



<b>Subject:</b>	Parkrun - Citywide
<b>Date:</b>	2 April 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services Catherine Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update members regarding the progress and success of Parkrun and to seek approval to provide further support to event organisers to ensure continued success and future growth and development. A number of requests have been made to the council via the various parkrun event organisers.
1.2	Parkrun organisers have requested free use of community facilities within parks to support the effective delivery of the events.
1.3	Council officers who have been working with Parkrun organisers and volunteers have identified a number of key areas for improvement and are keen to work in partnership to improve the use of facilities and to determine what training and development is required to support capacity building.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant free use of the parks facilities until such a time as the event organisers might be able to secure funding to contribute to facility hire.</li> <li>• Agree that Council officers work with each of the event organisers to provide support and to draft a capacity building programme to address the need.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>Members will be familiar with parkrun events as a Saturday 5km or Sunday junior 2K timed walk, jog or run. It's free and open to all ages and abilities. The weekly timed 5K event first came to Belfast Parks in 2010 with the introduction of the Waterworks parkrun. Success and participation figures now exceed 1500 walkers/runners weekly and has seen the number of events grow to 9 locations across the city. Other Belfast Park venues include Falls, Musgrave, Orangefield, Ormeau and Victoria Park with a further 4 locations in Belfast; Colin Glen Forest Park, Queens Sports Complex, Stranmillis University College &amp; Stormont Estate.</p>
3.2	<p>The Parkrun events contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda by supporting the outcome that “Everyone in Belfast will experience good health and wellbeing”. The aspiration that by 2035 everyone will live a healthy lifestyle and will experience the best physical and emotional health whilst reducing health inequalities can be achieved by the delivery of free and easily accessible events such as Parkrun.</p>
3.3	<p>More than 700 GP practices across the UK including 6 in Belfast, have now registered to become Parkrun practices – this means they have partnered with their local Parkrun event to signpost patients and staff to take part in Parkrun to help treat a host of health conditions and improve physical and mental wellbeing.</p>
3.4	<p>Although it is called ‘parkrun practices’ we know that it is not just GP and practice staff that are promoting Parkrun to their patients. Whether people come along and walk, jog, run, volunteer or simply come for the post-event coffee and chat, practitioners from across primary and secondary care are seeing Parkrun as lifestyle medicine.</p>
3.5	<p>Parkrun promotes shared space, collaborative working and encourages more positive use of our facilities. Council officers will work in partnership with the various Belfast Parkrun’s to</p>

	<p>review their progress and support them in line with our ambitions around increasing participation and improving the customer experience in parks.</p>
3.6	<p>Park run organisers have requested access where possible, to community facilities within the hosting parks such as bowling pavilions so that toilet facilities, meeting rooms and kitchen areas are accessible. As parkrun is a free event supported and sustained by volunteers with no current source of income, this request is for free use of the facilities. Access to dry facilities aids the volunteers to process the results for viewing immediately and provides a space for the much valued social interaction as part of the event.</p>
3.7	<p>Each Parkrun organiser has to satisfy the Council that it will deliver a safe and professional event, meeting the Council's health and safety standards. A recent review of Parkrun events highlighted that there are some areas for improvement with regards to supporting Parkruns in our Parks. It is proposed that Council staff work with Parkrun organiser to identify the need in their area and develop a capacity building programme to support volunteer training, effective event management and governance models, to influence priorities for improving facilities and increasing funding opportunities to ensure sustainability.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>There will be an additional cost to the Council to open and staff the buildings and this will be covered within the Parks operational budget.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.9	<p>Parkrun has a positive implication in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations and is undertaken in an inclusive manner.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 - Belfast parkrun statistics spreadsheet