



Subject:	Girls' Summer Soccer Programme
Date:	7 th March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Mark Turner, Community Parks Outreach Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The City and Neighbourhood Services Department has received a request from the IFA ladies section to support a grassroots girls' summer soccer programme at the City of Belfast Playing Fields.
1.2	The programme will run for 7 weeks every Saturday from 13 th May to 24 th June 2017.
1.3	The organisers have asked for free use of a grass area at Mallusk situated between 11 x 11 soccer pitches that at the time will be out of season and resting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grant authority for free use of a grass area within the City of Belfast playing fields for the purpose of hosting a grassroots girls' soccer programme.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Following the last 2 years of success, the IFA Ladies section has requested support by way of free use of a grass area at Mallusk playing fields.
3.2	The summer soccer programme encourages participation at under 9, under 11 and under

	<p>13 age groups. Last year over 630 girls participated in the small sided games development programme, an increase of 200 on the previous year. 16 clubs were represented during the programme with a total number of 32 teams competing across the 3 age groups.</p>
3.3	The grass area at Mallusk plays host to 5 aside, 7 aside and 9 aside training and games.
3.4	Each week a number of portable posts will be utilised to create small sided pitches and depending on the site maintenance programme and wear and tear the grounds man will allocate the most suitable area for that week.
3.5	The site already hosts a number of summer sports such as cricket, Gaelic games and soccer so the toilet and changing facilities will be available for use if required. As the site is already open, no additional costs will be incurred. It is difficult to estimate a loss of revenue as the use of a grass area does not currently exist in the pricing policy.
3.6	Council support with this programme will increase the number of young girls involved in soccer and small sided games.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.7	There are no financial implications with this report. No additional costs are incurred with this request as the site will be open and staffed as a result of other sports bookings.
	<u>Human Resources</u>
3.8	There are no human resource implications expected with this report.
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.9	The use of a grass area situated between resting grass soccer pitches. The grounds man will insure that no play occurs on seeded areas.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.10	There are no equality or good relation implications with this report. The summer soccer programme is inclusive of all members of our communities.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None