

<b>Report on</b>	Irish FA Foundation Hub
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane
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<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present to members the proposal from Irish FA to establish a foundation Hub at Mid Ulster Sports Arena.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The Council already has a long-standing partnership with the Irish FA.</p> <p>This proposal is to further support the Irish FA and the Regional Grassroots Development Officer to deliver a Football Development Programme within the MUDC Council area</p> <p>The Irish FA vision - To promote, foster and develop youth football for all in Northern Ireland, creating a fun, safe and inclusive culture that inspires a lifelong love of the game. Creating opportunities, inspiring change and helping young people fulfil their potential on and off the pitch. Serving the community through football and education.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Information</b></p> <p>The purpose of this proposal is to define the key services, which the Irish FA and Mid Ulster District Council will provide to facilitate the placement of a Football Development Hub Team, consisting of a Regional Grassroots Development Officer (RGDO), Let Them Play Officer (LTPO) and a Grassroots Volunteer.</p> <p>Part of the Irish FA's Let Them Play youth strategy 2015-2025 is a new initiative to introduce 12 Let Them Play Hubs across Northern Ireland. The aim of hubs is to provide councils and communities with a more integrated approach to developing football on a local basis. Hubs will be the focal point for clubs, coaches, parents/guardians and volunteers in the development of a football infrastructure within each council area.</p>

In partnership with Councils the Irish FA will work to develop and deliver the five key objectives contained within the Irish FA youth strategy, using a dedicated team of Irish FA Foundation full-time staff and local volunteers. Each hub will aim to follow these five principles:

- Participation and Football For All
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Club and volunteer development
- Youth football coach education
- Player development

The Let Them Play Hubs will also provide genuine community engagement, information, support and advice to make it easier for people to get involved and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle. The specifics of each hub and what it offers will vary according to local council area need and local resources but with an overarching theme to increase the number of people participating in football.

As set out within the Let Them Play strategy the aim of the new structure is to provide more support to local partners and deliver a more effective and efficient service to the community.

The safeguarding and welfare of participants is a priority and the IFA have invested more resource into the safeguarding team. Kevin Doyle is the National Safeguarding Manager and he will appoint a member of staff within each area as a Designated Safeguarding Officer. This will ensure safeguarding is at the front of mind in all Irish FA operations and ensure the development of Irish FA safeguarding delivery.

Individual staff work programmes at each Hub will be amalgamated to ensure a more co-ordinated approach and avoid duplication. With the support of the Council the Hub team will meet each week to plan, organise and co-ordinate all events. It will be vital to communicate to the local community a clear and concise picture of the rationale and objectives of the Hub, the roles and responsibilities of the staff and more importantly, how they can participate within the Hub.

### **Programme Content**

- Small-Sided Games.
- Club Development and Club Mark
- Volunteer Development
- Back In The Game (Veterans Football)
- Football Camps
- Futsal Development
- Coach Education
- Primary & Post Primary Schools
- and Colleges/Universities
- School Quality Mark
- Girls' Clubs Mentor Programme
- Employability Skills
- Player Development

- Social Responsibility Programmes
- Outreach
- Refereeing
- Sport Uniting Communities
- Female Football Leaders Programme
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Let Them Play Conferences
- Disability Football

### **Benefits to councils**

The draft Programme for Government in Northern Ireland contains 14 strategic outcomes which taken together set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of social wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health, education and economic success while helping build confident and peaceful communities.

A key feature of the new Programme for Government in Northern Ireland is its dependence on collaborative working between organisations and groups whether in the public, voluntary or private sectors. Individuals and communities can also play an active part in this programme.

The Irish FA Let Them Play Hubs will assist in achieving some of the goals outlined within the Programme for Government and ensure that all communities, all ages, all genders and all backgrounds will be given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of programmes contained within each hub.

In addition, a new collaborative approach with the programme will ensure all sections within Football Development and each council will deliver a tailored range of activities best suited to each council area. The pooling of resources and equipment will ensure better use of IFA staff time and equipment, avoiding duplication and therefore saving time and money.

Having a hub as a focal point will ensure a physical presence for the community to engage with staff or to borrow equipment for their club or community group. It will be vital to the Irish FA that all councils continue and extend their support to the long and successful partnership already developed via our Regional Grassroots Development Officers into this new exciting programme.

### **Responsibilities of Mid Ulster District Council:**

- The Council will provide access to a workstation to include phone and broadband internet access and meet those costs.
- The Council will allocate one senior member of staff to liaise with the RGDO on local-based aspects of the programme.
- The Council will endeavour to provide the staff access to Council facilities via normal booking procedures.
- The Council will promote and advertise Irish FA Foundation Grassroots activities through all channels, such as the Council's official website and social

	<p>media sites, within the Council area and permit the use of the official Council logo on all Irish FA Foundation Grassroots resources. The use of the Council's logo on all materials produced by the Irish FA Foundation are to be first approved by Council in writing and prior to their publication and issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council will support the Irish FA Foundation and the RGDO to deliver a Football Development Programme within the Council area and ensure there is no duplication of the Football Development Programme within the Council area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The salary, employment, sickness, paternity/maternity and pension costs will be met in full by the Irish FA Foundation.</li> <li>• The Irish FA Foundation will provide travel and personal expenses, when properly verified, while incurred by the staff in the delivery of Irish FA Foundation Grassroots Programmes.</li> <li>• Any income generated by the staff whilst performing their Irish FA Foundation duties or in Irish FA Foundation work time will be paid into the Irish FA Foundation and reinvested into the Mid Ulster District Council Football Development Programme.</li> <li>• If, in the case of sickness, any Irish FA Foundation staff is unable to carry out their duties on programme delivery, the Irish FA Foundation will provide cover to service the programme.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Minimal set up costs, accommodation already exists at Mid Ulster Sports Arena.</p> <p>Human: All staff will be employed by the IFA</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>This report recommends that Council approve the proposal from the Irish Football Association for establishing a Football Development Hub at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, consisting of a Regional Grassroots Development Officer (RGDO), Let Them Play Officer (LTPO) and a Grassroots Volunteer.</p> <p>Council approve the development of an SLA with the Irish Football Association regarding this Hub.</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None.