

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Leisure Pricing
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Roland Moore

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **Leisure Pricing for 2016/17**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>Through the rates estimates process, members agreed to a small percentage increase in charges for leisure services for 2016/17. This report and appendixes details the increase in charges.</p> <p>The main impacts of the price increase are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prices are increased by 3% where applicable</li> <li>• Any price increase is rounded to the nearest £0.05/£0.10 to assist with the administration and cash handling at centres.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>It is recommended to adopt the increase in leisure prices effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>It is anticipated the increase in prices will have a positive effect on the income due to Council for these services, which has been taken account of in striking the rate.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 - Leisure Pricing Document</p>

General Charges				
APPENDIX 1 - AMENDED		Charges 2015-16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
<b>General Prices</b>				
<b>Charges All Facilities</b>				
	<b>Activity</b>			
	Admission	£1.00		£1.00
	Student	£0.55		£0.60
	Shower	£1.00		£1.00
<b>Equipment Hire</b>				
	Racquet	£1.05		£1.10
	Table Tennis Bat	£0.50		£0.50
	Ball/Shuttle	£0.30		£0.30
	Deposit for 5 a side ball( Ret)	£5.00		£5.00
	Table per day	£1.00		£1.00
	Staging section per day	£5.00		£5.15
	Chairs (up to 100) per day	£10.00	Community use charge	£10.30
	Bleachers commercial group	£45.05	In additional to hall hire	£46.40
	Bleachers non -commercial group	£22.75	In additional to hall hire	£23.45
<b>FITNESS SUITES</b>				
	Non-member Joining Fee per Year	£20.00		£20.60
	Non-Member Daily (must have paid yearly fee)	£4.80		£4.95
	Non-Member Concession Daily (must have paid yearly fee)	£2.70		£2.80
	Non Member LunchTime (12noon - 2pm) (must have paid yearly fee)	£2.35	* excludes Newry Pulse	£2.45
	Non -Member Day rate (if no yearly fee paid)	£10.00		£10.30
	Non -Member Fitness Induction	£10.00		£10.30
	School Fitness	£1.95	* excludes Newry Pulse	£2.05
	Fitness Suite x 10 Card	£43.50	* excludes Newry Pulse	£44.85
	Fitness suite x 10 Card Concession	£20.00	* excludes Newry Pulse	£20.60
<i>Special Population Classes - Over 50's/Badminton Coaching/Teen Spinning/Soccer Coaching</i>	special population classes non member	£3.15		£3.25
<i>Special Population Classes - Over 50's/Badminton Coaching/Teen Spinning/Soccer Coaching Coaching (exercise classes)</i>	special population classes member	£2.75		£2.85
	Adult Non Member	£4.65		£4.80
<i>Coaching ( exercise classes)</i>	Adult Member (if on yearly/monthly memberships)	£4.15		£4.30
<b>FITNESS SUITES - NEWRY - CLUB PULSE</b>				
<b>Gym Only-Monthly-SITE SPECIFIC</b>				
<b>Off Peak Single</b>	Joining Fee	£10.00	Up to 3% increase -	£10.30
	Induction Fee	£20.00		£20.60
	DD Set Up Fee	£20.00	Officers to carry out a	£20.60
	Per Month (9-5pm)	£24.00		£24.75
<b>Gym/Swim/Classes Monthly</b>	Per Month	£29.60	review and vary	£30.50
	Per month (student)	£22.00		£22.70
<b>Corporate membership</b>				
<b>Gym only</b>	6months (8 adults)	£1,113.60	accordingly in line with	£1,147.05
	Extra Adult	£139.20		£143.40
	Extra 2 Months Per Adult	£46.40	comparable competitors	£47.80
	corporate monthly	£22.00		£22.70
<b>Gym/swim/class</b>	6 Months (8 adults)	£1,248.00	pricing points to best aid	£1,285.45
	Extra Adult	£156.00		£160.70
	Extra 2 Months Per Adult	£52.00	retention and future	£53.60
	Corporate monthly	£20.40		£21.00
	Corporate monthly	£24.50	sales	£25.20
<b>Council Members and Employee Health Scheme</b>		FREE	<b>All facilities except,£50 per year initially then £10 a year thereafter for Pulse Newry Fitness Suite</b>	£0.00
<b>Sauna Steam room</b>				
	Swim Sauna Steam Adult	£5.00		£5.15
	Swim Sauna Steam Concession	£2.50		£2.60
	Sauna/Steam Only	£3.30	DLC/NEWCASTLE	£3.40
	Sauna/Steam Only Concession	£2.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£2.10
<b>Ten Session Card</b>	Swim/Steam/Sauna	£42.55		£43.85
	Swim/health suite concession	£20.00		£20.60
<b>SWIMMING POOL</b>				
<i>per half hour</i>	Long Term Booking (swim club)	£23.00		£23.70
	One Off Booking (plus VAT)	£23.50		£24.20
	Two Groups Sharing	£42.00	DLC SITE SPECIFIC	£43.30
	Gala (during Core Hours) (plus VAT)	£42.00		£43.30

General Charges				
APPENDIX 1 - AMENDED		Charges 2015-16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
	Gala (outside Core Hours) (plus VAT)	£50.00		£51.50
	Instructor	£11.00		£11.35
	Attendant	£8.00		£8.25
	Small Pool Commercial per hour (per lane)	£13.30		£13.70
	Large pool Commercial per hour (per lane)	£12.50		£12.90
	Lane Hire disabled group (per hour)	£10.00		£10.30
	Schools swimming (per child)	£1.35	NSC KLC site specific	£1.40
per half hour	private swim lesson adult (2 max)	£6.40	additional normal admission rules/charges apply	£6.60
per half hour	private swim lesson junior (2 max)	£4.85	additional normal admission rules/charges apply	£5.00
per half hour	pre-booked private swim lesson adult (2 max)	£4.75	additional normal admission rules apply	£4.90
per half hour	pre-booked private swim lesson junior (2 max)	£8.40	additional normal admission rules apply	£8.65
	private teacher registration fee yearly	£53.15		£54.75
<b>Swims</b>				£0.00
	Swim Adult 16+	£2.85		£2.95
	Swim Junior/Concession	£2.15		£2.20
	Swim under 4 yrs	FREE	All centres	£0.00
	Swim/Fitness Non member	£7.00	SITE SPECIFIC DLC	£7.20
	Swim/Fitness/Sauna Non member	£7.50		£7.70
<b>20 Swim Cards</b>	Adult	£42.00		£43.30
	Junior/Concession	£21.00		£21.65
<b>Swimming Classes</b>	Adult - Over 16 per class)	£6.40		£6.60
<b>Per class</b>	Junior - Under 16	£4.85		£5.00
	Pool Lifeguard Course	£252.50		£260.10
	Pool Lifeguard Course renewal	£252.50		£260.10
	Swim Survive Save Course	£197.00		£202.90
<b>COURTS</b>				
Squash/Handball/Racquet	Adult x 2	£6.25		£6.45
per 45 mins	Junior/Concession x 2	£3.85		£4.00
	Court Card x 10	£38.50		£39.70
	Table Tennis Adult per table	£6.25		£6.45
	Table Tennis Concession/Junior per table	£5.45		£5.60
	Badminton Adult per court	£8.50		£8.80
	Badminton Concession/Junior per court	£5.75		£5.90
	Senior Bowls	£2.35		£2.40
<b>Memberships (excludes Newry Pulse)</b>				
swim membership - pay in full	Adult 12 months	£220.00		£226.60
	Adult 6 months	£120.00		£123.60
	Concession 12 months	£165.00		£169.95
	Concession 6 months	£90.00		£92.70
	Disabled Child 12 months	£5.75		£5.90
swim/health suite Newry/Kilkeel- In full	Adult 12 months	£264.00		£271.95
	Adult 6 months	£144.00		£148.30
	Concession 12 months	£198.00		£203.95
	Concession 6 months	£108.00		£111.25
	Over 60's 12 months *	£3.35	* includes gym except for Newry Pulse	£3.45
	Disabled Adult 12 months*	£11.45		£11.80
Swim/Sauna/Steam/Gym Down-In full	Adult 12 months	£264.00		£271.95
	Adult 6 months	£144.00		£148.30
	Concession 12 months	£198.00		£203.95
	Concession 6 months	£108.00		£111.25
	Over 60's 12 months *	£3.35	* includes gym except for Newry Pulse	£3.45
	Disabled Adult 12 months *	£11.45		£11.80
Monthly direct debit swim	Adult	£20.00	Up to 3% increase - Officers	£20.60
	Concession	£15.00	to carry out a review and	£15.45
Monthly direct debit swim/health suite Newry	Adult	£24.00	vary accordingly in line with	£24.75
	Concession	£18.00	comparable competitors	£18.55
Monthly direct debit Swim/Sauna/Steam/Gym Down	Adult	£24.00	pricing points to best aid	£24.75
	Concession	£18.00	retention and future sales	£18.55

Seasonal (Summer 2016)				
APPENDIX 2		Charges 2015 -16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
<b>SEASONAL SUMMER 2015</b>				
<b>SUMMER ACTIVIES</b>			<b>SITE SPECIFIC</b>	
			<b>TO NEWCASTLE</b>	
<b>NEWCASTLE CENTRE</b>			<b>FACILITIES</b>	
<b>Rock Pool</b>	Junior Swim	£1.70		£1.75
	Adult Swim	£2.30		£2.40
	Junior Season Ticket (unlimited	£32.70		£33.70
	Adult Season Ticket (unlimited	£42.90		£44.20
	Junior 10 Session Ticket	£15.90		£16.40
<b>Per Class</b>	Junior Lessons	£3.70		£3.70
<b>Per Class</b>	Survive & Save Awards (16 upwards)	£8.40		£8.65
<b>Per Class</b>	Survive & Save Awards (under 16)	£6.30		£6.50
<b>Per Class</b>	Rookies	£4.80		£4.95
	Spectator	£1.00		£1.05
<b>Tropicana</b>	Swim Over - 8 & Adult	£3.80		£3.90
	Swim - Junior Under 8	£3.30		£3.40
	10 - Jun Swim Ticket Under 8	£24.00		£24.70
	10 Swim Ticket - 8yrs & Adult	£32.00		£33.00
	Rainy Day Ticket	£2.00		£2.10
	Tropicanarama	£3.70		£3.80
	Family Ticket (5 People)	£16.00		£16.50
	Lessons	£18.50		£19.10
	Spectator	£1.00		£1.05
<b>Tennis Pavilion</b>	Court hire Adult	£4.65	*To be applied from Easter 2016	£4.80
	Court hire Junior/ OAP	£2.80		£2.90
	Lost Tennis Balls	£1.90		£2.00
	Season Ticket Adult	£69.00		£71.10
	Season Ticket Junior	£37.00		£38.10
	Family	£77.00		£79.30
	Group Use	£2.35		£2.40
<b>Pitch &amp; Putt</b>	Adult	£3.10		£3.20
	Junior	£2.50		£2.60
	Lost Golf Balls	£1.90		£2.00
	Schools	£2.00		£2.10
<b>Crazy Golf/Putting</b>	Adult	£2.30	*To be applied from Easter 2016	£2.40
	Junior	£1.80		£1.90
	Lost Balls	£1.90		£2.00
	Schools	£1.50		£1.55
<b>Go-Karts</b>	Per 10 minute session	£1.50	*To be applied from Easter 2016	£1.60
<b>Bowls</b>	Adult Per Hour	£3.80		£3.95
	Senior 1 Hour	£3.80		£3.95
	Equipment hire - bowls	£2.40		£2.50
	Equipment hire -over shoes	£2.40		£2.50
	Season Ticket - Adult	£50.00		£51.50
<b>Boating/Swans</b>	Adult	£2.75	*To be applied from Easter 2016	£2.85
	Junior	£2.00		£2.10
	Schools	£2.00		£2.10

Miscellaneous				
APPENDIX 3		Charges 2015 -16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
Miscellaneous Games Rooms	Birthday Party with castle	£40.00	SITE SPECIFIC- Down Leisure Centre	£41.20
	Birthday Party without castle	£23.50		£24.20
Auditorium DLC & Ballynahinch	Birthday Party 2 hours with castle	£56.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£57.70
	Birthday Party 2 hours without castle	£41.00		£42.25
DAN RICE HALL	Birthday Parties with castle	£34.50	SITE SPECIFIC	£35.55
	Birthday Parties without castle	£17.00		£17.50
BRIDGE CENTRE	Birthday Party with castle	£51.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£52.55
	Birthday Party without castle	£35.50		£36.60
NEWCASTLE CENTRE			SITE SPECIFIC	
Auditorium	Birthday Party 2 hours with castle	£43.50		£44.80
	Birthday Party 2 hours without castle	£28.50		£29.40
Multi-Purpose Hall	Birthday Party 2 hours with castle	£39.75		£40.95
	Birthday Party 2 hours without castle	£23.50		£24.20
Miscellaneous	Tea Dance Senior Citizen	£1.20	SITE SPECIFIC-Newcastle	£1.25
	Creche per child per hour	£2.70	SITE SPECIFIC-Newcastle	£2.80
Kilkeel Leisure Centre			SITE SPECIFIC	
Per Hour	Snack Area	£14.25	KLC site specific	£14.70
Unless otherwise stated	Snack Area + Bouncy Castle (In Small Sports Hall)	£41.20		£42.40
	Committee Room - Per Hour	£12.85		£13.25
	Sensory Room- 30min session	£3.05		£3.15
Playgroup	Kilkeel - Daily	£15.75		£16.20
Playgroup	Kilkeel - Half Day	£9.50		£9.80
	Treatment room 30 min session	£4.15		£4.30
	Treatment room 60 min session	£7.00		£7.20
	Changing Room/Pavillion	£16.50		£17.00
	Kilkeel School/Junior (<18 Years)	12.85		£13.25

## Recreation Grounds

APPENDIX 4		Charges 2015 -16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
<b>RECREATION GROUNDS</b>				
<b>Grass Pitch and Pavillion</b>	Adult (2 hours) Category A	£58.00	<b>ALL BOOKINGS WILL BE CHARGED PRO RATA UP OR DOWN AGAINST 30 MIN SLOTS</b>	£59.75
	Adult (2 hours) Category B	£55.50		£57.20
	Adult (2 hours) Category C	£53.50		£55.10
	Adult (2 hours) Category D	£51.50		£53.05
	Junior (2 hours) Category A	£25.50		£26.30
	Junior (2 hours) Category B	£24.50		£25.25
	Junior (2 hours) Category C	£23.50		£24.20
	Junior (2 hours) Category D	£22.50		£23.20
	Cricket (per day)	£80.00		£82.40
<b>Grass Pitch Only</b>	Adult (2 hours) Category A	£44.00		
	Adult (2 hours) Category B	£42.25		£43.50
	Adult (2 hours) Category C	£40.50		£41.70
	Adult (2 hours) Category D	£38.75		£39.90
	Junior (2 hours) Category A	£20.00		£20.60
	Junior (2 hours) Category B	£19.65		£20.25
	Junior (2 hours) Category C	£19.30		£19.90
	Junior (2 hours) Category D	£18.95		£19.50
<b>Changing Room</b>	All Ages	£19.80		£20.40
<b>Pavillion Only - Donard Park</b>	Adult - 2 hour Session	£16.50	SITE SPECIFIC	£17.00
	Junior - 2 hour Session	£11.30	SITE SPECIFIC	£11.65
<b>All Weather Pitch &amp; Pavillion (Non Floodlight)</b> <i>(One Session = 1 hour)</i>	Adult Match	£22.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£22.65
	Junior Match	£10.30	SITE SPECIFIC	£10.60
	Adult Training	£19.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£19.60
	Junior Training	£8.00	SITE SPECIFIC	
<b>All Weather Pitch &amp; Pavillion (Floodlight)</b> <i>(One Session = 1 hour)</i>	Adult Match	£30.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£30.90
	Junior Match	£15.50	SITE SPECIFIC	£16.00
	Adult Training	£23.00	SITE SPECIFIC	£23.70
	Junior Training	£10.25	SITE SPECIFIC	£10.55
<b>Floodlights (in addition to pitch hire)</b>	Per One Hour Session	£18.50	SITE SPECIFIC	£19.10
<b>ST. COLMAN'S SPORTS COMPLEX - ONLY</b>				
<b>Synthetic Pitch (Floodlit)</b>	Half pitch	£40.40	SITE SPECIFIC	£41.60
	Full pitch	£85.85	SITE SPECIFIC	£88.40
	Third of pitch	£30.30	SITE SPECIFIC	£31.20
<b>Synthetic Pitch (Non Floodlit)</b>	Half pitch	£30.30	SITE SPECIFIC	£31.20
	Full pitch	£70.70	SITE SPECIFIC	£72.80
	Third of pitch	£25.25	SITE SPECIFIC	£26.00
<b>Athletic Track Per Year</b>	Adult	£60.60	SITE SPECIFIC	£62.40
	Under 18	£35.35	SITE SPECIFIC	£36.40
	Family	£121.20	SITE SPECIFIC	£124.85
	Concessionary	£50.50	SITE SPECIFIC	£52.00
<b>Casual Usage</b>	Adult	£4.05	SITE SPECIFIC	£4.20
	Under 18	£3.05	SITE SPECIFIC	£3.15
<b>Exclusive Use with Fldts</b>		£55.55	SITE SPECIFIC	£57.20
<b>Exclusive Use Fldts</b>		£40.40	SITE SPECIFIC	£41.60
<b>Non-Exclusive Use</b>		£35.35	SITE SPECIFIC	£36.40
		£25.25	SITE SPECIFIC	£26.00

Rooms/Sports Halls				
APPENDIX 5		Charges 2015 - 16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
Meeting rooms	Adult	£10.00		£10.30
	Junior	£5.00		£5.15
	Adult Commercial	£15.00		£15.45
	Junior commercial	£7.50		£7.75
	Long term, office rental, per month (single space)	£450.00	SITE SPECIFIC-Ballynahinch	£463.50
	Long term, office rental, per month (double space)	£600.00	SITE SPECIFIC-Ballynahinch	£618.00
One court equivalent hall	Sports Activity Adult (50 mins)	£8.50		£8.80
	Sports Activity Concession (50 mins)	£5.75		£5.90
	Class/user group commercial (50 mins)	£15.00		£15.45
	Class/user group non commercial (50 mins)	£8.50		£8.75
	Sp. Event Commercial outside hrs per hr	£25.00	Plus Additional Operating Costs	£25.75
	Sp. Event Community/Charity outside hrs per hr	£17.00	Plus Additional Operating Costs	£17.50
Newry School/Junior <18 Years Pro-Rata Up/Down	3 x Courts (Newry SRC)	£19.60	SITE SPECIFIC NSC	£20.20
Note: Badminton court size will be used to provide base line cost.				
Meeting Room Hire (per hour) - Category A	Adult	£10.00	SITE SPECIFIC FOR NEWCASTLE	£10.30
	Junior	£6.00		£6.20
	Adult Commercial	£15.00		£15.45
	Junior Commercial	£8.00		£8.25
Meeting Room Hire (per hour) - Category B	Adult	£8.00		£8.25
	Junior	£4.50		£4.65
	Adult Commercial	£12.00		£12.40
	Junior Commercial	£6.00		£6.20

Additional Charges				
APPENDIX 6 - AMENDED 10/3/2015		Charges 2015 -16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016- 17
<b>Circus</b>	Per Day	£612.00		£630.40
	Deposit	Half total charge		
<b>Funfairs</b>	Per Day	£204.00		£210.15
	Deposit	Half total charge		
<b>Fetes</b>	Per Day	£67.00		£69.00
<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Club Season use</b>			
	Newry	£1,451.10	Site specific	£1,494.65
	Warrenpoint	£875.50	Site specific	£901.75
	Rostrevor	£683.90	Site specific	£704.40
<b>Bowls</b>	<b>Club Season use</b>			
	Bessbrook	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Newry	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Warrenpoint	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Annalong	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Kilkeel Indoor	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Kilkeel Outdoor	£540.65	Site specific	£556.85
	Rink Hire	£7.20	Site specific	£7.40
<b>Club Use Per Season</b>	Club Season use			
	1 - 3 teams	£684.20		£704.75
	4 - 6 teams	£967.50		£996.55
	7 + teams	£1,259.10		£1,296.90
<b>Club Use Per Season - Pavillion</b>	1 - 3 teams	£462.20	site specific	£476.10
	4 - 6 teams	£653.80	site specific	£673.40
	7 + teams	£846.60	site specific	£872.00
<b>League Use Per Season</b>	Carnbane League	£6,392.10	Includes licence fee for Carnbane complex	£6,583.90



Summer Schemes				
APPENDIX 6		Charges 2015 -16	NOTES	Proposed Charges 2016-17
<b>Summer Schemes</b>	Summer Scheme per week -10 to 4	£50.00		£51.50
	Summer scheme AM/PM	£25.00		£25.75
	Summer scheme Daily	£10.00		£10.30
	Summer scheme Trip only	£15.00		£15.45
	2 Children family per child	£90.00	CONCESSION	£92.70
	3 + children family per child	£135.00	CONCESSION	£139.05
	Breakfast club 9 am - 10am (per week)	£12.50	Light breakfast provided[Toast or cereal/juice]	£12.90

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	DCAL UB-REGIONAL STADIA PROGRAMME for SOCCER
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Roland Moore

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **Approve the attached Consultation response**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure are consulting on their sub-regional stadia programme for soccer.</p> <p>The full consultation document is contained with Appendix B.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider the consultation response detailed in Appendix A.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><i>Approval of the consultation response as detailed in Appendix A.</i></p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix A – Consultation response Appendix B – Consultation document</p>

**Annex 2:** *Sub Regional Stadia Programme – Consultation Response Form***DCAL SUB-REGIONAL STADIA  
PROGRAMME for SOCCER****Meeting the Strategic Needs of Soccer****Consultation Response Form****Publication Date:** 30 November 2015  
**Closing Date for Responses:** 22 February 2016

## Questions for Consideration

**The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure is seeking views on its draft Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer.**

**We would welcome your comments on any aspect of the draft programme.**

### PROGRAMME

**Q1. Do you agree with the decision to invest in soccer?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Strongly agree. There has been under investment in all levels of soccer within Northern Ireland, particularly to all amateur clubs throughout the Province.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions as to what the money should be invested in?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Yes. The amount of monies should be spread over the 11 Local Councils to be allocated to grass root and junior club level. As the local authorities work directly with all clubs in their regions and would best equipped to know how to invest the funding to improve on development and facilities

**Q2. Do you agree with the proposal to funding 5 separate strands in the programme?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. The 5 strands could be reduced which would result in a more balanced distribution of funds opportunity to Local Authority Districts and Clubs within these areas.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes       No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

The priority strand should be on grass roots football at local level and the development of facilities across the 11 local authorities i.e. 11 Council's Sports Facility Strategy. Thereafter support could be given on a sub-regional basis.

**Q3. Do you agree with the 20% partnership funding requirement for all projects?**

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neither Agree/Disagree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. There are equal funding requirements for Professional/Semi-Professional clubs as to Junior Clubs leaving a imbalance of funds needed and easier matched for professional clubs compared to junior club self-funding potential.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes       No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Yes. In the case of Junior Clubs Match Funding could be reduced to 10% and in regard and in the case of strand 1 if Glentoran being a professional club and having income revenue then their funding could be reduced and match funding % increased.

**Q4. Do you agree with the assessment criteria?**

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neither Agree/Disagree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. There is not a consistent spread of each criteria putting pressure on junior clubs to find another club to ground share, which would not be an issue for clubs involved in strand 1 and 3 Clubs to utilise schools or private hire arrangements.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes       No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Increase the criteria scores to focus on long term sports development criteria equally with facility development and sustainable community engagement initiatives.

**STRAND 1 – SAFE STADIA**

*(IFA Facilities Strategy specifies the redevelopment of The Oval in partnership with Glentoran Football Club)*

**Q5. Do you agree with the proposal to invest in Safe Stadia?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. Safe stadia yes, but why should this focus on one facility when there are many other alternative facilities in the Belfast area. Central Government should not be funding individual clubs while grass roots level clubs are totally under invested and operate with poor facilities. This strand one should be invested through IFA own funding or UEFA stadium funding schemes.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Safe stadia should be provided on the most part by the individual clubs and not grant funded through this scheme.

**Q6. Do you agree with the budget allocated to this strand of the programme?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. As above

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Yes. Priority for grassroots infrastructure.

**STRAND 2 – SIGNIFICANT SUB REGIONAL STADIA***(Designated Venues Only)*

**Q7. Do you agree with the proposal to invest in significant Sub-Regional Stadia (Designated Venues only)?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. As per Q5, priority should focus on grass roots facilities.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

The priority strand should be on grass roots football at local level and the development of facilities across the 11 local authorities i.e. 11 Council's Sports Facility Strategy. Thereafter support could be given on a sub-regional basis.

**Q8. Do you agree with the budget allocated to this strand of the programme?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. As per Q5, priority should focus on grass roots facilities.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

The priority strand should be on grass roots football at local level and the development of facilities across the 11 local authorities i.e. 11 Council's Sports Facility Strategy. Thereafter support could be given on a sub-regional basis.



**STRAND 3 – IFA CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS***(Venues not designated under Safety at Sports Ground NI Order)***Q9. Do you agree with the proposal to invest in IFA Championship Clubs (not designated under Safety at Sports Ground NI Order)?** Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. As per strand 1 and 2.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?** Yes  No**Please provide your suggestions:**

The priority strand should be on grass roots football at local level and the development of facilities across the 11 local authorities i.e. 11 Council's Sports Facility Strategy. Thereafter support could be given on a sub-regional basis.

**Q10. Do you agree with the budget allocated to this strand of the programme?** Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. As per strand 1 and 2.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?** Yes  No**Please provide your suggestions:**

The priority strand should be on grass roots football at local level and the development of facilities across the 11 local authorities i.e. 11 Council's Sports Facility Strategy. Thereafter support could be given on a sub-regional basis.

**STRAND 4 – NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE****Q11. Do you agree with the proposal to invest in a National Training Centre?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

There are existing facilities within the province which could cater for this type of facility, i.e. QUB.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Yes. Utilise a existing facility and increase/maximise the site however locate it in a better geographical location for all teams to have equal travel i.e. mid ulster complex Cookstown.

**Q12. Do you agree with the budget allocated to this strand of the programme?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

The IFA and UEFA should fund this facility.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

See above.

**STRAND 5 – INTERMEDIATE AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL***(A single high quality facility)*

**Q13. Do you agree with the proposal to invest in a single high quality facility for Intermediate and Junior Football?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Strongly Agree. There is over 900 Clubs within the Province in need of better playing surfaces / facilities in order to improve the standard of coaching and football making it safer for young players to develop. This should not be a single facility.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Distribute the budget over the 11 Councils and spread pro-rata based on the number of Clubs in their areas.

**Q14. Do you agree with the budget allocated to this strand of the programme?**

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neither Agree/Disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

**Please provide your views:**

Disagree. This should be the priority spend area along with grass roots.

**Do you have any alternative suggestions?**

Yes  No

**Please provide your suggestions:**

Yes. Allocate more of the funds to strand 5, change the evaluation criteria allocate strand 5 to the 11 councils pro rata to the number of clubs in their districts as they are better fit to develop facilities within the area.

**GENERAL**

**Q15: Please provide any other comments on any aspect of the draft programme?**

**Please provide any additional comments:**

Using the 11 Council model for distribution of these funds focusing on grass roots and intermediate football facilities, based on a needs assessment e.g. sports facility strategy, and in conjunction with multi-sports venue approach, would greatly assist with the longer term development of football (and sport) in N. Ireland.

## CONSULTATION RESPONSES & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

All responses will be treated as public and the Department will usually publish a summary of responses following the completion of the consultation process. If you would prefer your response to be treated as confidential, please let us know, stating your reasons clearly.

**Q16: Do you want your response to be treated as confidential?**

Yes       No

**If 'YES' please state clearly your reasons for requesting confidentiality:**

If we are asked to disclose responses under freedom of information legislation, we will take any requests for confidentiality into account. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

We will handle appropriately any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see website

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Q17: Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Individual** (if ticked, go to Q18)       **Organisation** (if ticked, go to Q19)

**Q18: What is your Postcode?**

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**Q19: What is the Postcode of your organisation?**

BT34 2QU

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**Q20: What is the name of your organisation?**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

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**Thank you for taking the time to participate in this public consultation.**

Please return completed responses to [stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk) or to DCAL Stadia Team, Level 8, Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford St, Belfast, BT2 7EG

TRIM Ref: DC1/15/64846



**DCAL SUB-REGIONAL STADIA  
PROGRAMME for SOCCER**

**Meeting the Strategic Needs of Soccer**

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**Consultation Document**

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**Publication Date:** 30 November 2015  
**Closing Date for Responses:** 22 February 2016

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**Annex 1:** *Irish Football Association “Strategic Facility Need”. (March 2011)*

**Annex 2:** *Sub-Regional Stadia Programme – Consultation Response Form*

## 1.0 General Information

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Thank you for your interest in responding to this consultation.

This consultation document and response form can be downloaded from the Department's website at [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation). It is also available from the Department at the address given below or by calling 028 9051 5053.

Should you require the document in a format such as Braille, audio-tape or large print please contact us at the email address or phone number below.

There is no requirement to respond to all of the questions in the consultation questionnaire.

This document may be made available in alternative formats.

Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Stadia Branch  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG  
Telephone: 028 9051 5053  
E-mail [stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk)



## 2.0 Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure – Background

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The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is one of 12 Northern Ireland Departments and is responsible for arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport, inland waterways and inland fisheries, linguistic diversity, archives, and for advising on National Lottery distribution.

Through culture, arts and leisure DCAL and its arm's-length bodies deliver innovative programmes aimed at improving the economy and the environment; enhancing education, health and wellbeing; and promoting social inclusion across society.

All of DCAL's activities support the overarching Departmental objective of promoting equality, tackling poverty and social exclusion. This is underlined in the DCAL Mission Statement.

The DCAL mission is:

***“To promote social and economic equality, and to tackle poverty and social exclusion, through systematically promoting a sustainable economic model and proactively targeting meaningful resources at sectors of greatest inequality, within areas of greatest objective need, in the wider context of effectively developing tangible opportunities and measurable outcomes for securing excellence and equality across culture, arts and leisure, and a confident, creative, informed and healthy society in this part of Ireland.”***

### 3.0 Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer - Background

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On the 10 March 2011, the Executive endorsed an investment of circa £36 million for the proposal of the then Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure Nelson McCausland that the remaining football stadia development at sub regional level should be taken forward as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period. The Executive agreed to:

*“... meet the strategic needs of football including those as outlined in the Irish Football Association’s paper entitled “Strategic Facility Need” (dated March 2011)*

The rationale for investment in the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme arises from:

- The Executive’s Programme for Government (PfG), building specifically on the PfG Commitment to develop sports stadia;
- Individual clubs and/or Sporting Bodies not having the financial resources to make the scale of investment needed;
- Achieving the positive externalities of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances, through the provision of quality, accessible places for sport, as set out in Sports Matters; and
- A requirement to ensure compliance with safety legislation, and the need to address comfort and amenities of stadia.

#### 4. State Aid

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State aid may be present whenever state resources are used to provide assistance that gives organisations that are engaged in economic activity (i.e. an undertaking) an advantage over others. State aid can distort competition, which in turn can be harmful to consumers and companies in the European Union (EU).

The European Commission has developed a series of State aid rules to minimise distortions in competition and promote a level playing field between Member States.

Until 2012, sports infrastructure was not caught by the State aid rules. However, following the judgment of the General Court in *Leipzig/Halle*<sup>1</sup>, the European Commission advised that the financing of *any type of infrastructure* (excluding infrastructure related to security, safety, etc.) that is later commercially exploited may involve State aid.

DCAL's initial assessment of the Sub-Regional Stadium Programme for Soccer is that State aid is almost certainly present in Strands 1 – 3 and may be possible in Strands 4 and 5.

If State aid is present in any of the projects supported under the Sub-Regional Soccer Programme, this will be provided in accordance with the conditions and the limits set out for 'investment aid' in Article 55 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

A full version of the GBER can be found at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN>.

The GBER provides State aid cover for investment aid measures for sport and multifunctional recreational infrastructures that fulfil the conditions laid down in the GBER.

In particular it should be noted that to fall within the scope of the GBER details the sport infrastructure shall not be used exclusively by a single professional sport user

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<sup>1</sup> Joined Cases T-443/08 and T-455/08 Flughafen Freistaat Sachsen and others v Commission, EU:T:2011:117.

and the use of the sport infrastructure by other professional or non-professional sport users shall annually account for at least 20% of time capacity.

## 5.0 What are the programme aims and objectives?

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### 5.1 Programme Aims

DCAL aims to develop a funding programme specifically targeted at addressing the strategic needs of football including those as outlined in the Irish Football Association's Facilities Strategy (March 2011). A copy of the IFA Facilities Strategy is at **Annex A** for information.

### 5.2 Programme Objectives

The strategic objectives of the programme are:

- i. To contribute to addressing the stadium needs of soccer at the sub-regional level;
- ii. To contribute to addressing the low and dwindling attendance at games through the provision of improved facilities;
- iii. To improve the viability and sustainability of soccer at the sub-regional level;
- iv. To assist in developing safer and more family orientated facilities;
- v. To contribute to achieving the increased participation levels anticipated in Sports Matters and to wider government policies and initiatives through health benefits, infrastructure development, neighbourhood renewal, social inclusion and the promotion of a cohesive and socially inclusive society;
- vi. To develop shared sustainable facilities and maximise the scope for ground sharing; and
- vii. To contribute to promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion.

## 6.0 What are the proposed programme strands?

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In order to align the programme with the IFA Facilities Strategy (March 2011), DCAL has provisionally designed the Sub-Regional Stadia programme into five distinct strands.

### **Strand 1: Safe Stadia**

*(IFA Facilities Strategy specifies the redevelopment of The Oval in partnership with Glentoran FC)*

- **Purpose:** To provide funding towards the achievement of safe stadia. The stadium should be suitable for hosting high level competition matches with a moderate capacity level of 6,000 to 8,000 persons.
- **Budget:** A budget of circa £10 million will be made available for this strand.
- **Maximum Award:** The maximum award available is up to £10 million.
- **Partnership Funding:** A minimum of 20% partnership funding is required.

### **Strand 2: Significant Sub-Regional Stadia**

*(Designated Venues only)*

- **Purpose:** To provide sub-regional stadia which can sit at the hub of key communities and can offer quality football facilities and community facilities which bring revenues into the club tenants, thus making football in these areas more sustainable. **A Challenge Fund principle will apply.**
- **Budget:** A budget of circa £17 million will be made available for this strand.
- **Maximum Award:** The maximum award available is up to £3 million.
- **Partnership Funding:** A minimum of 20% partnership funding is required.

### **Strand 3: IFA Championship Clubs**

*(Venues not designated under the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order)*

- **Purpose:** To provide funding to improve safety provision at soccer venues. **A**

**Challenge Fund principle will apply.**

- **Budget:** A budget of circa £3 million will be made available for this strand.
- **Maximum Award:** The maximum award available is up to £500,000.
- **Partnership Funding:** A minimum of 20% partnership funding is required.

**Stand 4: National Training Centre**

- **Purpose:** To provide funding towards the creation of a purpose built flagship National Training Centre to support current talent and nurture future generations.
- **Budget:** A budget of circa £3 million will be made available for this strand.
- **Maximum Award:** The maximum award available is up to £3 million.
- **Partnership Funding:** A minimum of 20% partnership funding is required.

**Strand 5: Intermediate and Junior Football**

*(A single high quality facility)*

- **Purpose:** To provide funding via targeted programmes, in partnerships with the local councils and schools/colleges, in order to deliver key sporting centres in local communities at an intermediate and junior level.
- **Budget:** A budget of circa £3 million will be made available for this strand.
- **Maximum Award:** The maximum award available is up to £3 million.
- **Partnership Funding:** A minimum of 20% partnership funding is required.

## 7.0 Who is eligible to apply?

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Applicant organisations must meet the following **core** and **strand specific** eligibility criteria.

### 7.1 Core Eligibility Criteria

- **Ownership/Security of Tenure:** Applicants must be able to demonstrate ownership of the venue by means of the deeds (Freehold Ownership) or a lease (Leasehold) providing for a minimum of 10 or 21 years security of tenure (depending on the scope of works/value of award).
- **Properly Constituted:** Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are properly constituted by means of a Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association, which provide for equality of opportunity, not for profit, child protection, and management input from users.
- **Viability & Solvency:** Applicants must be viable and solvent. In the absence of operational viability only applicants who can meet the security of tenure requirements will be deemed eligible.
- **Venue Located in the North of Ireland:** The venue must be located in the north of Ireland and the project must, in the main, benefit the inhabitants of the north of Ireland.

### 7.2 Strand Specific Eligibility Criteria

- **Strand 1**
  - **Potential Capacity**

The venue must be capable of hosting fixtures of 6,000 – 8,000 capacity. Any venue capable of hosting a 5,000 capacity must be designated under Safety at Sports Ground legislation.
- **Strand 2**
  - **Potential Capacity**



The venue must be capable of hosting fixtures of 5,000 capacity. Any venue capable of hosting a 5,000 capacity must be designated under Safety at Sports Ground legislation.

- **Location & Fixtures**

Applicant must be an IFA affiliated club or non IFA affiliated club with grounds located in the north of Ireland and who host either: NIFL, IFA, UEFA or Football League of Ireland fixtures.

- **Strand 3**

- **Location & Fixtures**

Applicant must be an IFA affiliated club or non IFA affiliated club with grounds located in the north of Ireland and who host either: NIFL, IFA, UEFA or Football League of Ireland fixtures.

- **Strand 4**

- **Size of Site**

The minimum requirement for the proposed site for development for the National Training Centre is 20 acres.

- **Strand 5**

- **Partnership Working**

There must be a partnership working agreement between the venue owner and IFA member club(s) (excluding NIFL affiliated club).

## 8.0 What types of projects are eligible?

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For a project to be considered eligible applicants must clearly demonstrate the following:

- The proposed project must be a capital project, which for the purposes of this programme is defined as expenditure associated with the purchase, improvement, construction or creation of an asset and includes any costs directly incurred in this process.
- The project must be fit for purpose, well designed and of high quality.
- The project is viable in terms of the capital funding package required.
- The project will be for the benefit of the soccer fraternity in the north of Ireland.
- The proposed project will improve facility provision at soccer venues as per the IFA Facilities Strategy of March 2011.
- The applicant organisation has not committed itself by purchase, contract or other binding agreement, before receiving an offer of award and permission to proceed from DCAL.
- The proposed project builds on existing resources and is in addition to existing or planned investment by statutory bodies or the owner of the facility.
- The project cannot be a replacement or upgrade to a project which has previously been funded through public sector investment and which is still within the economic life span of the asset – 21 years for buildings and 10 years for pitches.

## 9.0 How will applications be assessed?

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### 9.1 Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria will be used to assess applications.

- **Facility Need** - applicants must identify the need for the project in terms of infrastructure, health & safety, spectator numbers and legislative requirements.
- **Financing** - applicants must be able to demonstrate financial need, partnership funding, operational viability and solvency and sustainability.
- **Sports Development Plan** - the applicant must submit a sports development plan detailing partnership working including sharing of grounds and other facilities and also joint partnerships with other clubs, schools, local authorities, other sports and community groups and demonstrating a clear need for the project in relation to the objectives of the programme.
- **Project's Integration with overall Plan for Venue** - Clubs should have an overall plan for the venue compatible with the projected number of spectators expected to attend fixtures, and to meet legal and competition requirements. Therefore applicants should be able to demonstrate how their proposed project integrates into the overall plan for the venue.
- **Technical Feasibility** - applicants must demonstrate that their proposed project is technically feasible at the venue and illustrate that they have also considered planning issues (if applicable).
- **Management Experience** - applicants will be asked to identify their project team members (including proposed roles and responsibilities), and provide details of the skills, expertise and experience for each team member.

## 9.2 Scoring

The following assessment criteria will be used to score applications.

	Assessment Criteria	Assessment Score (%)				
		Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3	Strand 4	Strand 5
1	Facility Need	35%	35%	35%	TBC	35%
2	Financing	25%	25%	25%	TBC	25%
3	Sports Development (including ground share)	15%	15%	15%	TBC	30%
4	Project's Integration with Overall Plan for the Venue	10%	10%	10%	TBC	N/A
5	Technical Feasibility	10%	10%	10%	TBC	5%
6	Management Experience	5%	5%	5%	TBC	5%

Projects attaining a score of less than 50% will be immediately rejected on the basis that they do not adequately meet the requirements of the programme.

Projects attaining a score of greater than 50% will then be ranked according to the score attained. Once the available budget has been allocated, those projects having attained a score of greater than 50% but where the budget has been exhausted, will be deemed to have a lower priority than those ranked above them and will not proceed to Stage II at this time. These applicants will be informed that they have been put on a reserve list which may be used should any of the successful clubs withdraw from the process or additional budget becomes available.

Applicants who attain a score of greater than 50%, and have been ranked at a position where there is likely to be sufficient budget, will receive a Letter of Intent with associated Project Management Requirements (PMRs).

## 10.0 What are project management requirements?

---

Applicants who attain a score of greater than 50%, and have been ranked at a position where there is likely to be sufficient budget, will receive a Letter of Intent with associated Project Management Requirements (PMRs).

Applicants will be required to complete a set of time bound PMRs to help them deliver the project within the programme timescale (i.e. all projects must be completed by March 2018). Applicants who fail to address the PMRs within the timescales set will not receive a formal letter of offer.

Project Management Requirements will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Completion and Approval of a Business Case
- Procurement of Integrated Consultant Team (ICT)
- Statutory Approvals
- Security of Tenure
- Procurement of Integrated Supply Team (IST)
- Partnership Funding
- Updating of Business Case (to reflect actual costs)

## 11.0 Will development costs be awarded?

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In order to ensure applicants satisfactorily address the PMRs, DCAL will fund reasonable development costs in relation to the procurement and appointment of an Integrated Supply Team and a Business Case Consultant (if applicable).

Relevant procurement advice and guidance will be provided. All procurement exercises must comply with NI Public Procurement Policy and DCAL advice. Applicants must not enter into any contract for services unless they have obtained formal approval from DCAL.

A condition of funding will be that grant recipients must engage with CPD (DCAL's CoPE) on the development of the Outline Business Case particularly in terms of cost and programme estimates.

The Executive has a commitment to the inclusion of social clauses in contracts and DCAL will ensure that strong social clauses targets will be contained within the procurement contract. While the minister welcomes any advice from CPD in this regard, all decisions will rest with the minister.

Grant recipients must retain all project documentation relating to procurements, competitions and payments and ensure it is kept for a period of 7 years after final payment of grant or such other date as DCAL may advise. All project documentation must be made available to DCAL upon request.

A development cost letter of offer will be issued covering the approved development costs.

## 12.0 When will Final Letter of Offer be issued?

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Once DCAL are satisfied that all project management requirements have been satisfactorily addressed the final Letter of Offer will be issued.

Upon receipt of the signed Form of Acceptance DCAL will issue formal permission to proceed.

At this stage the contract notice may be issued and construction can commence on site.

### **13.0 How will the programme be managed?**

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The programme will be delivered by DCAL. It is envisaged that DCAL and IFA will develop a Programme Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the Sub-Regional Programme for Soccer. All final investment decisions and monetary awards will be made by the DCAL Minister.



## 14.0 How to respond?

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**The consultation process will commence on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and finish on Monday 22 February 2016.**

Responses are requested online, however they can also be sent either by email or post, as detailed below:

- E-mail: [stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk)
- Post:  
Stadium Branch  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

**The deadline for receipt of responses is 5:00 pm on Monday 22 February 2016.**

Should you have any enquiries please send them to [stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:stadiumteam@dcalni.gov.uk) or telephone **028 9051 5053**.

This consultation document and response form can be downloaded from the Department's website at [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation) . It is also available from the Department at the address given above or by calling 028 9051 5053.

Should you require the document in a format such as Braille, audio-tape or large print please contact us at the email address or phone number above.

There is no requirement to respond to all of the questions in the consultation questionnaire.

### **What happens next?**

Following the closing date for the consultation, all responses will be considered along with any other available evidence to help finalise the policy and application process for the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer in advance of the programme being formally launched.

## **15.0 Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultation Responses**

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Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000(FOIA).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see website at:

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

### **Data Protection**

DCAL will handle any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Annex 1: Irish Football Association “Strategic Facility Need”. (March 2011)**

March 2011

Version 1.5

**Strategic Facility Need (excluding national stadium)****Background**

The IFA Facilities Strategy (April 2009) outlines the key areas of facility need for Football within Northern Ireland, and, without costings, seeks to identify the prioritisation of these. The Strategy itself is currently under review to take account of projects implemented via the SNI Stadia Safety Programme and IFA Soccer Strategy, Floodlighting Improvement and Football Turf programmes and to recognise the potential funding and partnership support which presently exists.

It is important to note however that this remains a working document only and that full integration into any revised IFA Facilities Strategy document would require the formal approval of the IFA Executive Board.

The areas identified are:

**1. Safe stadia**

The Oval is arguably the least fit-for-purpose stadium we have for senior football in Northern Ireland at the moment. The only recent upgrade which this stadium has benefitted from involving public money was the provision of new floodlights in 2009.

The IFA would recommend that redevelopment of The Oval should take place in partnership with Glentoran FC; the stadium should be suitable for hosting high level competition matches with a moderate capacity level of 6,000 to 8,000 persons. The venue would meet all appropriate, UEFA, IFA, Red Guide and DDA requirements whilst providing a suitably equipped facility for all media and broadcast partners.

In order to ensure viability and sustainability it is anticipated that all available commercial and public sector revenue opportunities would be integrated into the facility.

Dependent upon the development opportunity at any such site the potential would exist to combine this facility with the development of a National Training Centre (see point 4 below). However, it is possible that space constraints and other developments (for example Giant's Park in north Belfast) could suggest that these are maintained as separate projects.

**Anticipated cost: £10M**

## 2. Significant sub-regional stadia

There is a clear need to provide sub-regional stadia which can sit at the hub of key communities and can offer both quality football facilities, and community facilities which bring revenues into the club tenants, thus making football in these areas more sustainable. Likely developments in these significant sub-regional stadia would include spectator accommodation, club rooms which could be rented out to community and/or business groups to bolster revenue, and 3G pitches (for competition and/or playing) which would also be revenue generators.

The strategic, rather than tactical, facility development of a small number of clubs in Northern Ireland which are designated under the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order would deliver significant rather than piecemeal investment into venues facing both challenge and opportunity. As an example, we are aware that Crusaders are at an advanced stage of planning and whether they opt for a refurbishment of Seaview or a new stadium on the North Foreshore, it is likely that a figure in the region of £3m would be required.

Associated works at selected venues appropriately identified is anticipated in would be in the areas of safe and secure spectator accommodations, changing provision for players and officials, floodlighting, disabled persons provision, playing surfaces (including the provision of 3G football turf) and media/hospitality areas. All investments would be designed to make the clubs more inclusive, sustainable and connected in to their local communities. A 'Challenge Fund' principle would be applied in this area to ensure that fairness is achieved.

**Anticipated cost: £17M**

## 3. IFA Championship Clubs (not designated under the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order)

Thirteen football grounds in Northern Ireland are designated under the Safety at Sports Grounds (NI) Order. Other smaller grounds have not been able to avail of recent funding streams which have focused on safety. Nevertheless, work is needed at several of these smaller grounds to improve the venues in respect of general health and safety, and also to ensure that such clubs have the equitable opportunity for promotion to the highest level of the domestic game.

In this respect the IFA recognises that these clubs need to develop themselves as clubs, rather than in a single team mentality, and in this regard the IFA would wish to implement club development procedures, in line with SNI Clubmark and Kitemark schemes, to capacity build within such clubs in order to fully integrate these clubs into their local communities and thereby giving greater confidence and assurance to investors.

The required improvements are in the areas of spectator provision (up to 500 seats and a similar amount of covered standing places), floodlighting (300lux), toilet provision, disabled persons provision, changing provision for players and officials and playing surfaces (including the provision of 3G football turf).

In order to ensure appropriate investment, in line with principles of viability and sustainability, it is anticipated that 'Challenge Fund' principles would be applied in line with guidance from SNI.

**Anticipated cost: £3M**

#### 4. National Training Centre

A flagship National Football Centre is a crucial component of the IFA's strategy to qualify for a major tournament by supporting the cream of Northern Irish football ability. Such a facility should be built specific to the needs of players, coaches, medical and sports science personnel.

Such a facility would support fully the player pathways developed through grassroots and excellence programmes which are fully integrated into local communities and schools. As indicated (in point 1 above) this facility could be combined with The Oval redevelopment which would reduce capital investment (but these projects could well be de-linked based on space availability and other developments).

The combined facility should include:

- two 3G pitches	£1.25M
- two high quality natural grass pitches	£0.40M
- rehabilitation area and conditioning suite	£0.5M
- lecture facilities	£0.25M
- changing facilities	£0.6M

Consideration would also be given to partnership with a hotel chain in order to provide accommodations for players and support staff as it is recognised that dedicated facilities in this respect may not be cost efficient. It may well be that the best stand alone location for this project would be as part of the proposed Giant's Park development in north Belfast, and could be complementary to Crusaders' plans to move their stadium there or alternatively as part of the proposed Oval development.

**Anticipated cost: £3M**

#### 5. Intermediate and Junior Football

The football family is predominately made of clubs from the Intermediate and Junior ranks, numbering around 900, and whilst recognising that these clubs play an important part in the sporting culture of Northern Ireland it is unrealistic to seek to support any sizeable number of such clubs in facility development.

The IFA feel that this level of the game should be supported via targeted programmes, in partnerships with local councils and schools/colleges, in order to deliver key sporting centres in local communities.

Again the IFA would wish to capacity build within such partner clubs and organisations and seek to understand further the constitutional issues prevalent at this level of the game to develop and support local clubs rather than individual teams.

It is however considered appropriate to invest in a single high quality facility which could deliver multi club and community usage via the provision of several football turf pitches and minimum associated support accommodations on a single site.

The information contained within the SNI 'Active Places Research Report 2009' could be utilised as a core indicator of facility need and be implemented in conjunction with local Council and/or SNI support.

The facility could also serve as a regional training centre for the development of elite players, complementing the national training facility noted in point 5 above.

**Anticipated cost: £3M**

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Council policy on leasing Sports facilities to Sporting Organisations
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **That Officers prepare a policy for leasing Sports facilities to Sporting Organisations for consideration by the committee.**
- **That any agreements which have already been agreed by the Shadow Council or Newry, Mourne and Down Council, which have letters of offer and which have time bound spending commitments will continue to be honoured and will not be subject to this new policy.**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The council has received a number of requests from sporting organisations to enter into long term leasing arrangements with these groups for the development of the facilities and/or for the development of their sport. Both legacy councils dealt with these requests in different ways and there is now a need, given the increasing demand from the sporting organisations for these agreements to be entered into by the council, for the council to agree a policy for dealing with these requests. It should be noted that the increase in these requests is largely driven by funding organisations who are asking for such agreements to be in place before any sport aid request will be approved. It should also be noted that any policy will have to be equitable and fair to all sports organisations, applied consistently and subject to an equality screening exercise.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>That Officers prepare a policy for leasing Sports facilities to Sporting Organisations for consideration by the committee.</p> <p>That any agreements which have already been agreed by the Shadow Council or Newry, Mourne and Down Council, which have letters of offer and which have time bound spending commitments will continue to be honoured and will not be subject to this new policy.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>

	Not applicable
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Role of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

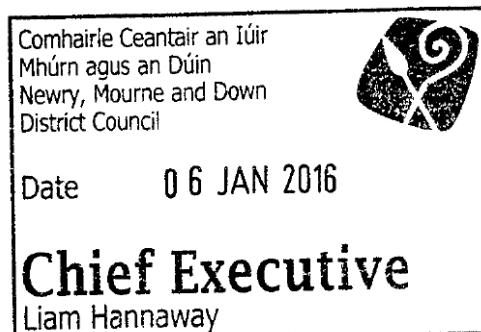
- **Provide a response to NILGA**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Northern Ireland Housing Council have asked that NILGA consider the current role of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and particularly whether it should return to its previous role as a builder of Social Housing. This role is currently being carried out by 4 Housing associations and NIHE have not been responsible since 1996. NILGA would like to formulate a Local Government view on this matter and to this end would wish to know the view of this Council.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>That the Council agree that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive role as a builder of social housing be reinstated</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Letter to Chief Executive from Nilga</p>

9/4/55

the voice of local government

Mr Liam Hannaway  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
District Council Offices  
Monaghan Row,  
NEWRY  
BT35 8DJ



Feb Coun

5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Mr Hannaway,

### Role of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Your Council's Views

Further to a request from the Northern Ireland Housing Council, at its meeting on 11th December 2015, NILGA's Executive discussed the current role of the NI Housing Executive and **whether its previous role as a builder of social housing should be reinstated.**

Members of the Housing Council support the reinstatement of the role of NIHE as a house-building organisation. The Housing Executive has not been responsible for house building since 1996. The issues with the consistency of performance of Housing Associations were noted, as was the complexity of delivering housing provision in Northern Ireland, with many mixed tenure areas having developed over the last 20 years. It was also accepted that a wider debate would be necessary in relation to the financing of social housing provision.

The NILGA Executive was also concerned that due to the reduction in the number of Housing Council members to 11 and the workings of council d'Hondt systems, **not all political parties are represented on the Housing Council; a marked difference to the previous working arrangement.**

NILGA's Executive members having considered the issue, it was agreed that **as there was no clarity on the current local government view, and with new powers of local authorities requiring greater emphasis on matters such as housing, it was important to seek the views of member councils.**

I would be grateful if you could raise the issue of the role of the Housing Executive at a forthcoming council meeting, to enable the formation of a regional local government view on the matter. I have attached some background information at Appendix 1, which may help inform the discussion.

Thank you in anticipation of your Council's consideration of this matter, and it would be greatly appreciated if your response was received by **Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Karen Smyth  
Head of Policy

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB  
tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI\_LGA

Σ ΜΚΡΑΙΟΑ - Αναστ mtg  
Feb 16.

## Appendix 1

### Request from the Northern Ireland Housing Council in relation to NIHE house-building

At its November 2015 meeting, the Northern Ireland Housing Council, which presently has oversight responsibility for the activities of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), requested that NILGA provides a view as to whether NIHE should be a builder of social houses. The Housing Council is supportive of NIHE as a house-builder.

#### Background

DSD is currently looking at options to improve how social housing in Northern Ireland is delivered, to ensure that the best homes and services are provided to tenants and local communities. They are seeking a long term affordable and sustainable way of doing this, which they accept is a challenging aim.

They are looking at:

- What can be done better
- What else the department and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive should do to meet the needs of tenants and other customers
- What can be done to make sure future generations can access quality homes in places they want to live

They are working with a wide range of experts to:

- gather evidence on all aspects
- look at all possible options for providing a fair and equal service
- present the most suitable option(s) for Northern Ireland to the DSD Minister and the Northern Ireland Executive

#### Social housing provision in Northern Ireland

All new social housing is developed by registered housing associations through the Social Housing Development Programme funded by a mixture of Government grant (Housing Association Grant) and private borrowing. This private borrowing is secured by housing associations against future income from rents. Rents for new build social homes tend to vary considerably across the housing association movement.

Currently, Housing Association Grant can only be paid to housing associations registered by the Department for Social Development.

## **The Social Housing Development Programme**

The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by DSD to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations.

### **Role of DSD**

The DSD role in the first instance is to determine the level of programmes to be provided, within the finance available for social housing provision. The required number of housing starts on site is set out in the Programme for Government targets and DSD have to secure the necessary funding. In relation to the SHDP, DSD is responsible for:

- Oversight and regulation of Associations to assess if they are eligible for entry to the SHDP;
- Approval of the 'New Projects Only' programme.

DSD is responsible for setting overall housing policy under the guidance of the Minister, as well as the allocation of funding for the programme. In addition it has the responsibility for the Housing Association Guide and for the registration, inspection and monitoring of Associations so as to provide assurance to the DSD Accounting Officer in relation to the overall corporate affairs, management, financial control and service delivery of Registered Housing Associations.

### **Role of NIHE**

NIHE is responsible for:-

- The identification and analysis of housing need. This includes setting strategic guidelines for Targeting Social Need as well as the compilation of a two year prospectus identifying unmet housing need which consists of marker schemes (NIHE Corporate Services Division i.e. NIHE Corporate Planning, Area Planners and Supporting People);
- Ensuring, as far as possible, continuity in the programme in the roll forward process, so that Associations have confidence for forward planning purposes (NIHE Development Programme Group and NIHE Area Planners);
- Planning, formulating and drafting the SHDP to ensure that Associations are appropriately directed to meet identified housing needs within the allocated budget. NIHE then formulates the draft programme - based on need - within the parameters laid down by DSD (NIHE Development Programme Group in conjunction with NIHE Corporate Planning).
- Management of the SHDP and associated funding (NIHE Development Programme Group)

## Role of Registered Housing Associations

Housing Associations are tasked with identifying sites suitable for social housing for rent provision; the planning and development of scheme proposals and their subsequent construction and project management to meet SHDP targets while achieving best value for money.

Both the Housing Executive and housing associations are regulated by the DSD. In 2009, 14 out of 33 housing associations failed their DSD inspection - 10 of which failed in the area of property development, causing seven (7) associations to be suspended from development. (NIAO, 2009). Associations which were suspended from development and their schemes had to be taken over by other associations or delayed.

Since then, the number of Housing Associations involved in housing development has decreased to four (4) –

- Grove Housing Association
- Helm Housing
- South Ulster Housing Association
- Harmony Homes

Three of the above Associations have been deemed to be providing ‘satisfactory assurance’ in their latest DSD inspection reports (2014).

One – Harmony Homes - received ratings of ‘limited assurance’ in relation to financial management, ‘no assurance’ in relation to property management, ‘satisfactory assurance’ in relation to housing management and ‘limited assurance’ in relation to corporate governance, leading to an overall rating of ‘limited assurance’.

## Analysis

There is evidence that further to the publication of ‘Facing the Future’ Housing Strategy and the accompanying procurement strategy, some improvement has been achieved in the performance of Housing Associations in the procurement and development of social housing.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has not been involved in house-building since 1996, so there is no available evidence that a resumption of this responsibility would achieve the aims of the Housing Strategy or that they would have access to the necessary financial instruments available to ensure value for money to the ratepayer.

Should the NIHE resume house-building responsibilities it is likely to be much more reliant on public sector funding, and it is clear, by their own admission (More than Bricks, NIHE 2011) that their maintenance and private sector grants programmes have been heavily impacted by government cuts, in contrast to new-build targets being met or surpassed.

It is evident however, that demand for social housing has been increasing with a large waiting list, many of whom are in urgent need.



<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Policy on use of Council land for Sustainability Projects
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Danielle Begley

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and attached policy, and consider and agree to:

- **Give approval to the attached policy for assessing applications to use Council land for sustainability projects.**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Council plays a central role in promoting healthy lifestyles and building strong communities. This role includes providing recreational and sporting opportunities as well as facilitating community networks. The Council leases land at a subsidised rental to a wide range of community and recreation groups. As Council owned land is a limited resource, the Council needs to allocate this resource in a way that maximises the use of its assets and responds to changing demands.</p> <p>Requests to use Council land are currently dealt with on an ad-hoc basis and overall there is no consistent approach to how decisions are made regarding these requests.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Council approves the attached policy to assess applications for the use of Council land for sustainability projects.</p> <p>This will ensure a fair and transparent decision making process.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Officers time</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>



	Policy on use of Council land for sustainability projects ( <b>Report to Follow</b> )
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**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**  
**Policy on use of Council land for Sustainability projects**

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## 1. Title

Policy on use of Council land for sustainability projects (as defined below).

## 2. Statement

Council approves this policy and any associated procedure as a commitment to work with community groups and members of the public as appropriate who apply to use Council owned land for sustainability projects.

## 3. Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the assessment of applications from members of the public to use Council owned land for sustainability projects.

## 4. Scope.

- 4.1 The policy applies to requests from constituted community groups and others (as defined below) to use any land owned by Council for sustainability projects.
- 4.2 Implementation of the policy will be primarily delivered through two directorates, namely Active and Healthy Communities and Regulatory and Technical Services.
- 4.3 The scope of the policy will extend to assessing applications as and when received by following the associated procedure, liaising with the relevant officers in the two directorates, advising the group of the outcome of the assessment and how best to proceed (if permitted) with their application.

## 5. Related Policies/legislation.

- Local Government Act (NI) 2014
- Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006
- Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011

## 6. Definitions

**Sustainability project:** A sustainability project is any project that makes a community more environmentally sustainable so for example community gardens/allotments, planting schemes, biodiversity improvements etc

**Other groups:** Applications from other groups such as schools or church groups are also eligible.

## 7. Policy Owner

Director of Active and Healthy Communities

## 8. Contact details in regard of this policy are:

Director of Active and Healthy Communities

## 9. Policy Authorisation

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**  
***Policy on use of Council land for Sustainability projects***

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CMT Authorised on \_\_\_\_\_

AHC Committee Authorised on \_\_\_\_\_

Council Authorised on \_\_\_\_\_

### **10. Policy Effective Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

### **11. Policy Review Date**

The policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's agreed policy review cycle i.e. every 4 years.

### **12. Procedure**

To implement this policy the Council will develop an agreed procedure which will be underpinned by the following principles:

- Effective decision making;
- Section 75 duties in terms of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations;
- Openness and transparency;
- Fairness;
- Consistency in approach;
- Civic leadership.

### **13. Equality Impact Assessment**

The policy has been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	LIFE Funding – Proposed Green Infrastructure Project
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sheena McEldowney & James Campbell

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **Council Officials working with Officers of the East Border Region and Officers from other East Border Region Councils in preparing and submitting an application for LIFE funding for a Green Infrastructure Project which includes Bessbrook and Castlewellan.**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>Further to a report approved by this Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Health and Well Being Section is now seeking approval from Council that Bessbrook and Castlewellan will be the focus of this Council's application with the other local authorities of the East Border Region for LIFE Funding. The aim of the project will be to implement innovative green infrastructure principles and practices that will connect people with nature through developing green space and increasing biodiversity in small towns within the N Ireland / Republic of Ireland border area.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the project would be a 3 year project which would seek to deliver innovative projects within the district. LIFE funding requires 40% match funding and the application will be made on the basis that the Council's contribution will be provided from within the existing council budgets and therefore no additional capital expenditure will be required.</p> <p>It is proposed that the bid for funding will be submitted to the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland departments in March 2016 for review before submission to the EU in October 2016.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>

	<p>Council Officials work with Officers of the East Border Region and Officers from other East Border Region Councils in preparing and submitting an application for LIFE funding for a Green Infrastructure Project which includes Bessbrook and Castlewellan.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>At this stage resources committed are Officer time in completion of application, attending meetings and preparatory work with possible stakeholders and partners.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Save a Selfie Campaign
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Rennick

**Decisions Required**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **The Council being listed as a partner organisation in this project**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Safe a Selfie campaign has been developed by volunteers to promote knowledge among the public of the locations of defibrillators and other lifesaving devices such as lifebelts, fire hydrants. The group are also responding to concerns that many of the defibrillators in the community may not be in working order.</p> <p>The group have received a Social Innovation Fund grant in the Republic to develop the project.</p> <p><b>Proposal</b></p> <p>The group have developed a smart phone app which will allow members of the public to upload photographs of themselves with such equipment. The location of the defibrillator will then be automatically plotted on a map via gps. The aim of the project is to plot the locations of all such devises in Ireland and for this to be available to the public via the app and social media.</p> <p>Stage II of the proposal would involve setting up a database of locations. The group hope to get people in the community involved who would do a site visit record details of the device and tag it so that anyone with the app can swipe it as they go past which will then record that the device is still at the location. They would also hope to have contact details of a person responsible for the equipment so they can send reminders re: battery checks etc.</p> <p>At this stage the group are contacting relevant organisations to seek assistance with promotion and publicity for the project. They are also</p>
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	meeting with NI Ambulance Service to see how they can complement the mapping work NIAS is currently undertaking with regard to defibrillators
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>  The Council agree to be listed as a partner organisation for the Safe a Selfie Campaign and provide relevant promotion for the project via the Council's website/social media and through its community and business networks
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>  Provision of information via website/social media
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>  Not Applicable

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Heritage Lottery Funded 'Bee-licious project'
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Danielle Begley

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **For noting**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Officers across eight local authorities have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project entitled 'Bee-licious'. The aim of the project is to improve sites across NI for pollinators (minimum of 4 per Council area), train staff and community groups on habitat restoration and management as well as raise awareness of the importance of pollinators.</p> <p>The Heritage Lottery Fund will confirm in April 2016 if grant funding towards the Bee-licious project is successful. The total amount of the grant is £76,800. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is the designated lead partner in relation to the project and will have responsibility for management of the fund with HLF. Each Council will receive approximately £5,617 for habitat improvement, with the remainder being spent on publicity and promotion including the development of 'Bee-licious' resources.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>For noting</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Officer's time to co-ordinate the project across the District.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>



## Comments in relation to Department of the Environment's Discussion Document on options to develop the better management and control of Bonfires

**Respondent:** Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Date:** 27 January 2016

**Consultation document:** Options to Develop the Better Management and Control of Bonfires, Discussion Document, November 2015

**Closure date for comments:** 5 February 2016

### 1. Current Newry, Mourne and Down District Council position

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has considered and agreed a policy on Celebratory Bonfires and Beacons at its Active and Healthy Communities Meeting on 15 June 2015, which was adopted at the Council's Monthly meeting on 6 July 2015.

This included adopting a Bonfires and Beacons Policy, and also putting in place a bonfire management programme which has proposed selling our beacons and utilising match funding from our PCSP and Good Relations Strategy.

The Council's policy acknowledges celebratory bonfires and beacons as an important aspect of community celebration and tradition within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, and is a positive action commitment to work with communities, agencies and individuals to address potential environmental and social impact of celebratory bonfires and beacons.

The scope of Council's policy extends to providing advice, training, codes of practice, mediation, identification of appropriate bonfire / beacon sites, relevant promotion of diversionary activities, and enforcement where necessary.

### 2. Comments on DOE options to Develop the Better Management and Control of Bonfires

#### OPTION 1 – continuing and developing current best practice

Synopsis:	<p>This option requires no legislative change and there is medium risk with regard to incurring EU Infraction Proceedings. This can be implemented immediately, does not require public liability insurance and there is no requirement to identify bonfire sites.</p> <p>While operational costs may be high, this requires the least enforcement costs but has the potential for greatest damage, an impact</p>
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	on human health and risk to the environment. It is anticipated that this approach leads to high crime and anti-social behaviour leading to the lowest credibility of law enforcement agencies.
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This success of this option is predicated on a direct organisational commitment to implementing a proactive community engagement strategy between Councils, statutory partners and the community to meaningfully build and sustain relationships which will have political and community support. Engaging bonfire organisers who do not currently engage with statutory providers continues to be a major challenge with regard to this option.

However, for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the benefit of this option is that we currently have existing relationships with bonfire builders, some of whom have signed up to local agreements on the nature of the bonfire, type of materials to be burnt etc. and this would build upon the strong foundations that already exist.

Regionally, the challenge of this option is to coordinate the approaches of 11 new Councils in a consistent manner, as a fragmented approach is currently evident across Northern Ireland. Community Planning has potential to provide an opportunity for communities to fully engage in the process required for the effective management of local bonfires. However, this approach would only be successful if bonfire builders have the organisational capacity and incentive to engage positively with local authorities.

In addition, considering the geographical spread and mix of urban and rural areas, a further challenge will be to devise an effective and consistent province wide response to enforcement across a multi-agency taskforce.

**OPTION 2 – more rigorously enforce all relevant legislation with respect to bonfires**

<b>Synopsis:</b>	<p>This option requires no legislative change and there would be no risk with regard to incurring EU Infraction Proceedings. This can be implemented immediately, will require public liability insurance, but there is no requirement to identify bonfire sites.</p> <p>While the document assumes no operational costs or damage caused, this will incur the highest enforcement costs with minor risk to human health and minimal risk to the environment. This approach has potential to lead to the highest credibility of law enforcement agencies.</p>
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The implementation of more rigorously enforcing relevant legislation associated with bonfire appears to be the most straightforward option put forward. However, it does not consider the cultural heritage complexities that exist uniquely within Northern Ireland.

In addition, many comments within this option are anecdotal and should be supported by specific evidence. It is not sufficient to state that, "...all of the major annual bonfires in Northern Ireland **probably fail** to comply with one or more legislative controls. Most, **if not all**, bonfires are likely to have 'controlled waste'..."

Enforcement of Option 2 will require a multi-Agency approach and ongoing cross party support. Given the breadth of the relevant legislation it would be important that there is a designated lead organisation co-ordinating the enforcement strategy, and community planning has potential to be a key player in this role.

Accordingly, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council believe a huge body of work would be required in advance of implementing Option 2. Substantial consultation, engagement, changing of historically held views; extensive mediation etc. which may prove resource prohibitive, would be required before any progress could be made in changing long held beliefs and traditions.

**OPTION 3 – Licensing of Bonfires**

Synopsis:	<p>This option will require some legislative change and there is a lower risk with regard to incurring EU Infraction Proceedings. Implementation may take between 1-3 years, will require public liability insurance and a requirement to identify bonfire sites.</p> <p>While operational and enforcement costs will be higher with this option, and there will be a continued impact on human health, there will be less risk to the environment.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this approach will lead to lesser damage caused, and reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, leading to an increased credibility of law enforcement agencies.</p>
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As with all licences that Councils issue, there will be a financial burden placed upon the Local Government for the enforcement of the legislation. The fees for issuing a licence are normally set on a cost recovery basis and are borne by the applicant, however the enforcement costs are borne by the rate payer. It will therefore be incumbent upon the DOE to outline how it will financially assist Councils in relation to implementing these new proposed responsibilities.

Although initially appealing, this option could only be successfully implemented in the longer term and most likely following a number of years of participation by bonfire builders as outlined in Option 1.

This option excludes any incentive for bonfire builders to comply or engage and therefore would have limited appeal to organisers of such events. There may also be difficulties associated with organisers obtaining the necessary Public Liability Insurance.

It also may be difficult to identify "the responsible person" when it comes to initiating legal proceedings i.e. will this be an individual or a community? While it is recognised that the majority of annual bonfires fail to comply with one or more of the existing legislative controls, to ensure compliance, Council Enforcement staff would need to be present to monitor these events, and this could potentially put their personal safety at risk, not to mention the amount of officers required to cover such events all occurring at or around the same time on the same nights. Anecdotally, Council is aware that the PSNI and the NIFRS are reluctant to have their staff attend these events as they can potentially become targets for certain sections of our community.

### **SUMMARY**

At present Newry, Mourne and Down Council work with bonfire organisers, many of whom have signed up to management agreements in return for receiving some funding to provide diversionary activities. This has proved an effective means to manage and control bonfires within our District Council area.

There would be concerns about changing this approach, with regard to how Council will identify individuals for the purposes of licencing and enforcement. Council therefore favours options that harness community good will and trust in the common goal of improving bonfire management in the future.

While Option 3, Licensing of Bonfires, is where the Department is minded to move towards, this will only be achieved having completed significant other works at Option 1 and Option 2, to get there. There is no doubt this will have an impact upon Council resources and as outlined above the DOE must outline how it will financially assist Councils in relation to any proposed new responsibilities.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report  
Quarterly Report October – December 2015

Policy Number	Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
16	Financial Assistance Policy	<p>The aim of the policy is to provide financial assistance to organisations and projects for any purpose which in the Council's opinion are in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council;</li> <li>• the district or any part of our district;</li> <li>• the inhabitants of our district or any part of our district.</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of this policy is to outline and establish a consistent approach to the decision-making and provision of financial assistance. This will assist the Council in its civic leadership role and also enable it to fulfil its strategic objectives through the provision of financial assistance from its rates and through other funding sources streamed through the Council.</p> <p>The policy and procedure is underpinned by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective decision-making;</li> <li>• Section 75 duties in terms of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations;</li> <li>• Openness and transparency;</li> <li>• Fairness;</li> <li>• Consistency in approach;</li> <li>• Civic leadership.</li> </ul>	No EQIA considered necessary

		The implementation process includes a defined procedure, an effective communications strategy to publicise the call for applications, funding workshops and capacity training for the community, guidance notes for applicants, a structured assessment and decision-making process and review mechanism.	
128	Policy on the Erection of Commercial / Advertising Signage on Council Land and Property by Third Parties	The policy is to ensure a consistent and equitable approach in processing applications by third parties who wish to erect commercial / advertising signage on Council land and Property.	No EQIA considered necessary
	Advertising of Planning Application Notices	<p>To meet the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 requirements with regard to communicate notice of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the review was to recommend a number of changes to the current practice for the advertising of Planning Application Notices across the District. This seeks to mitigate current and estimated financial overspend while ensuring the Council complies with its (relevant) legislative obligations including the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 requirements with regard to communicating notice of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>Having considered the options available the review</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

		<p>recommended the following actions for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Reducing the number of titles currently used by only advertising notices in the minimum number of titles which have the highest (externally audited) circulation figures in the designated city and town settlements of the two existing (adopted) Development Plans; and</li><li>2. Maximising the use of the Council's own corporate website and the Planning Portal to serve notice of applications.</li></ol> <p>From an equality of opportunity and good relations perspective the key issue is access to information wherein the information is communicated and the communication is appropriate and relevant.</p> <p>With regard to placing advertisements, while the first recommended course of action for consideration will reduce the number of newspapers to the minimum number of titles, this is consistent with the requirements of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, with regard to the notice etc. of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p> <p>In addition, any potential adverse impact of this decision will be mitigated as far as reasonably possible by the second recommendation, maximising the use of the Council's own corporate website and the Planning Portal to serve notice of applications, which again is consistent with the requirements of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, with regard to the notice etc. of applications for planning permission and appeals.</p>	
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	<p>Review of statutory advertising</p>	<p>This relates to the development of a corporate approach to statutory advertising which is efficient and effective, and takes account of business needs, target audience, value for money, equality and new opportunities provided by the internet and other new media outlets.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the review is to address an over reliance on printed media (newspapers) and to recommend a number of changes to the current practice for statutory advertising to create a more efficient and effective process, which takes account of business needs, the target audience, value for money, equality and new emerging opportunities provided by the internet and other new media outlets.</p> <p>The paper explored two options. Option one, maintaining the status quo, would lead to Council continuing the practice of advertising in seven newspapers. As it is projected this would result in a significant overspend in departmental budgets within the current financial year, this had potential to restrict the opportunity to take advantage of new emerging opportunities provided by the internet and other media outlets.</p> <p>The second option proposed to take a strategic approach through appropriately targeting and focusing advertisements in titles in recognised market leaders which have the highest circulation / readership across the district. In addition, option 2 has potential to address potential adverse impact and increase access to information through the specific actions including the development of a new protocol for classified, public notice and campaign advertising, wherein greater use will be made of alternative methods of communication, increased use of the internet and effective marketing plans for campaigns.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
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		<p>From an equality of opportunity and good relations perspective the key issue is access to information wherein the information is communicated and the communication is appropriate and relevant. In this case option two provided an enhanced basis on which to do this.</p>	
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**BANBRIDGE AREA ELECTORAL OFFICE**

**Area Electoral Officer: MRS M MORGAN**

52 BRIDGE STREET, BANBRIDGE BT32 3JU [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk)



NEWRY & MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
O'HAGAN HOUSE  
MONAGHAN STREET  
NEWRY  
BT35 8DL

Date 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**ELECTIONS 2016 - PREMISES REVIEW**

The next planned elections will be the Northern Ireland Assembly which is scheduled to be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

It would be helpful if you could confirm, on the attached sheet, that your premises would be available throughout the next twelve months and that no major renovations will take place during this period which would make the premises unsuitable for use as a polling station. Ideally the room(s) used for polling should be on the ground floor with easy access for the public.

We are also updating our records in relation to disabled access facilities in all polling stations in order to help us provide the best possible service to the public. Please indicate on the enclosed sheet if any improvements have been made or if there is any planned upgrading to the premises in relation to disabled access and return in the Freepost envelope provided. Replies should be returned on or before Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

While it is not our intention to set specific safety standards for polling stations we must ensure that the premises are in good condition and do

*Forward to Investigator with Kevin's and reply.*  
*copy Post Room add to AHC agenda Correspondence Section*



Tel: 028 90446610



not present our staff or the public with any significant hazards to their health and safety. In order to meet these responsibilities the Polling Station Manager will carry out a short health and safety inspection of the premises immediately prior to the poll. Should any issue arise which requires immediate attention, the Polling Station Manager will take appropriate action and report the matter to you and also to Electoral Office Headquarters.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully



Area Electoral Officer

Enc.

Polling Premises Review Form  
Freepost Envelope

# BANBRIDGE ELECTORAL OFFICE - POLLING PREMISES REVIEW FORM 2015/16

**CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE MILLVALE ROAD BESSBROOK NEWRY BT35 7NH**

1. Will the above premises be available for use as a polling place on the date of the election? (SEE LETTER) Yes  No

If not available, please state the reason and provide ANY other dates when the premises MAY be unavailable:

2. Is any building work planned for the coming year? Yes  No   
If YES, please provide brief details below:

3. Is off-street parking available? Yes  No

4. Is there level access through the main door? Yes  No   
If NO, please provide details of alternative disabled access:

5. If NO to disabled access, do you have a ramp to enable wheelchair access? Yes  No

If NO, please provide below brief details of where a ramp can be installed and the approximate distance from the main door. (EONI to supply a ramp, if required.)

6. Are there any plans to upgrade disabled access to the premises? Yes  No

7. Is there adequate external and internal lighting? Yes  No

8. Can polling staff switch on the heating in the premises? Yes  No

If NO, please advise how we make arrangements for alternative heating in the event of cold weather?

Signed:  Print Name:

Position:  Date:

Email address:

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO AUTHORISE THE USE OF THE PREMISES FOR THE ELECTION.**

**CONTACT NAME.....CONTACT NUMBER.....**