

Property and Projects Department

Our Ref:

Being dealt with by: Gerry Millar

Ext: 6217

Date: 30 October 2012

Minister Carál Ní Chuilín
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Dear Minister Ní Chuilín

Following on from our meeting 23 October 2012 as promised I enclose an outline programme for the delivery of the Marrowbone pitch.

The best case scenario is a five month period to get on site so if we start at the beginning of November we are on site by the end of March 2013 using our retained design team. The actual construction period is around four months so earliest deliverable date is July 2013 subject to a number of matters outlined below being agreed quickly.

1. Resources

Currently there are insufficient financial resources available to complete the works.

- (i) BCC can consider some additional capital funding in November but we need to know:
 - Extent of remediation works required by NIEA in respect of contamination report. We normally expect the Planning Service to provide this as a matter of meeting their planning condition but BCC will follow this up in November.
 - Regardless of the extent of remediation works mentioned above we do know there will be additional sub structure works required due to ground conditions and this will form the basis of our argument for increased capital spend from the SP&R Committee.
 - The extent of SNI/DCAL funding we had been working on £245,000 but we need confirmation that this is available to establish what we need to request from Council.

2. Infrastructure

We need to ensure the necessary site infrastructure is readily available for servicing the site ie electricity, drainage outlet, etc. The design work to planning stage by the Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum does not include this information.

3. Process

If DCAL/SNI insist on involving CPD re approval of tender/contract documentation we cannot stand over the proposed delivery dates. Previous work with SNI would suggest that if either they or CPD act as observers on the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PPQ) and Invitation to Tender (ITT) panels that should be sufficient. For the relatively small amount of government money involved in what is a Council asset BCC do not see added value in bringing in additional Civil Service personnel and bureaucracy.

4. Challenge

The timetable also reflects no legal challenges to the tender process occurring and no complaints/objections from users in terms of making the pitch available for construction.

In effect this project is good to go subject to the financial resources being made available.

BCC is ready to deliver this project and transfer the finished product to AYP group in line with SNI requirements as agreed at Council on 2 July 2012.

I am happy to discuss the details with your officials and I understand Nick Harkness is to meet with myself and Andrew Hassard early November.

If you require anything further at this stage please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Gerry Millar
Director of Property and Projects

Enc

Copy to: Gerry Kelly MLA
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Cllr G McCabe
Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

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