terms of cost and quality in accordance with BCC's procurement procedures.

Decision Tracking

It is anticipated that decision of Sport NI regarding stage two of the funding application will be advised in October 2009.