

## Belfast PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE City Council

Subject:	Review of Management Arrangements for the pitch at Sally Gardens
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes		No	X
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	x	No	

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the management arrangements at
	Sally Gardens. The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in April 2016 it agreed to
	operate a 3 month pilot scheme with Poleglass Community Association (PCA). The 3
	month pilot scheme has operated from 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 and the association has been
	paid a monthly fee of £3666.67.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to;
	Agree to extend the pilot agreement on a month by month basis for a maximum of
	3 months to potentially cover the period December 2016 – February 2017.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting in April 2016, it agreed to operate a 3
	month pilot management arrangement at Sally Gardens (Appendix 1). Essentially the
	Poleglass Community Association would carry out a range of duties as outlined in
	Appendix 2.
3.2	The Association had indicated in discussions prior to the agreement that it had aspirations

for a wide use of the facility beyond the normal bookings of training and matches. The Association had prepared a Sports Development Plan which identified a number of objectives. By meeting these objectives the Association would encourage greater use of the facility and generate increased income which would meet the fee cost of the management arrangement.

3.3 A brief summary of the figures from September and October are given below:

	August	September	October
Bookings	77	72	91
Full Pitch	50	40	46
Half Pitch	22	32	45
Adult	28	22	29
Concession	41	50	62
Income £	3,875	2,924	3,766

Note: Matches and Match rates are not included

- 3.4 It is the view of officers that 2 months of information are insufficient to make a decision regarding whether the scheme should be continued or not. Officers will be meeting with the Association by the end of November to review the arrangements and to review the sports development plan and consider how the use of the facility can be increased.
- 3.5 In relation to the upkeep of the facility, it is kept clean and tidy in accordance with the agreement.
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that Council will meet the cost of the maintenance of the pitch and the utility costs associated with it. Within this context the facility is currently operating at a loss as a monthly payment of £3,666.67 is made to PCA. Previously it had been anticipated that the facility would generate sufficient income to meet the cost of the fee, while this was achieved in October it was not met in September and in aggregate over the 2 months the agreement has had a net cost of £642 which excludes utility and ongoing maintenance costs. However, if the ambitions in the Sports Development Plan can be realised not only will it result in improved levels of activity but it will result in increased income.

3.7	Financial & Resource Implications
	The monthly cost of fees to manage the pitch facility will be $\pounds$ 3,667 per month.
3.8	Equality or Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality or good relation implications at this time.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 - Previous report to People and Communities committee 9 February 2016

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