Monitoring of Playing Pitches Strategy EQIA

S75 internal meeting

March 2013

Background

The final EQIA report for the Playing Pitches Strategy was considered by the Parks and Leisure Committee on 9th February 2012, the Committee accepted the findings of the EQIA and this decision was ratified by Council on 1st March 2012.

The Strategy has three high level objectives which are supported by a number of sub-objectives. These are –

Objective 1 – Capital investment
To deliver and, working in partnership, enable a programme of capital development, enhancement and maintenance investments which address identified deficiencies and protect existing playing pitch provision.

Objective 2 – Management
To implement and monitor a range of management options with community and statutory partners, so as to maximise people’s participation in team sports activity.

Objective 3 – Sports development
Working in partnership, to develop and deliver a sports development programme to maximise people’s participation in team sports activity. This will include under-represented groups, such as females and those with disabilities.

Monitoring update

Work has been ongoing on the delivery of these three objectives and the following is an update on progress to this point and the delivery of the mitigating actions identified in the EQIA.

Due to the nature of the ongoing work it has not been possible at this point to provide quantifiable update information. A delivery board has been established, which meets monthly to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Work plans are currently being updated for all 3 objectives and we expect a greater volume of work to be undertaken in the coming year. For this reason we anticipate that we will have a greater level of monitoring data for the year 2 review.

Objective 1 – Capital investment
- Work has been ongoing to deliver the Phase 1 capital build element and the focus to date has been around design and location within the identified sites. Sites have been identified and consultation has been ongoing with users and other interested parties, including sports clubs, governing bodies, local residents and Members, throughout the design process. Planning permission will be sought for all sites at various points throughout 2013 and it
is envisaged that construction will commence on the first sites in late 2013/early 2014.

- Through the design process we have ensured that all buildings and access to the pitches are DDA compliant.
- The £750k fund for capital enhancements to school playing pitches to allow increased community access has been designed and launched with a closing date of 29 March 2013. One of the scoring criteria is around increasing participation and a higher score will be given where the applicant demonstrates that they will encourage wider community use and have plans in place to target wider use among at least 3 of the following groups:
  - People with a disability
  - People from an minority ethnic background
  - Females
  - Older people
  - Youth organisations
- Sports development plans will be drawn up in advance of the opening of the pitches and these will include actions which will specifically address the under-representation of certain Section 75 groups in team sports activity, including older people, women and girls, people with disabilities and people with dependants.
- Discussions have been ongoing with the sport’s governing bodies and clubs in relation to potential partnerships arrangements; these have included the securing of additional funding for the development of the pitches. Any partnership arrangements will include conditions around secured community access.

**Objective 2 – Management**

- A review of the current Facility Management Arrangements has been undertaken and a new partnership model drafted. The new ‘Agreements for Use’ will include a sports development plan which focuses on wider community involvement in activities onsite.
- A review of the baseline assessment which formed the basis of the strategy will be reviewed in late 2013 and this piece of work has been included in the 2013/14 work plan.

**Objective 3 – Sports development**

- Ongoing work has being undertaken to promote pitch sports and programmes of activities have been undertaken with the following partners:
  - IFA
  - Ulster Rugby
  - GAA
  - Camogie
  - Ulster Hockey
  - Cricket Ireland
- The Council with its partners, from April 2012- March 2013, provided “Try – It” sports sessions and events for Belfast youths (mainly aged 7-15) around pitch based sports. The numbers involved are listed in the following table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>No participating</th>
<th>No of schools participating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queens (Girls event)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>4 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hall (Olympics)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozone (Olympics)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>BCC S/Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoniel LC</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiterock LC</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove LC</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>5 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia LC</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total -925</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total -20 schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complaints**

No complaints have been received to date.