



Subject:	Belfast Model Flying Club – Hosting of 2019 Air Modelling European Championships
Date:	11 October 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhoods Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform Members that the Belfast Model Flying Club has requested Council support in making an application to host the Air Modelling European Championships at Blanchflower Playing Fields in Summer 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note the report and agree to:</p> <p>Grant permission to the Belfast Air Modelling Club to hold the event at Blanchflower Playing Fields:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Subject to the future development of the site and the feasibility to physically accommodate the event;2. Providing all the necessary health and safety requirements have been put in place and the Club has complied with the Council event management plan in consultation with the Park Manager;3. That the Council agree to meet the cost of the works to meet the requirements of hosting the event, estimated to be in the region of £30-35,000 from existing Departmental Budgets.

3.0	Main report
3.1	The Council has received an approach from the Air Modelling Club currently based at Alderman Tommy Patton Park requesting permission and support to host the European Control Line Championships in 2019. It's anticipated that these will take place in June / July time, subject to confirmation.
3.2	<p>The proposed location for these championships will be Blanchflower Playing Fields which already contains one take off and land area for model plane enthusiasts. The Chairman of the control Line Technical Committee of the British Model Flying Association has provided a list of requirements. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval by BCC to the use of the facility no later than January 2017; ▪ A painted area to prevent damage from paraffin for race category; ▪ A level and short cut grassed area for Aerobatics; ▪ 2 bitmac circles for completion ▪ Temporary cages to provide safety for 'pilots' when in competition;
3.3	A health and safety risk assessment has been carried out by the Club. Council Officers have had several meetings with the representatives in relation to the Event Management Plan. While the event is still some years off, permission is required at this time to ensure that the requirements can be accommodated and necessary approvals put in place. This includes, for example, discussions with the George Best Belfast City Airport.
3.4	The Club is seeking permission to use Blanchflower Play Fields within the period June / July 2019 for the purpose of hosting the European Control Line Championships.
3.5	In addition, the Club is seeking the Council to fund the requirements as outlined above. The estimated cost of the bitmac area and the provision of the cages is estimated to be £30-35,000. This is a temporary fixture and the ground will be reinstated after the event.
3.6	Officers are satisfied that the site can accommodate the requirements at present and believe that this event will attract public and media interest at the time and presents an opportunity to further demonstrate the ability of the city to host a range of championship level events. Members will also be aware that development of the Blanchflower Playing Fields is in progress, supported by the Belfast Investment Fund. Therefore any

	development of the site will be assessed in terms of its fit with the wider development project.
3.7	The Club will be seeking funding support beyond meeting the technical requirements. Officers have directed the club to existing event based funding programmes such as the small grants scheme.
3.8	Officers have considered an alternative location at Alderman Tommy Patton Park; the cost of the works would be reduced by approximately £5,000; however the alternative is not considered a suitable venue for the event owing to its size which could not accommodate the range of events proposed and the time of year.
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The estimated cost of meeting the requirements to host the event is £30-35,000. Subject to Committee agreeing to fund the event from existing Departmental Budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.10	There are no Equality Implications
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None.