

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

7 April 2025

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 8th April, 2025 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Restricted**
- (a) Request for the Use of Botanic Gardens (Pages 1 - 36)
 - (b) Dilapidated and Ruinous Buildings on Arterial Routes (Pages 37 - 46)
3. **Motions Referred From Council or Raised at Committee**
- (a) Notice of Motion: 'Dogs in Kennels – Transfer of Ownership' (Pages 47 - 50)
 - (b) Reading Material for Refugee Children (Pages 51 - 54)
 - (c) Request to rename Glenbryn Playpark (Pages 55 - 68)
4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**
- (a) Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group - Update (Pages 69 - 76)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Stadium Community Benefits Initiative - Update and Work Programme 2025/56 (Pages 77 - 86)
- (b) Mary Peters Track - Future Management Arrangements (Pages 87 - 98)
- (c) Installation of 'Sharps' Bins' (Pages 99 - 102)
- (d) Static Park Warden - Pilot Update (Pages 103 - 108)
- (e) Cavehill Mountain Bike Trail (Pages 109 - 118)
- (f) Closed Bin Lid Policy / Removal of Liners (Pages 119 - 132)
- (g) Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Pages 133 - 138)
- (h) Partnership Agreements (Pages 139 - 140)
- (i) Requests to Host Events in Parks (Pages 141 - 144)
- (j) Lower Shankill Park (Pages 145 - 152)
- (k) Applications for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 153 - 156)
- (l) Dual Language Street Signs - Potential Adverse Impacts (Pages 157 - 162)
- (m) Dual Language Street Signs - Raphael Street and McClure Street (Pages 163 - 166)

6. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Council Dog Warden Service - Chairperson (Councillor Brooks) to raise
- (b) One Million Trees' Initiative - Councillor Maghie to raise
- (c) Returning of Black Bins to Properties - Councillor McKeown to raise

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
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Subject:	Notice of Motion 'Dogs in Kennels – Transfer of Ownership'
Date:	7th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise the Committee of a response which has been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, regarding the motion considered by the Council, at its meeting on 3rd March, entitled 'Dogs in Kennels – Transfer of Ownership'.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the correspondence and to take such action thereon as deemed appropriate.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd March, considered the following motion, which was moved by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Councillor Verner:
3.2	<p><i>"This Council recognises that the safety of people and communities is paramount, and that any dog irrespective of breed or type may display aggression. However, this Council also recognises that the provisions, as set out within the Statutory Rule The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024, under powers conferred by Article 25(1)(c) and (8) of The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (the 1983 Order), as relates to XL Bully dogs that make it an offence to rehome is unnecessary cruel.</i></p> <p><i>Restriction of rehoming, even by establishments such as rescue centres and animal shelters has led, as is leading to, the unnecessary destruction and euthanasia of healthy animals, which have no history of violence or aggression, and goes against the 'unnecessary suffering' clause in the Welfare of Animals Act NI 2011. Therefore this Council will write to the DAERA minister outlining our opposition to the continuation of the legislation as currently set out and asks that the Minister allow for managed rehoming by shelters and other specific animal rescue establishments, of dogs including those considered to be XL Bullies with no history of aggression or violence, to suitable owners, to prevent further animal suffering."</i></p>

3.3	<p>At the meeting, an amendment, which was moved by Councillor R. McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor Maskey, was tabled. The amendment, which is set out below, was passed by the Council.</p> <p><i>“This Council recognises that public safety is of utmost importance and that any dog, regardless of breed or type, may display aggressive behaviour. It is also essential to ensure that animal welfare is not compromised. The restrictions on rehoming outlined in The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order 2024 is now in place, and its implementation should be assessed particularly regarding outcomes for public safety and animal welfare. A balanced and evidence-based approach is necessary to ensure that both public safety and animal welfare concerns are addressed effectively. Like any new legislation there is an imperative to consider its outcomes. Therefore, this Council will write to the DAERA Minister requesting an assessment of the impact of these restrictions to date.”</i></p>
3.4	<p>A response has since been received from the Minister and is attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Response from Minister.

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**

Barry Flynn
Belfast City Council
Room 123B
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
flynnbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Our Ref: COR-0210-2025
Date: 31 March 2025

Dear Barry

NOTICE OF MOTION RE: DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION

Thank-you for your letter, of 18 March 2025, in relation to the motion titled '**Dogs in kennels – Transfer of Ownership**' which was considered at the meeting of Belfast City Council on 3 March 2025. You have indicated the resolution was subsequently passed and within which it seeks my assessment of the impact of the restrictions on rehoming as set out in 'The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order 2024'.

Firstly, I wish to reiterate the reasons for my taking the decision to introduce this legislation.

Whilst I acknowledge that all dogs can be dangerous, the reality remains that if a large and powerful dog, such as an XL Bully, becomes aggressive the consequences are much more likely to be serious and, in the worst cases, fatal. There has been a concerning rise in the number of fatal attacks by dogs in recent years and XL Bully dogs have been found to be disproportionately involved.

In response to this, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs swiftly introduced restrictions on the breed for England, and Wales, followed closely by the Scottish Government. The Republic of Ireland has also now introduced similar measures. In deciding to progress this legislation it was imperative that I balanced public protection, interests of dog owners and ultimately made a decision which I felt was proportionate and based on the best possible evidence.

Additionally, I did not want Northern Ireland to become a breeding hotspot for these dogs, nor a dumping ground. Unfortunately, there is no perfect solution, but I remain of the view

that the legislation provides councils with the tools and remedies to effectively deal with restricted breeds.

Turning to the impact of restrictions on rehoming, I do appreciate the concerns that have been raised. However, prohibiting the transfer of ownership is a key way in which the legislation seeks to reduce the risk of an attack, thereby seeking to address of the overriding concerns in relation to public safety.

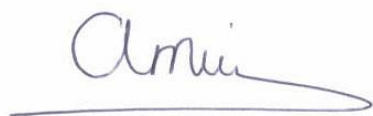
The legal requirement for a restricted dog type to remain with its owner, as provided for by way of the Exemption Certificate, ensures that councils have knowledge of the location of these dogs and can hold owners accountable should any conditions of their exemption be breached. As you are aware, following the closure of the exemption scheme for XL Bully dogs, the only method to retain ownership of a restricted breed is to petition the courts for a 'contingent destruction order.' The court must be convinced that the dog will not pose a threat to the public, provided it is managed under specific strict conditions ('the exemption conditions'). An owner who has received a 'contingent destruction order' has two months to demonstrate that the exemption conditions have been met.

The fact that only a court can make this decision, highlights the serious risk transferring ownership of these dogs may pose. Additionally, in many instances, it is unlikely the history of the dog would be known and past traumas due to irresponsible owners may not be obvious. I am therefore satisfied that this provision is necessary and proportionate.

I acknowledge that responsible dog ownership is essential for ensuring the welfare of dogs. Although the vast majority of dog owners act responsibly, unfortunately, many of the issues which arise are due to the actions of irresponsible owners. Therefore, it is my intention to launch a responsible dog ownership public awareness campaign, and my officials continue to work closely with Northern Ireland Dog Advisory Group (NIDAG) on this and other related dog control matters.

I trust this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Subject:	Reading Material for Refugee Children
Date:	8 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Israel Hontavilla – Community Services Unit Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision
After Council Decision
Sometime in the future
Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update committee on progress with its May 2024 decision to provide support for reading materials for refugee children in Belfast.
1.2	The benefits to children who read in their own language include improved cognition, literacy, communication, socialisation, attachment and cultural confidence. Parental literacy and prioritisation of reading skills for children can be a barrier to child development.
1.3	Temporary accommodation support, commonly in hotels, before refugees move to more permanent accommodation is no longer provided in Belfast. The duration of hotel stays greatly reduced over the last two years. Temporary accommodation is provided in Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. Access to, and information on, the number of children and their needs is highly regulated due to Safeguarding requirements.
1.4	Working in partnership through a formal agreement with existing service providers will provide the best solution to supporting literacy for refugee children, once they are located in permanent accommodation in Belfast.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that Committee grants approval to Council officers to formalise an agreement with existing service providers, the Book Trust and the Belfast Trust's Family Help Clinic - the Book Trust to build a library of age-appropriate children's books in the most likely needed languages and the Family Help Clinic to distribute materials to families recently located in permanent accommodation in Belfast.
3.0	Main Report
	Number of children living in temporary accommodation in Belfast.
3.1	Temporary accommodation refers to the hotel venues hosting refugee children, their families and other adults on a temporary basis until more appropriate permanent residency arrangements are available. There are no families in temporary residence in Belfast and the contracts with hotels terminate at the end of March 2025.

3.2	<p>Determining an exact number of children, their ages and their reading languages, who were residing in these venues at any point in time has proven to be a very difficult task for three main reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are regulatory challenges in sharing this information by the Home Office and Service Providers. Currently Council cannot access this information. • Children and families are homed at arrival in one of the existing arranged premises (hotels) using criteria of suitability and availability. After a period, refugees are offered permanent accommodation. Previously, due to the high number of refugees and low availability of housing, temporary arrangements extended to several months. Currently, this is not the case and duration of stay for families in temporary accommodation is typically very short. • The reactive nature of arrivals. It is almost impossible in the current context to predict the nationality of children arriving and also the native language. This leads to difficulties in procuring age-appropriate reading materials in their own language in a very short timeframe.
3.3	<p>Officers continue to collaborate with other direct service providers to support children. The Book Trust can provide age-appropriate reading materials in appropriate languages. Belfast Trust's Family Help Clinic supports refugee families with registration for education and health care and have access to information on who is recently placed in permanent accommodation within the city.</p>
3.4	<p>Literacy needs of refugee children</p> <p>Reading in your own language plays a key role in child development, not just at a cognitive level by acquiring the necessary literacy skills needed to communicate, but also social level by the process of developing attachment between children and their carers and developing a sense of cultural confidence in their own backgrounds. During conversations with partners, it was highlighted that while a good idea in principle, parental literacy skills gaps exist where parents might not have sufficient literacy to support children with reading and writing.</p> <p>Parental priorities</p>
3.5	<p>Children arriving to Northern Ireland present a high level of need. Given that the number staying in hotels has significantly reduced in the last year, and the fact that children move quickly to permanent accommodation, the priority of needs change dramatically. Service providers advise that the families identify other needs as more significant than reading materials for their children. Their priorities are consistent with any family with very little</p>

	<p>resources moving to a new empty house. They prioritise Items like clothing, shoes, furniture, kitchen utensils, personal hygiene items, toys, food vouchers, transport vouchers, connectivity and internet etc.</p> <p>Geographical considerations</p>
3.6	<p>The assignment of permanent accommodation is subject to availability. The ability to support literacy in the proposed programme will be impacted primarily by having formal agreements with the Trust and for them to provide materials to support families taking permanent accommodation in Belfast.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Delivery of this project will require funding of £2,000 which is available within existing Departmental estimates.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This report proposes funding a project which is designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, specifically refugee children living in temporary accommodation in Belfast.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None



Subject:	Request to rename Glenbryn Playpark
Date:	8 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard – Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officers:	Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek agreement from Members to rename Glenbryn Play Park in line with a community request. This report should also be considered as an update on the Notice of Motion put forward in December 2022 titled 'Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park'.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to approve the request to rename Glenbryn Play Park as 'Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park' and note progress on the installation of a dedicated memorial bench commemorating Corey Jack within the park.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Council's Glenbryn Playpark was constructed on land adjacent to the Jolly Roger complex in Upper Ardoyne as part of The Executive Office's (TEO) Urban Villages (UV) funding programme and opened its gates to the local community in 2019.

3.2	<p>Members will recall that a Notice of Motion titled 'Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park' proposed by Councillor Pankhurst and seconded by Councillor McCullough was referred from the Standards and Business Committee meeting of 24th November 2022 to People and Communities Committee meeting of 6th December 2022 for consideration:</p> <p><i>"This Council notes with deep sadness the passing of Corey Aughey on holiday in June 2022. We also note that Corey was a well-known and loving character within the Glenbryn area of North Belfast. As such, this Council will move to rename "Glenbryn Playpark" as the "Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park" as a fitting tribute in his memory. The Council will also agree to install a memorial bench in his name within the park."</i></p>
3.3	<p>It was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee and noted that this would take due consideration of the Council's Park Naming Policy.</p> <p>This paper is to be considered by way of update to that Notice of Motion.</p> <p><u>Current status</u></p>
3.4	<p>Last year a formal application to rename Glenbryn Playpark as 'Corey Jack Memorial Park' in memory of their son was made to Council by the Aughey family, and was supported by the submission of a petition detailing 250 signatures from the local Upper Ardoyne community living in the vicinity of the park.</p>
3.5	<p>Whilst there is no current policy on the naming of parks the framework detailed in the attached Appendix 1 - P&C report 14 August 2008 – 'A Draft Policy Framework for (Re)naming Parks and Leisure', and Appendix 2 – 'Committee report Naming Framework 2008' forms the basis of current practice with the public consultation element carried out through the councils Your Say platform. In this instance, there is only one name coming forward for consideration and given the strong support within the local community demonstrated through the petition, that Committee might consider that the normal process of wide scale public consultation is not followed on this occasion and that members agree to the renaming of the asset as 'Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park'.</p>
3.6	<p>Members are reminded that this approach was taken on two previous occasions in recent years - in respect to the naming of the Lagan Gateway Bridge and the renaming of The Ruby Murray Village Green.</p>
3.7	<p>As we are still within the formal post project delivery control period for the Glenbryn Playpark capital project, as set out in the Letter of Offer we have sought confirmation from The Executive Office that they are content with the proposed name change – confirmation has since been received.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost of the design and installation of new park signage as well as a memorial plaque to create a memorial bench within the park will be funded from within existing OSS revenue estimates.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>The renaming of the park will be subject to our normal screening process.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – P&C report 14 August 2008 - A Draft Policy Framework for (Re)naming Parks and Leisure</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Committee report Naming Framework 2008</p>



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	A Draft Policy Framework for (Re)naming Parks and Leisure Facilities
Date:	14 August 2008
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- (i) outline the background to the development of a policy for how to manage requests from the public and community groups for the re-naming of Parks and Leisure facilities; and
- (ii) present a draft policy framework for managing future requests for discussion and agreement by Members.

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware of a recent request to the Parks and Leisure Committee through the Director from the Linfield Supporters' Club and Blackstaff Community Development Association suggesting that, as a suitable memorial to commemorate the former Northern Ireland and Linfield football player, the late Tommy Dickson, the Blythefield Open Space be re-named the Tommy Dickson Park.

At the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee on Thursday 13 March 2008, the Committee agreed that a report on proposals for re-naming open space be submitted for consideration.

This report has been developed taking onboard extensive research and best practice examples and consultation with Members across the Party Groups.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to those that have an interest in the (re)naming of Belfast's Parks and Leisure facilities. It is proposed on the basis that it would apply to all Council owned Parks and Leisure facilities but not those facilities which the Council has taken on management responsibility for under a formal lease or agreement with an external organisation or group.

The intention behind the development of the policy is to provide a management framework within which requests from organisations and groups can be managed and to provide direction on how to apply for approval to (re)name Parks and Leisure facilities.

Up until this time, many parks have been named subject to no specific criteria. Currently 87% of Parks and Leisure facilities have the name of the geographic location in which they are located although the Council has reacted in the past to (re)name some of its facilities (playgrounds, playing fields and parks).

There are three main types of naming situations this policy intends to address:

- (i) The opening or reopening of parks and leisure facilities;
- (ii) Providing recognition of major financial contributions;
- (iii) Requests for “Memorialisation” or honouring individuals in recognition of “significant” contributions to the area or particular location.

Background Policy Context (External and Internal)

The (re)naming of Parks and Leisure facilities (or any Council location) is complex and potentially emotionally evocative because assigning a name can be a powerful and permanent identity for a public place or facility. The (re)naming of parks and leisure facilities must also be considered in light of less obvious factors such as staff and financial resources and wider external factors such as changing names on signs, maps, and other literature. In addition, the Council should also be mindful that excessive and constant name changing could be the source of confusion to the public.

External Policy Context

There are a number of relevant policy frameworks in place in Northern Ireland which relate and inform the issue of (re)naming of Parks and Leisure Facilities to a greater or lesser extent, namely:

- A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland (2005). The shared future policy sets out challenging aims for building a shared society, with a key priority being to reclaim shared space.
- Draft Programme for Government (2007). This programme highlights that it is imperative that we all embrace the opportunity to create a shared and better future, based on tolerance and respect for cultural diversity.
- Racial Equality Strategy (2005). The aims of the Racial Equality Strategy complement those of A Shared Future.

(Further details on each of these are attached at Appendix 1.)

Internal Policy Context

Within the Council there are three relevant policy strands currently in place which could be interpreted as relating to or informing the issue of (re)naming of Parks and Leisure Facilities to a greater or lesser extent, namely:

- 1) The Street Naming Policy;
- 2) The Equality Scheme;
- 3) The Good Relations Plan

(Further details on each of these are also attached at Appendix 1.)

In developing this draft framework and report, cognisance has also been taken of ongoing research work across the Council such as that commissioned by the Good relations Unit (Conflict Transformation Project) into the promotion and maintenance of shared space across the City.

Current Position

A review of current Parks and Leisure facilities outlines that only 13% of Parks and Leisure facilities have been (re)named with a name which is not reflective of their geographical location. In summary:

- 6 facilities have been named in memory of a person (“Memorialisation”) including 1 facility which was purchased by the Council with the proviso that the park should be named after a member of the family;
- 2 facilities have been named after people (based on “significant contributions” – e.g. the exemplary performance of Mary Peters);
- 3 facilities have non-geographical names, related to Royalty, dating back to Victorian times (King George V, Queen Mary’s, Alexandra and Victoria Parks);
- 5 facilities have been named after the relevant benefactor.

Key Issues

Research and best practice gives some assistance to the development of a policy on this subject although it must be acknowledged that the type of criteria used in other cities and countries are not directly transferable to the Belfast context. Some general examples of criteria are outlined below:

- parks and facilities which have been officially named shall retain their existing names; the renaming of Parks and Leisure facilities is strongly discouraged.
- new parks or existing parks which have not been officially named shall be named after the geographic location, neighbourhood or public street where the park, facility or amenity is located;
- facilities named after persons, organisations, foundations or families contributing towards the acquisition, development or conveyance of land or building;
- names will not be considered that are discriminatory or derogatory considering race, gender, creed, religious or political affiliation, or other similar factors.

General Principles

In considering proposals for the (re)naming of a park or leisure facility, best practice would suggest that there are general principles which should be taken into account either collectively or individually, such as that the proposed name should:-

- engender a strong positive image;
- be appropriate having regard to the parks or leisure facility location;
- have historical, cultural or social significance for future generations;
- commemorate places, people or events that are of continued importance to the City or region;
- have broad public support as evidenced through consultation; and
- be inoffensive and non-party political

Cost

One of the main issues for consideration when deciding to implement a policy on this issue will be the financial implications for the Department. Currently the Parks and Leisure Department requires a substantial increase in finance to enable it to complete essential maintenance at a number of facilities as well as a number of the development activities outlined in the departmental plan. A policy which requires both staff time and departmental finances (which the department cannot foresee, plan for and allocate financial spend to) could potentially have the effect of diverting resources which should be dedicated to essential activities already in the workplan.

Consultation

Some discussion has taken place with the Party Groups with regard to how community consultation could be undertaken and what a suitable and valid approach would be – for example, should the “community” be interpreted as being the users of the park or facility or the home owners living within a certain distance? In order for this to be a valid approach consultation must take into account the Council’s statutory requirements.

It is also important that any proposed name change coming before the Council has the required level of community support forthcoming at the consultation stage. This is to ensure that no embarrassment is caused to any individual or organisation who might not receive the necessary support for the (re)naming proposal.

At present the Council has in its plan of work the development of a consultation and engagement strategy. In the absence of a Council approach to conducting consultation to guide the development of a process which would support this policy, a draft “proposed application process” is attached at Appendix II, with detail on the (re)naming request guidelines attached as Appendix III and the guidelines for the consultation outlined and attached at Appendix IV.

Policy Options

OPTION 1 – (Continue as we have been) To adopt an ad-hoc approach dealing with individual requests received.

OPTION 2 – To agree a policy which “draws a line in the sand” from this point, and establishes that Parks and Leisure facilities are named after their geographical location (or shall retain their existing names) and that the renaming of Parks and Leisure facilities is strongly discouraged.

OPTION 3 – To treat it as a policy issue for the Department and develop a rigorous policy framework to deal with all (re)naming requests received by the Parks and Leisure Department.

This approach has much broader implications for Parks and Leisure in terms of consultation, staff resources and the associated costs.

Recommendation and Proposed Criteria

Based on all of the research and the need to strike a balance between defining a strict policy and placing undue limits on the democratic process, Option 3 is recommended. It is further recommended that the policy apply only to local parks

and leisure facilities and that the Council would not wish to have its City, District and Country Parks re-named (a list of the City, District and Country Parks is attached at Appendix 5).

The criteria have been designed to ensure that only sincere and non-vexatious proposals will be considered by the Council.

It is recommended that this should be supported by a detailed set of criteria and management framework as follows:

1.0 Proposed Criteria

1.1 Where the request made is to memorialise a person

- The person must be deceased for a minimum of five years.
- If the nominee is deceased then appropriate relatives or friends will be contacted asking if they approve of the request. If the relatives or friends do not approve, the naming process will not be pursued.
- The person must have made a “significant contribution” to the life of the area/City/made a significant positive contribution to parks and leisure objectives within the community where the facility is located.
- The person must have lived within the locality / district electoral area (DEA) of the park or leisure facility for a significant or formative period;

1.2 It is recommended that a park not be named for a living person, except in the event that the person / family have made a significant financial contribution to improvement / development of the park or facility.

1.3 Where the name requested relates to a specific unique location:

- The name should provide a sense of place, reflecting the geographic location, community, neighbourhood or street where the park, facility or amenity is located;
- The name should reflect the historical significance of the area or reflects unique characteristics of the site (unique flora / fauna).

1.4 In ALL (re)naming cases:

- The applicant will bear the cost of the (re)naming in terms of consultation, signs, plaques etc;
- The name, once bestowed, is permanent;

1.5 Names should not be considered which:

- Cause confusion due to duplication or names sounding similar to existing named facilities / locations within the City;
- Unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of the Council’s equality and good relations policies and the Shared Future agenda;
- Are party-political in intention or use.

1.6 Existing names will not be changed without consideration of the historical significance of the existing name, the cost and impact of changing existing signs, rebuilding community recognition and updating records (i.e. letterhead, databases, and promotional materials).

- 1.7 Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.8 All signs that indicate the name of a park and/or recreational facility shall comply with Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure design standards. Specialised naming signage should not be permitted.

Resource Implications

Financial

The recommended option will place the financial implications of carrying out consultation on the proposed (re)name change and any subsequent changes to signage on the applicant.

There will be financial implications for the Council in terms of updating literature/Council documents.

Human Resources

The implementation and management of the proposed framework will require officer time which is difficult to predict at this stage and which would require re-examination after a suggested 12 month period. There will be resource implications in terms of officer time required to verify the consultation process.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

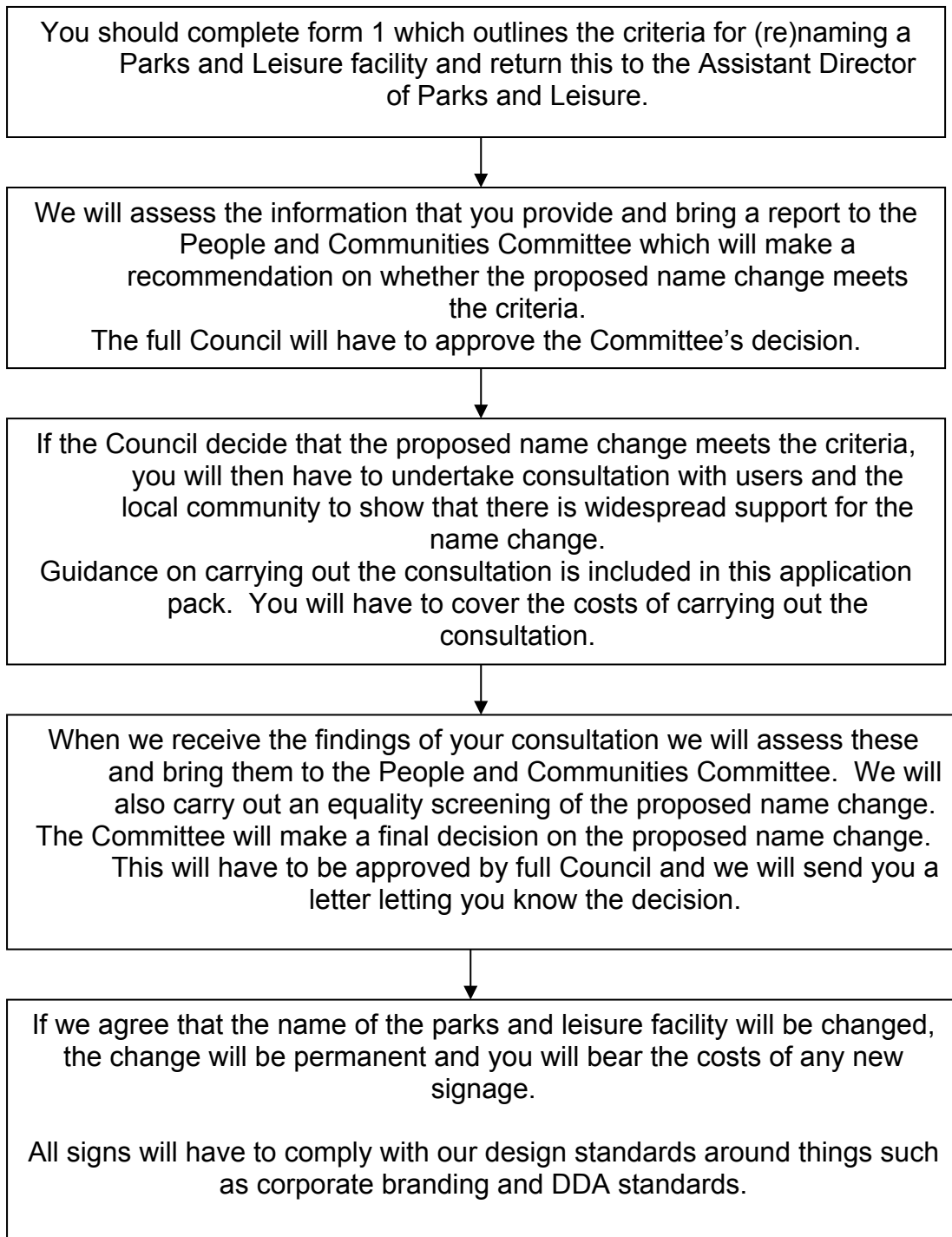
- (i) review the report presented, research and options;
- (ii) agree the recommendation – Option 3 and the approach which has been proposed in terms of procedure and consultation; subject to
- (iii) the preferred policy position then being fully considered in line with the Council's statutory Equality obligations.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: additional information (internal and external policy context).
Appendix 2: (Re)naming Parks and Leisure Facilities Process.
Appendix 3: Stage 1: (Re)naming request guidelines.
Appendix 4: Stage 2: Consultation guidelines.
Appendix 5: List of Parks and Leisure Department City, District and Country Parks.

Appendix 1

Decision making process on a request to (re)name a Parks and Leisure facility



Guidance on consulting with users and the local community in relation to the (re)naming of parks and leisure facilities

A request to (re)name a park and leisure facility must be accompanied by evidence which demonstrates that there is substantial community support for the proposed name change.

This evidence must have been gathered through consultation by the applicant proposing the name change. This consultation must be resourced by the applicant and carried out to the following specification.

Communication and advertising

- The applicant will be required to demonstrate that they have undertaken sufficient advertising through a range of methods, for example newspaper advertisements, to communicate to all users, potential users and interested parties that the consultation is being undertaken.
- The applicant should ensure that all users and interested parties who reside outside the catchment area are afforded the opportunity to participate in the consultation process for example through advertisements in newspapers in adjoining areas of public meetings or focus groups.

Sample size & method

- 50% of the catchment area population of the park should be consulted. A map showing the catchment area for a park and specifying the catchment population will be produced by the Parks and Leisure Department.
- This should be carried out through the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods.
- The quantitative method should involve the use of a questionnaire which surveys at least 50% of the catchment area population. The questionnaire should ask those surveyed whether they are in favour of the name change.
- The qualitative method should involve the use of either at least 2 public meetings or a series of focus groups. These should target users, potential users and interested parties who reside both within the catchment area and outside it.
- The sample should be random.

User population/catchment area

- The recognised catchment area for users of a local park consists of communities within a 5 minute walk of the facility¹.
- A map showing the catchment area for a park and specifying the catchment population will be produced by the Parks and Leisure Department.
- Community consultation should be conducted with relevant stakeholders.
- Consultation should include, but not be limited to, nearby residences/businesses, emergency services and other statutory organisations as appropriate.

¹ National Playing Field Association Guidelines

Timescales

- Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all individuals/groups with an interest in the issue.
- The consultation period should be a minimum of 8 weeks and consideration should be given to holiday periods such as Christmas and Easter with more time being allowed over these periods.
- If consultation takes the form of an event consideration must be given to the date and timing of the events and its convenience to working people, parents with young children, younger people and older people.

Validation of the process

- The applicant will be required to provide contact detail of all those people involved in the consultation process. This information should be obtained with the consent of the person consulted and in such a way so as not to link them to their response.
- The council reserves the right for officers to attend all consultation events such as public meetings or focus groups.

Acceptance levels

- The applicant will have to demonstrate that 66% of the sample i.e. 50% of the catchment area population agrees with the proposed name change.
- People not returning a reply to the questionnaire will be deemed not to be in favour of the name change and a nil response recorded.

Criteria

To allow us to assess whether your proposed name meets our criteria we would ask that you complete the following sections demonstrating who you meet the criteria.

Current name of park/leisure facility which you wish to (re)name:

Proposed name:

Complete the following section if your request will **memorialise a person**

Criteria	Please demonstrate how your request meets the criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person must have made a “significant contribution” to the life of the area / City / or made a significant positive contribution to parks and leisure objectives within the community where the facility is located. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person must have lived within the locality / District Electoral Area of the Park and Leisure facility 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person must have been deceased for a minimum of five years. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If person is still alive have they made a significant financial contribution to the improvement / development of the park or facility? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the nominee is deceased then appropriate relatives or friends will be contacted asking if they approve of the request. If the relatives or friends do not approve, the naming process will not be pursued. 	

Complete the following section if your request **relates to a specific unique location**

Criteria	Please demonstrate how your request meets the criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name should provide a sense of place, reflecting the geographic location, community, neighbourhood or street where the park, facility or amenity is located. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name should reflect the historical significance of the area or reflects unique characteristics of the site (unique flora / fauna). 	

Please return completed form to: Rose Crozier
Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Belfast City Council
3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8DG

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Subject:	Minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Seamus McBride, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input style="width: 40px; text-align: center;" type="text" value="3"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
----------------	--

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?
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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the matters noted at the recent Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 2 nd April 2025
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the People and Communities Committee agree the following recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group.
2.2	Members of the working group agreed all reports presented to the meeting on 2 nd April 2025.
2.3	Approve the minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meeting held on 2 nd April 2025 including the following recommendations.
2.4	Approve the decision to allow the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to erect an additional seven headstone markers
2.5	Approve the decision to sympathetically repair and restore all 41 headstones and monuments damaged by the Storm Éowyn.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Operational Update</u> Members of the Working Group noted the Bereavement Services operational update. The updated Scale of Charges for financial year 2025/2026 was communicated with all stakeholders and commenced on 1st April.</p> <p>Members of the Working Group agreed to recommend that the People and Communities Committee would approve the request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission permission to erect seven additional standard headstone markers. There is no expense to the Council and as CWGC is a registered charity, it is recommended that the memorial application fees are not applied.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Damage to Cemeteries caused by Storm Éowyn</u> Members were reminded that a red weather warning had been issued by the Met Office for Friday 24th January and that the Council's Emergency Management Team had made the decision to postpone and reschedule all burials and cremations booked for that day. Bereavement Staff worked throughout the weekend to ensure all funerals were completed in the following days.</p>

3.3	<p>Members were advised that the storm had caused widespread damage to buildings and trees across Northern Ireland, including the uprooting of 70 large landscape trees, and 87 memorial trees across the Council's Cemeteries. 41 headstones and monuments were damaged, 32 of these damaged by fallen trees. The Working Group were reminded that the maintenance of headstones and monuments was the responsibility of grave owners, however, given the circumstances, the Council has agreed to sympathetically repair headstones damaged by the storm.</p> <p>Working Group agreed to recommend that the People and Communities Committee would agree to the sympathetic repair and restoration of the 41 headstones and monuments which had been damaged by Storm Éowyn.</p> <p><u>Burial Provision Update</u></p> <p>Members of the working group agreed the update on burial provision. Members were updated on a stock take of existing burial provision which has taken place. Members were advised that Bereavement Services has written to the Department of Justice to confirm a revision and reduction in the pandemic planning stock of graves held by Council. Members agreed to arrange site visits to potential new burial sites where these can be accommodated.</p>
4.0	Finance and Resources Implications
4.1	It is estimated that the total cost to repair all 41 headstones and monuments may be in the region of £70,000. These costs will be confirmed as repair works are completed.
5.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>Minutes from Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group on 2nd April 2025</p>

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**STRATEGIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting of 2nd April, 2025

Members Present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson); and
Councillors Black, Bower, Doherty,
Ferguson and Flynn.

In Attendance: Mrs S. Toland, Director of City Services;
Mr. S. McBride, City Protection Manager;
Mr. M. Patterson, Bereavement Services Manager;
Ms. S. Kalke, Client Manager (Property and Projects);
Mr. N. Brennan, Project Manager (Property and Projects); and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th January, 2025 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Bereavement Services Operational Update

The City Protection Manager provided the Working Group with an overview of the ongoing work within Bereavement Services.

He explained that the updated Bereavement Scale of Charges had been communicated to all stakeholders, including Funeral Directors and Health Trusts, which had commenced on 1st April, 2025.

The Members were reminded that, in August 2024, the Public Records Office NI (PRONI) had approached the Council to assist in the provision of burial and cremation records between 1922 and 1995 relating to eleven historical institutions. The City Protection Manager explained that the Council had established a data sharing agreement with PRONI under its duty to comply with the Inquiries Act 2005.

The Working Group was advised that bi-annual maintenance of the cremators would take place from 25th to 29th April and that had been communicated to Funeral Directors.

The Service had created front facing Customer Service Standards for Cemeteries which would be available through the Council website.

The Working Group was advised that the grass cutting programme had been restarted across all sites and that the service had invested in new equipment including lawnmowers and strimming equipment. Following complaints regarding weed control during 2024, maintenance schedules had been updated in advance of the current growing season.

The City Protection Manager advised that a burial authority could construct rules and regulations for the use of cemeteries under the Public Health Ireland Act 1878 Regulation 181. He explained that the Service was currently reviewing the existing cemetery rules and regulations and that targeted engagement sessions with relevant minority groups and service users had been carried out. Any proposed changes to the rules would be considered by CMT and brought to the Working Group before going out to consultation.

The Members were reminded that, in 2022, the Council had obtained Historic Environment Division (HED) funding to complete condition surveys in the four historic cemeteries which were currently closed and not open to the public. It was reported that the four graveyards had been added to Stage One of the Physical Programmes Department's Capital Programme as an emerging project. In addition, a project of work was ongoing to sympathetically repair 27 monuments within the Clifton Street Graveyard.

The Working Group was advised that three event organisers had received authorisation to continue walking tours of Friar's Bush Graveyard and officers had met with them to review the pilot tours and the terms and conditions of use.

In relation to some recent publicity around an unmarked famine graveyard on the Donegall Road, the Members were advised that the issue had been referred to the South Area Working Group in the first instance.

The Members were advised that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had identified seven additional casualties from historic wars buried in the Council's cemeteries and they had requested permission to erect their standard casualty marker headstone at their own expense. It was reported that, as CWGC was a registered charity the Council did not apply its memorial application fee.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Council's tender process for the City Cemetery Visitor Centre, the Director of City Services explained that unfortunately no tenders were awarded and that officers were reviewing the feedback.

The Working Group thanked the officers for the update and:

- noted the updates which had been provided; and
- agreed to recommend that the People and Communities Committee would accept the request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to mark an additional seven headstones.

Storm Éowyn - Cemeteries Update

The City Protection Manager provided the Working Group with an overview of the impact of the damage which had been caused to the Cemeteries by Storm Éowyn on Friday, 24th January, 2025.

The Members were reminded that a red weather warning had been issued by the Met Office and that the Council's Emergency Management Team had made the decision to postpone and reschedule all burials and cremations booked for that day.

The storm had caused widespread damage to buildings and trees across Northern Ireland, including the uprooting of many trees across the Council's Cemeteries.

The Working Group was advised that bereavement services staff had worked throughout the weekend of 25th and 26th January to ensure that all postponed funerals were completed within the following days. Roselawn and Dundonald cemeteries had been closed for public access for a period until all dangerous trees were made safe.

It was reported that Roselawn had lost 38 landscape trees and 87 memorial trees. Replacement trees had been purchased and were being planted as part of the memorial tree replacement programme. Dundonald Cemetery had lost around 30 large landscape trees with Knockbreda cemetery having lost one large tree. It had been necessary to employ the Council's tree surgery contractor for a prolonged period in Roselawn and Dundonald to clear roads and make trees safe for public access.

The City Protection Manager outlined that, across all of the Council's cemeteries, 41 headstones and monuments had been damaged, 32 of which had been caused by fallen trees. The Members were reminded that the maintenance of headstones and monuments was the responsibility of grave owners, however, given the circumstances, the Council had agreed to work with the grave owners on a voluntary basis to minimise the impact on families and loved ones. He explained that letters had been sent to the grave owners and, where contact had been established, officers would offer to meet and agree how the Council could sympathetically repair the graves. It was recommended that the Council would cover the cost of repairing all 41 headstones and monuments damaged by the storm, with an estimated cost of £70,000.

In response to Member's query as to whether the Council had insurance which would cover the costs of repairing the headstones, the Director of City Services explained that the issue had been raised at a Corporate Management Team meeting but that officers would double check.

In response to a further Member's point regarding the Closure of Dundonald Cemetery, the City Protection Manager outlined that, any future event which would cause the closure of a cemetery would also be communicated with clear signage at the entrance to the graveyard for those who did not use social media.

In response to a further Member's question, regarding the quality of the damaged headstones, the City Protection Manager outlined that officers would check each of them to ascertain if they had been made to the recommended standard. He reported that, ultimately, the onus was on the Funeral Directors and the sculptors to ensure they were of a good quality. However, he acknowledged that there was more to be done in terms of reaching the highest standard but that it was a resource intensive exercise.

The Working Group thanked the officers for the update and agreed to recommend that the People and Communities Committee would agree to the sympathetic repair and restoration of the 41 headstones and monuments which had been damaged by Storm Éowyn.

Burial Provision Update

The Director of City Services advised the Working Group that a Burial Provision Board had been set up at the request of the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to provide oversight and direction on the provision of future burial land to fulfill the core statutory expectation, including the sampling, selection of, and capital procurement of suitable new land, and any land use planning and development process until such land was available for use by Belfast residents. The cross-Departmental Board, formed in November 2024, allowed for consideration of existing and new burial proposals and requirements on an estates, capital and operational basis, and met bimonthly.

The Working Group was advised that the key strands being overseen by the board included:

1. a stocktake of existing burial lands at Roselawn;
2. progressing currently undeveloped areas within Roselawn;
3. progressing the provision for burial of cremated remains; and
4. a future cemetery site.

The Director provided an overview of the stocktake of existing burial land at Roselawn. She explained that City and Neighbourhood Services had reviewed the number of grave plots that was considered necessary with the Department for pandemic provision. The experiences and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic had illustrated that there was a need to reassess the reserve for such circumstances, balancing that with the duty the Council had on provision and future provision.

The Members were advised that Section Z had further areas to be developed for burial provision and that a consultant had been appointed to carry out the necessary investigations, in order to inform the extent of areas suitable for burials and, if not, then if suitable for cremated remains. An outline business case was also being developed for Section P within Roselawn for potential cremated remains burial provision.

The Director provided the Working Group with an update in regards to the expression of interest exercise in relation to new burial lands. She explained that discussions with developers and neighbouring Councils were ongoing in that regard.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to undertake a site visit to a number of the potential sites.

The Working Group thanked the officers and noted the update which had been provided.

Chairperson



Subject:	Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2024-2025 update and work plans for 2025-2026
Date:	Tuesday 8 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan – Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Yes

☒

No

☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?
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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative for 2024/2025 quarters 1-3, and to present the initial work programme for April 2025 – March 2026 for approval, with the final collaborative work plan to be presented subsequently. It should be noted that this will be the final year of the SCBI initiative.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Members note the progress of the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative to date ii. Members approve the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative initial work programme for 2025 - 2026
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In 2012 Council approved the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the city. This programme has been influenced by the partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.
3.2	The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme at the redeveloped Olympia site and adjoining stadium and committed to work together to maximise these benefits. They agreed to establish a Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.
3.3	The aim of the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') was to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.
3.4	In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia were being developed in Belfast it was anticipated that other sports governing bodies would become parties to the agreement.
3.5	At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in Gaelic Games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities became fully incorporated into the action plan at the start of financial year 2019-2020, with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at the Delivery Board and the Policy and Performance Group.
3.6	The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports are to be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary.
3.7	<p>The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of coaching sessions provided b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching c. Number of sessions improving club governance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Number of volunteering opportunities e. Participation opportunities for under 16s f. Female participation rates g. Number of people completing skills development programme h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups i. Number of sessions for school and youth groups j. Community group usage of stadia k. Number of clubs attaining club-mark l. Educational opportunities m. Number of programmes targeting ASB n. Improved collaborative working o. Number of disabled participants p. Number of older people participating
3.8	The policy and performance group held their meeting on Friday 14 th February to review performance for 2024/25 and to be updated in terms of the programme for 2025/26.
3.9	Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, workplans are developed each year. The Action Plan for 2024-2025 was produced by the partners and included a mixture of sports specific programmes with both National Governing Bodies and collaborative initiatives delivered jointly by both the sporting organisations.
3.10	Initial action plans from the sporting partners were agreed for 2025-2026 and detailed in appendices 4 and 5. As this is the tenth and final year of the Initiative, the final collaborative action plan is nearing completion and will be presented to a subsequent committee for.
3.11	<p><u>Performance</u></p> <p>Delivery up to the end of Quarter 3 2024/2025 has now been completed and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p>Joint programme- a joint conference was held in Black Mount Shared Space Centre on Sunday 24th November, with a theme of Coaching Through Games. Focusing on Physical Literacy & Skill Development through Games and Involve and Empower – Small Sided Games. The conference was very informative for coaches with 47 coaches signing up to the day, 35 in attendance. OBA attached in appendix (1)</p>
3.12	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 will be contributed in total to the Project by the end of year 10 (2025-2026).</p> <p>The budget spend for 2024/2025 has been approved by the Policy and Performance Group and are on course for full spend. The budget spend for 2025/2026 will be approved following completion of the collaborative work plan.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OBA for conference (appendix (1)) 2. IFA Performance Report Q1-3 2024/2025 (appendix 2) 3. GAA Performance Report Q1-3 2024/2025 (appendix 3)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. IFA Work Plan 2025/2026 (appendix 4)5. GAA Work Plan for 2025/2026 (appendix 5)
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Outcomes Based Accountability

Report Card

Project	SCBI Sports Conference
Team	Antrim GAA/Gaelfast & Irish FA Foundation & BCC
Team Members	Claire Rea & Alfie Hannaway

Quantity (Numbers)	Quality (Percentages)
<p>How much did we do?</p> <p>47 Registrations 35 Attendees (30?) 20 Survey Responses (13 GAA, 6 Football, 1 School Teacher)</p>	<p>How well did we do it? (%)</p> <p>Has today's event been a positive experience? 100% of responders said 'Yes'.</p> <p>Would you recommend today's event to a fellow coach/teacher? 100% of responders said 'Yes'.</p>

Impact (Is Anyone better Off?)

What impact has today had on you?

- Importance of **fundamental skills highlighted and transferable skills across sports** - how to adapt games easily for age groups and ability.
- Didn't realise the impact such **creative activities** can be involved in Coach Education for younger age groups.
- Taught me **different types of games** to introduce to my classes and groups. New games and sessions to use for **PE and coaching**.
- How to manipulate soccer drills into football. As a teacher it has provided me with **ideas** for games and warm-ups.

What would you like to see differently or how could we improve today's event?

- How do you **differentiate for different abilities** where all the kids are playing together.
- More games that use **less equipment**.
- **Interact with coaches more**.
- Providing **feedback to children** and the importance of it.

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SCBI Performance Report_IFA_2024-2025					
Intermediate Benefits	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD TOTAL	Highlights (key contributors)
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	48	40	97	185	8 weeks of coach mentoring - Newhill FC 8 weeks x Disney - Berlin Swifts 72 Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 4 - NCC Coach Ed @Claredon and @Avoniel, Oct - Coaches identified by SBYL, Fonacab, Belfast GDP leagues and coming from clubs such as Berlin Swifts, Shankill Juniors, Celtic Boys, 7 - Connect (dementia) Programme
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	6	5	23	34	1 - Mentoring Programme - Newhill FC 3 - Disney - Berlin Swifts 2 - Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 10 - NCC Claredon - 6 - NCC Avoniel 1 - Connect Programme -
c. Number of sessions improving club governance	3	4	10	17	6 Safeguarding Courses: Rosario, Aquinas, Dungoyne, SBYL, Linfield, Belfast Swifts. 4 - NCC Courses
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	0	0	89	89	72 - Disability School Sessions - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 1 - Fanzone - NI Senior Women V Croatia 2 X Connect Programme 3 x Disney - Berlin Swifts
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	0	400	201	601	80 - Fanzone - Senior Women V Croatia - Oct 54 - Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 27 - Disney Playmakers - Berlin Swifts
f. Female participation rates	22	75	213	310	70 - Fanzone V Croatia - Oct 15 - Safeguarding Courses 27 - Disney Playmakers - Berlin Swifts 21 - Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 60 - Christmas Dinner 20 - Christmas Ball
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	6	5	145	156	1 - Mentoring Programme - Newhill FC 27 - Disney Playmakers - Berlin Swifts 89 - Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 16- NCC Courses 12 - Connect Programme
h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	0	0	80	80	8 - Disney Playmakers - Berlin Swifts 72 - Disability School Sessions - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	0		81	81	72 - Disability School Sessions - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 8 - Disney - Berlin Swifts 1- Christmas dinner - local children identified by GVRT
k. Community group usage of stadia	3	4	7	14	4 - Safeguarding Courses 1 - Fanzone 1 - Connect Programme 1 Christmas dinner - local residents (older people) identified by GVRT
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0	0	1	1	1 x Berlin Swifts (Disney)
m. Educational opportunities	51	44	27	122	8 - Safeguarding 8 - Mentoring Sessions - Newhill FC 2 - Disney - Berlin Swifts 4 - NCC Sessions 5 - Connect Programme
n. Number of programmes targeting ASB	0	0	0	0	
q. Improved collaborative working	16	26	36	78	Safeguarding x 4 = IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Fan Zone x 1 - IFA, BCC, Vendors (3) Mentoring x 1 - Clubs (Newhill FC), IFA, BCC, Leagues (4) IFA x Special Schools (2) Coach Ed x 2 = IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Connect x 1 - BCC, IFA, Age NI (3)
r. Number of disabled participants	0	0	109	109	89 - Disability Schools - Cedar Lodge, Harberton, St. Gerard's 20- Christmas dinner
s. Number of older people participating	0	80	162	242	130- Christmas dinner 20 - Fanzone 12 - Connect (55+) Programme. Men who are 55+ and at risk with dementia
Total	155	683	1281	2119	

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Intermediate Benefits	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD TOTAL	Highlights (key contributors)
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	96	201	2024	2321	Club School Link, Vol Dev, Super Games
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	262	132	246	640	Club School Link, Vol Dev Super Games
c. Number of sessions improving club governance	6	6	19	31	
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	30	130	80	240	Vol Dev
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	742	657	5380	6779	Club School Link
f. Female participation rates	74	308	1423	1805	Club School Link, Vol dev, Super Games
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	744	651	3122	4517	Club School Link, Vol Dev, Super Games
i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	20	120	124	264	Club School Link, Vol Dev
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	9	20	209	238	Club School Link
k. Community group usage of stadia	0	0	0	0	
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0	0	0	0	
m. Educational opportunities	90	74	136	300	Vol Dev, Super Games
o. Number of programmes targeting ASB	0	20	24	44	
q. Improved collaborative working	90	57	66	213	Club School Link, Vol Dev, Super Games
r. Number of disabled participants	22	212	109	343	Club School Link, Vol Dev, Super Games
s. Number of older people participating	19	15	39	73	Club School Link, Vol Dev, Super Games

Total 2204 2603 13001 17883

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Subject:	Mary Peters Track Management
Date:	8th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, CNS Operational Director
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer Open Spaces and Streetscene

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide highlights from the engagement with Mary Peters Track and Barnetts Demesne stakeholders which including drop-in sessions and an online survey which ran from 16 th August to 22 nd September 2024.
1.2	To request approval to proceed with the procurement options for the management, maintenance and development of the track.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	To note the findings of the Mary Peters Track and Barnetts Demesne stakeholder engagement.
2.2	To consider and approve the proposed next steps and timeline regarding management procurement options.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Members will be aware that the management, routine maintenance and sports development of the Mary Peters Track is currently outsourced since 1996. Whilst there have been various iterations of the contract, as demonstrated in table one below, the service has always been delivered by NIAF/ANI, the governing body for the sport in NI. There has been little or no other interest from the market when it has been tested.</p>				
3.2	<p>Table one below provides a timeline of external management of the Mary Peters Track from 1996 onwards. The rationale for entering a Facility Management Agreement with NIAF at that stage was to utilise the organisations developments and outreach function to work with its network of interested bodies involved in athletics and its development, including schools, athletics clubs and other sporting groups. In addition to this, the NIAF to manage the track maintenance, and undertake agreed maintenance operations within the track arena and its pavilions.</p>				
3.3	<p>Table One</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 958 568 1619"> <p>August 1996 – July 2011</p> </td><td data-bbox="568 958 1497 1619"> <p>The Council entered a Facilities Management Agreement (FMA) with ANI (formerly known as NIAF), in respect of the management and maintenance of the Mary Peters Track and associated pavilions in August 1996. The original agreement expired on 31/07/04.</p> <p>The former Parks and Amenities sub-committee granted approval, at its meeting on 11 May 2004 to enter into a new Facility Management Agreement with NIAF for a period of five years up to 31 July 2009 with a view to extending for a period of two years. This extension was granted in June 2009, extending the contract to July 2011. At that stage the committee agreed that the arrangement had worked very well to the advantage of the Council and ANI, with an annual increase in user figures.</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1619 568 2067"> <p>August 2011 to September 2012.</p> </td><td data-bbox="568 1619 1497 2067"> <p>The Council agreed at its meeting on 9 February 2011 to allocate £3million from the Capital Programme to upgrade the Mary Peters Track. (works included the building of the stand and relaying of the track to change it from a 6 lane to an 8 lane track).</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure committee subsequently agreed to the proposed extension of the existing facilities management agreement to 30 April 2012 and on a month-by-month basis thereafter to facilitate the capital works, and that a process to</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>August 1996 – July 2011</p>	<p>The Council entered a Facilities Management Agreement (FMA) with ANI (formerly known as NIAF), in respect of the management and maintenance of the Mary Peters Track and associated pavilions in August 1996. The original agreement expired on 31/07/04.</p> <p>The former Parks and Amenities sub-committee granted approval, at its meeting on 11 May 2004 to enter into a new Facility Management Agreement with NIAF for a period of five years up to 31 July 2009 with a view to extending for a period of two years. This extension was granted in June 2009, extending the contract to July 2011. At that stage the committee agreed that the arrangement had worked very well to the advantage of the Council and ANI, with an annual increase in user figures.</p>	<p>August 2011 to September 2012.</p>	<p>The Council agreed at its meeting on 9 February 2011 to allocate £3million from the Capital Programme to upgrade the Mary Peters Track. (works included the building of the stand and relaying of the track to change it from a 6 lane to an 8 lane track).</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure committee subsequently agreed to the proposed extension of the existing facilities management agreement to 30 April 2012 and on a month-by-month basis thereafter to facilitate the capital works, and that a process to</p>
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		procure for the facilities management of the new site being initiated in 2012.
	September 2012 to September 2018	In 2012 it was tendered again and there were two bids, one from Athletics NI and one from SERCO who run Bangor Track
	September 2018 to September 2024	<p>The current contract has been live since October 2018. It was extended initially from October 2023 to March 2024 to provide officers with time to review the existing arrangement, following concerns raised by ANI that the current arrangement was unsustainable. These concerns were largely due to financial pressure from increasing utility costs, and other capital investment requirements for the site. As mentioned above in the body of the report, previously there has been low interest in delivering this contract, as noted above. And therefore, putting the current model out to tender again risked not having a competent facility operator.</p> <p>In August/September 2024, Officers undertook to engage with stakeholders and users of the Mary Peters Track and Barnetts Demense, prior to proceeding with any procurement option for the general management of the track beyond the term of the current contract with Athletics NI. A further contact extension was requested to facilitate this request. The results of this survey is detailed below at section 3.5 to 3.9 and appendix one.</p>
	September 2024 and then again to March 2025	<p>In June 2024 ANI wrote to the Council formally requesting an uplift of £30,049 to the annual management fee to cover the current increases in utilities, insurance costs, staff costs, equipment & additional costs for TrackMark re-accreditation. A request for revenue budget was submitted and has now been approved for 25/26 and beyond, bringing the annual fee from approx. £130k per annum to £160k per annum.</p> <p>The paragraphs from 3.4 to 3.7 provide highlights from the survey and drop in sessions.</p> <p>Contract subsequently extended to March 2026 to facilitate member engagement and procurement.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Survey response</u></p> <p>Officers ran an open survey on the Councils your say platform from 16th August and 22nd September 2024. The survey was publicised through Athletics NI club network, as well as the Councils sports development networks. It was advertised on the Councils social media pages and posters were distributed in the locality. Two drop-in sessions were held at the site on 19th September. Whilst the drop-in sessions were not well attended, the online survey attracted 292 responses.</p> <p>a. <u>Overall response rate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a total of 292 responses to the survey, which ran from 16th August to 22nd September 2024. • Of those who responded, 59.1% were people who attended the Mary Peters Track at least once a week. • 6.8% of respondents said they had never visited the track before. <p>b. <u>Primary reason for visiting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83.5% of respondents said that their primary reason for visiting was for participating in sports, watching sports or training/exercise/keep fit. • Other reasons for attending included: being outside in nature (6.6%), being with family and friends (1.1%), walking the dog (2.9%) and other (5.9%). <p>c. <u>Satisfaction of service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72.4% of respondents indicated that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the facility including opening hours, carparking, maintenance, signage and information, staff presence, seating and toilet facilities. • There was notable dissatisfaction rate for current toilet facilities, with half of respondents 50% indicating that they were either somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. • In terms of overall maintenance, 66% indicated that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied. 17% indicated that they were either somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. <p>d. <u>Additional Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adequacy of the size and management of toilet facilities was mentioned a total of 193 times within the open response questions. • Car-parking facilities was mentioned 50 times by respondents within the open questions. Both opening hours and capacity, particularly on event days.
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<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in booking systems was mentioned 13 times, with reference users ability to see how many people are using the track at difference times. • The need to upgrade track equipment (e.g. starting blocks), was mentioned 40 times as being in need to investment. • Upgrading of signage, both on the track and around the park. In particular reference to the bike trails and jump park, <p>Much of the feedback from users relates to the need for investment in the facility overall, with particular attention given to the need to refurbishment and enhancement of the toilet, stand and car parking provision. This will require capital investment in region of £220k and is currently included in a list of pipeline projects requiring capital funding across the OSS estate. Officers continue to engage with Athletics NI to ensure the experience of all track users can be enhanced where possible. e.g. improving signage on the track and wider park, ensuring toilets are regularly cleaned, and that equipment is replaced / upgraded where possible.</p> <p>Mary Peters Track Management, Maintenance and Development Procurement Options</p> <p>The Council's current contract with Athletics NI has an annual fee of £160k. Officers are proposing to engage in preliminary discussion with both ANI and GLL to explore possible opportunities under our current leisure partnership agreement. as one option for the next phase of the management of the facility. The purpose of these discussions would be to assess the viability and merits of including the MPT within the partnership agreement, and to better understand how a potential tripartite partnership between the Council, Athletics NI and GLL could work to benefit the Council, site users, sports and athletics development and the wider community.</p> <p>The intended outcome of these discussions is to inform a more detailed appraisal, for members consideration. The current contract with ANI has been extended to March 2026, which would allow sufficient time to consider this and all other procurement options.</p> <p>At this stage it is envisaged that the following procurement options would be considered:</p> <p>Option One: Pre-market engagement to assess and stimulate market interest, with a view to:</p> <p>A. Awarding a new facility management arrangement, similar to the current arrangement with ANI. Timeframe for PQQ and full tender exercise would take between 6 to 9 months). As outlined above, previous tender exercises have not attracted a lot of interest.</p>
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3.8

B. Exploring alternative management arrangements E.G. lease agreement with a third party organisation. The merits of this would be assessed as part of the pre-market engagement exercise.

Capital requirements are estimated to be £220k (Toilets and recladding of grandstand upgrading and refurbishment of informal stone car park). Current management fee is £160k per annum. The include the staff costs (1 facility manager, two track assistants, Development Officer, Cleaner), insurance, opening and closing, events management, track accreditation, marketing and sports development, routine maintenance and cleaning.

Option Two: Partnership between the Council, ANI and GLL:

The current leisure partnership agreement with GLL runs to 2031. Inclusion of the MPT facility within the contract could run for an initial three-year period with a break clause at the end of the third year, and the option to renew for a further three years.

This option would allow officers scope to explore potential partnership benefits, including:

- GLL currently manages 45 athletics courses and 7 track sites across the UK. Potential for integration of automated booking systems, as well as membership and other payment options.
- Access to GLL club and community networks. ('Better gym membership levels in Belfast are extremely high, and exceeding industry norms for market penetration'. (*Extract from recent performance and compliance report presented to P&C committee in November 2024*)).
- Any partnership agreement could align with remainder of leisure partnership agreement.

3.9

Indicative timeline for Options A and B

Timeframe	Option A	Option B
April – June 2025	Review and prepare PQQ and tender documentation and specification of requirements with cps.	Preliminary discussions with both GLL and ANI to explore merits and deliverability of partnership arrangement. Review and prepare PQQ and tender documentation and

			specification of requirements with cps.
	July – September 2025	Run PQQ exercise.	If preliminary discussion are positive, prepare draft contract arrangements for review by parties and legal
	October – February 2025	Tender exercise and evaluation	New partnership arrangement begins
	March 2026	New management arrangement begins	
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Financial information is provided in the body of the report. Works are ongoing to establish future capital requirements for the site. There are no additional financial considerations at this stage. The proposed options appraisal will assess the financial impact of the options explored.</p>		
3.11	<p>Management of the track is currently outsourced. OSS carry out some of the site maintenance (grass cutting, some litter management, reactive and some routing maintenance e.g. plumbing toilets or lighting repairs) and it is envisaged this would continue with whatever option is chosen.</p>		
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>		
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached		
4.1	<p>Appendix A – Extracts from Mary Peters Track and Barnetts Demense Yoursay Questionnaire August – September 2024.</p> <p>Appendix B – Current User Figures provided by ANI</p>		

Appendix 1 – User survey results extracts

Survey Responses

16 August 2024 - 22 September 2024

Mary Peters Track and Barnett Demesne

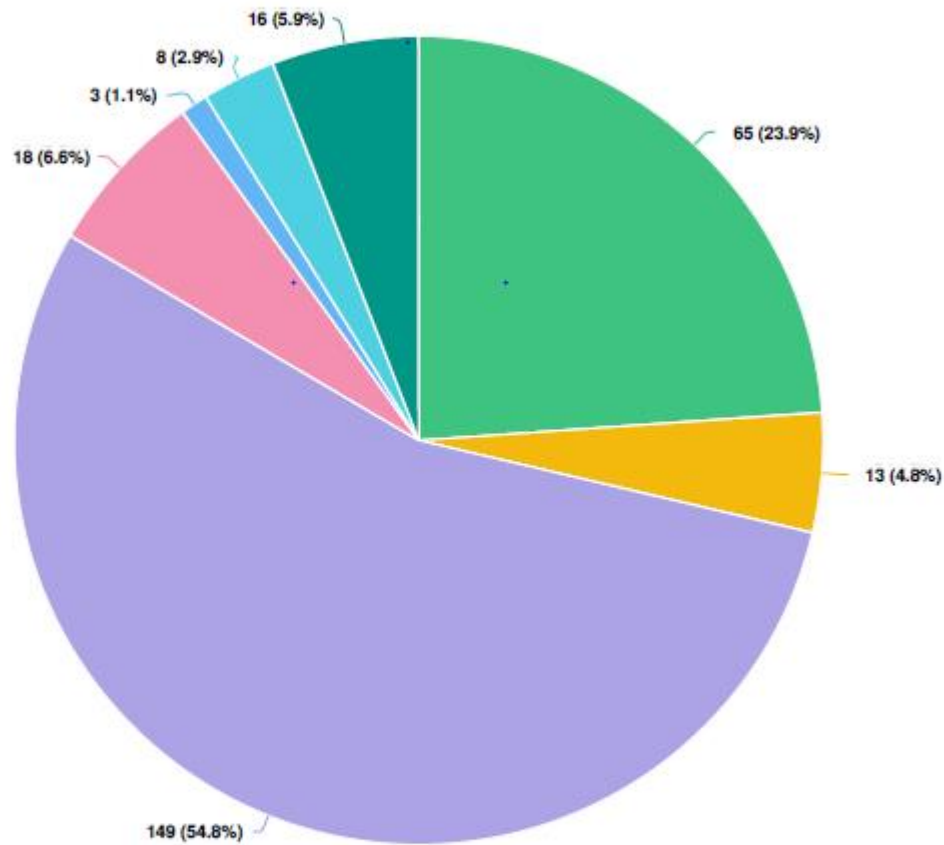
Your say Belfast

Project: Mary Peters Track and Barnett Demesne



VISITORS					
551					
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES		
289			292		
0	0	289	0	0	292
Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous

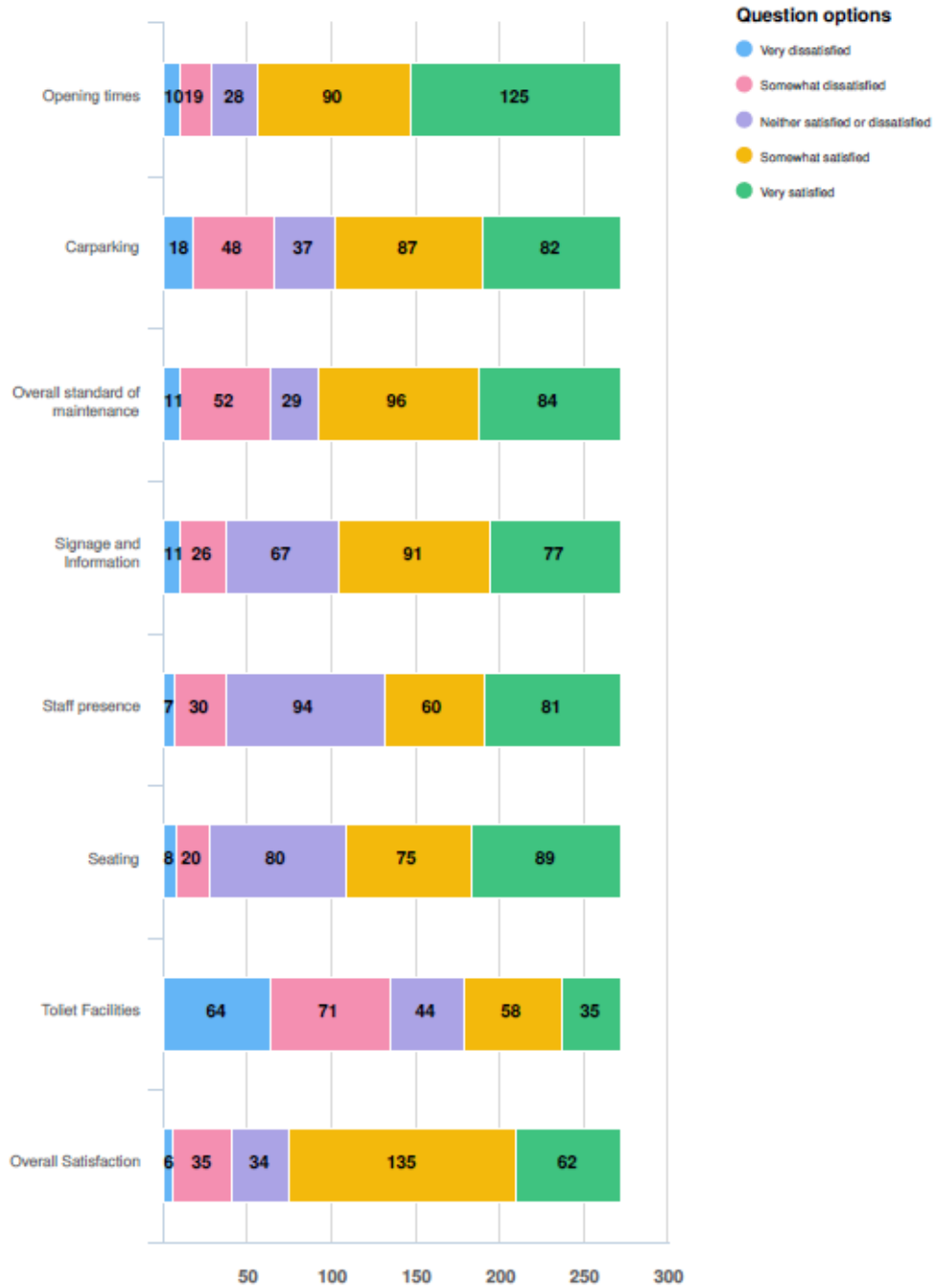
Q4 What is typically your primary reason for visiting Mary Peters Track?



Question options

- Participating in sporting event or competitions
- Watching a sporting event or competition
- Training, exercise or keep fit
- Being outside and in nature
- Being with family or friends
- Walking the dog
- Other (please specify)

Q8 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following:



Statistics

Mary Peters Track Usage	2024	2023
Sports Days	33	32
School Training Sessions	50+	40+
Ulster Schools Championships Participants	1206	-
District Schools Championships Participants	3961	-
Competitions (Including NI & Ulster Champs) Hosted	38	33
Club Usage	24 Clubs (Average 750 users) Per Week	20 Clubs (Average 600 users) per week
Student Usage (June)	14000	10000

- Mary Peters Track hosted a total of 33 school sports days' last year, these ranged from small sports days of 50 – 100 students up to very large schools sports days of 400 – 500 students.
- Over 50 schools training sessions took place at Mary Peters as each school prepared for their Districts Competitions.
- MPT was delighted to host a number of the Districts Championships and also played host to the Ulster Schools Championships for the first time and the Irish University Championships. The district's schools saw 3961 athletes take part across four districts and 1206 athletes took part in the Ulster Schools Final. While 854 athletes took part in the Irish University Championships.
- Combined over 14000 students visited Mary Peters Track in June alone.
- Mary Peters Track hosted 38 different competitions during last year which all attracted large numbers of athletes, coaches and spectators.
- 24 clubs use Mary Peters Track regularly and this equates to 600 - 900 athletes using the track in the evenings throughout the week.
- Daytime usage has seen a sharp increase with CrossFit and Hyrox athletes using Mary Peters Track regularly. This shows that Mary Peters Track is not just an athletics stadium and is playing a vital role in helping the whole community stay active in a safe environment.
- The Mary Peters Track also hosts a number of community based programs such as Buggy club, MPT Panthers and Para athlete sessions, providing a service to underrepresented groups within the BCC area.

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Subject:	Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins
Date:	Tuesday, 8 th April, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer, Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against the Notice of Motion passed on 1st November, 2023 which committed Council to “working with relevant partners, including the Public Health Agency, Government Departments, PSNI, BIDs, businesses and organisations supporting the vulnerable in the City centre core, towards the installation of specific needle/drug waste bins in key locations that are known to have high incidences of needle finds.”
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	For Members to consider the contents of the report and agree to the locating of a needle disposal bin within a Belfast City Council car park.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background and Context</u></p> <p>Following the passing of the above noted Notice of Motion, several meetings were scheduled with key partners to discuss feasibility, risks, costs and management of such needle disposal bins.</p>
3.2	The Public Health Agency (PHA), as the body responsible for needle exchange services across NI, agreed to purchase one bin and work in partnership to deliver a pilot initiative. Council Officers were tasked with reviewing data on areas with high incidences of needle finds, liaising with landowners about potential installation as well as monitoring and disposal of the needles once the bin became operational.
3.3	As a result, several sites in Belfast City Centre have been considered over the past year in consultation with outreach partners through the fortnightly City Centre Tasking Group which is chaired by a Safer City Coordinator from the Community Safety Unit. Alongside data on the number of needles removed from sites, other factors were considered including proximity to housing, community spaces and local businesses, staff access and landowner willingness.
3.4	This has been a lengthy process and has been impacted by ongoing changes to hot spot locations and in some instances, the reluctance from landowners to participate in the pilot.
3.5	In reviewing Council held statistics in 2025, and taking into consideration reports from our staff around new trends, two Council car parks have been identified as possible locations for the needle disposal bin – Little Donegal Street and Corporation Square.
3.6	Little Donegal Street has seen an increase in needle finds in recent months and both sites are highlighted as being in the top 6 locations for discarded needle reports. It should be noted that multi-story or enclosed car parks under private ownership have significantly higher reports of discarded needles, however cleansing of these locations is not the responsibility of Council and so to place the bin in such locations would require their permission and would limit future Council involvement in the pilot.
3.7	The PHA has recently suggested that if no suitable location can be found, they would be willing to allocate the bin to one of the needle exchanges, however, this may not necessarily be in the Belfast area.

3.8	Members are therefore asked to consider approving the location of the needle disposal bin in one of the two Council owned car parks; Little Donegal Street or Corporation Square, subject to further exploration about the most suitable location.
3.9	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The PHA has purchased one needle disposal bin. Monitoring and disposing of any discarded sharps will be managed within the existing budgets of operational teams involved in needle disposal for the Council. Outreach teams working in the city centre will also be asked to support the pilot in a monitoring and reporting role.
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no good relations or rural needs impacts associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None

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Subject:	Static Park Warden Pilot Update
Date:	Tuesday 8 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS, CNS Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the continuing Static Park Warden initiative and its ongoing consideration as part of a wider internal Park Warden review; and to ask Members to approve an extension into the new financial year when a revised working model will be presented for formal consideration.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and approve a final extension to the pilot initiative until such a time that a revised working model is ready for consideration.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Background Members will be aware that at People and Communities Committee on 8 th October 2024 (Appendix One) they received an update from officers on the ongoing Static Park Warden Pilot in place to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) at a number of sites now including Falls Park. At that time Committee agreed to extend the pilot to March 2025.

	<p>Key Findings – Pilot Period to Date</p>
3.2	<p>The Pilot has now been operational for a year and a half.</p> <p>ASB reporting statistics for the Pilot are now available for 19 consecutive months from September 2023 through to end of February 2024 for Dunville Park, Pairc Nui Chollann and Woodvale Park, and for a total of nine months for Falls Park.</p>
3.3	<p>The last committee report update (see Appendix 1) highlighted positive trends in relation to a reduction of incidences of reported ASB overall across the sites, albeit with a small increase at Woodvale Park.</p>
3.4	<p>Members should note that evening programming (midnight soccer and other diversionary activities) still continue to take place with likely positive impacts on ASB at these locations; and that the Pilot continues to be supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Officers and the PSNI - with good working relationships in place ensuring improved response to ASB incidents at the sites.</p>
3.5	<p>ASB reporting levels over past 6 months</p> <p>ASB reporting trend for all sites over the past 6 months of the Pilot period (September 2024 – February 2025) show a general continuation of lower reports of ASB when compared to pre-pilot figures. Trend across the sites show a 34% decrease of reported incidences overall when comparing figures over past 6 months (September 2024 – February 2025) to previous 6 month period (March- August 2024); however this is largely attributed to improvements at Falls Park on its inclusion into the pilot initiative last June. Details are as follows:</p>
3.6	<p>Falls Park - incidences of reported ASB at the site over the past 9 months (June 2024 – February 2025) have decreased by 48%, from 95 to 49 reports, when compared to previous 9-month period before its inclusion in the pilot (Sept 2023 – May 2024).</p>
3.7	<p>Dunville Park- incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (September 2024 – February 2025) have increased marginally from 1 to 4 report when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period. (March- August 2024).</p>
3.8	<p>Pairc Nui Chollann – incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (September 2024 – February 2025) have decreased from 43 to 38 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period (March- August 2024).</p>
3.9	<p>Woodvale Park - incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (September 2024 – February 2025) have increased from 34 to 38 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period (March- August 2024).</p>
	<p>Ongoing Park Warden Review and development of service operating model</p>
3.10	<p>As Member's will recall from their previous update - with support from Continuous Improvement (CI), City and Neighbourhood Services Department are currently progressing a Park Warden review, with an initial focus on evaluating the Static Park Warden Pilot.</p>
3.11	<p>Over the coming months the findings from the Static Park Warden Pilot will feed into and inform this review. This work is likely to take several months to progress and accordingly members are asked to approve an extension to the static warden pilot until the end of October 2025. The outcome of this review and any future operating model will be presented to members for consideration.</p>

3.12	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Should members agree to the extension it should be noted that the cost can be met from within existing CNS budgets.
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - People & Communities Committee report, 8th October 2024 - Static Park Warden Pilot update

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ITEM 5D – APPENDIX 1

COMMITTEE REPORT

OF 8/10/24

Subject:	Static Park Warden Pilot Update
Date:	Tuesday 8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director, CNS Jim Girvan, Operational Director, CNS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the ongoing Static Park Warden initiative including its recent expansion into Falls Park, and to ask Members to approve an extension until the end of the financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and approve an extension to March 2025.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Members will be aware that at People and Communities Committee on 9th April 2024 (Appendix One) they received an update from officers on the ongoing Static Park Warden Pilot in place to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in a number of parks. At that time Committee agreed, subject to budget, “to extend the pilot until the end of the September 2024 and that Falls Park be included as an additional site for the pilot”.</p>
3.2	<p>Key Findings – Pilot Period to Date</p> <p>The Pilot has now been operational for 13 months and as of mid-September 2024 we now have a full complement of nine Static Park Wardens working across the 4 Pilot sites. ASB reporting statistics for the Pilot are now available for 12 consecutive months from September 2023 through to end of August 2024 for Dunville Park, Pairc Nui Chollann and Woodvale Park, and for a total of three months (June-August 2024) for Falls Park.</p>
3.3	At April’s Committee Members were advised that since the start of the Pilot there has been a 26% decrease in ASB incidences reported overall for the September 23 - February ‘24 ‘Pilot period’ at the 3 park sites (61) when compared to data for the same months in the previous year prior to the Pilot commencing (82).
3.4	Further data recorded over the past six months in the three original sites show continued positive overall trends as a result of the Pilot. This includes a slight increase in figures for ASB reports for the Woodvale Park site. For Falls Park, since its inclusion in the Pilot scheme, incidences of ASB over past 3 months (June - August) have decreased by 68%

3.5	from 65 to 21 reports when compared to previous 3-month period before expansion of Pilot into the park site.
3.6	ASB reporting trend for the original three park sites over the past 6 months of the Pilot period when compared to previous 6mth (also with the Pilot period) were as follows:
3.7	Dunville Park- incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have decreased by 93% from 14 to 1 report when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period. Pairc Nui Chollann – incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have decreased by 10% from 48 to 43 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period.
3.8	Woodvale Park - incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have increased by 17% from 12 to 34 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period.
3.9	Members should note that evening programming (midnight soccer and other diversionary activities) continue to take place with likely positive impacts on ASB at these locations; and that the Pilot continues to be supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Officers and the PSNI - with good working relationships in place ensuring improved response to ASB incidents at the sites.
3.10	With support from Continuous Improvement (CI), City and Neighbourhood Services Department are currently progressing a Park Warden review with focus on the requirements for/of the role, and that of the parallel SNO and Dog Warden functions. Over the coming months the findings from the Static Park Warden Pilot will feed into this review. This work is likely to take several months to progress and accordingly members are asked to approve an extension to the static warden pilot until March 2025.
3.11	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Should members agree to the extension it should be noted that the cost can be met from within existing CNS budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - People & Communities Committee report, 9th April 2024 - Static Park Warden Pilot update



Subject:	Cavehill Mountain Biking - proposed extension of 'The Middle' to create a feeder trail
Date:	8 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officers:	Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek Member approval to a request from Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) for an extension of 'The Middle' mountain biking trail at Cavehill Country Park via the formalisation of a 'feeder trail' to the site's carpark, and its incorporation into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and CMC to facilitate trail management.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to the request from CMC to a feed trail extension to 'The Middle' mountain bike trail and its incorporation under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) via addendum.
3.0	Main report

	<p><u>Background</u></p>
3.1	<p>Members will recall that at it's February 2024 meeting they received an update on the evaluation of a Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot and agreed to a new MOU between BCC and CMC to facilitate the continuation of a partnership approach to the maintenance, management, and inspection of 'The Middle' trail. (see Appendix 1 for 6th February 2024 P&C Report: Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot – update and proposed new MOU).</p>
3.2	<p>At that time Members were advised that the new MOU permits officers to explore the viability of including further established trails at Cave Hill Country Park with CMC, and that agreement to formalise any further established trails will be brought back to Committee for consideration following satisfactory review of any trail proposal made by the club, in the context of potential impacts Country Park's natural environment and users.</p>
3.3	<p>For Member's information in regard to this – the relevant extract within the MOU reads as follows: <i>"Should CMC identify any additional trail that they wish to use for mountain biking, they shall present a formal written proposal to BCC setting out the route proposed, and any mitigating measures required having regard to the natural environment of Cave Hill Country Park and its use by the general public. BCC shall act reasonably in considering any proposal, with the final decision on whether to allow mountain biking formally on the trail to be made by BCC having regard to the general public use of Cave Hill Country Park and the natural environment of same. Should consent be given to the use of another trail after satisfactory BCC review and Council approval, then use of that trail shall be incorporated into this MoU and this MoU shall be interpreted as if it includes the additional trail"</i></p> <p>Current proposal</p>
3.4	<p>In line with the MOU governance arrangements officers and the Club continue to work collaboratively together and formally meet at quarterly operational 'contact' meetings. Through this forum CMC have brought forward a formal proposal to officers to establish a short 'feeder trail' extension to Middle Trail (see Appendix 2 Location Map of Proposed Feeder Trail). In line with the MOU this is now being presented to Members for consideration.</p>
3.5	<p>The proposal involves formalising an unused woodland trail connecting the main path at the end of 'The Middle' trail, through to a gravel path downhill close to site carpark as part of the formal mountain bike trail. The purpose of this feeder trail will be to take mountainbikers exiting 'The Middle' away from the main path and its steps, and as such avoid user conflict on the main path which channels pedestrian traffic from the trailhead to access both the Cavehill Trail (which leads to McArt's Fort), and the Estate Trail. As with the main trail, as a safety measure an additional wooden chicane with associated signage would be installed by at the end of the feeder trail with associated safety signage.</p>
3.6	<p>An Environmental assessment for the Middle Trail and route of the proposed extension was carried out by consultants in November 2024 which identified no ecological constraints in relation to the proposed extension to the Middle Trail, provided that no mature trees will be removed. All recommendations set out in the ecological study will be adhered to during path clearance works and monitored by officers, should the extension be agreed. Officers also consulted with the Planning Department who confirmed that planning consent is not required for these works.</p>
3.7	<p>Officers have updated key stakeholders including external members of the previous Project Oversight Board (CMC; Belfast Hills Partnership; Cavehill Conservation Trust) and local walker contacts on the proposal.</p>

3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The cost of the installation of a new safety chicane and design and installation of safely signage will be funded from within existing OSS revenue estimates.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – 6th February 2024 P&C Report – Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot – update and proposed new MOU Appendix 2 – Location map of proposed feeder trail

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ITEM 6E APPENDIX 1

COMMITTEE REPORT OF

6 FEBRUARY 2024

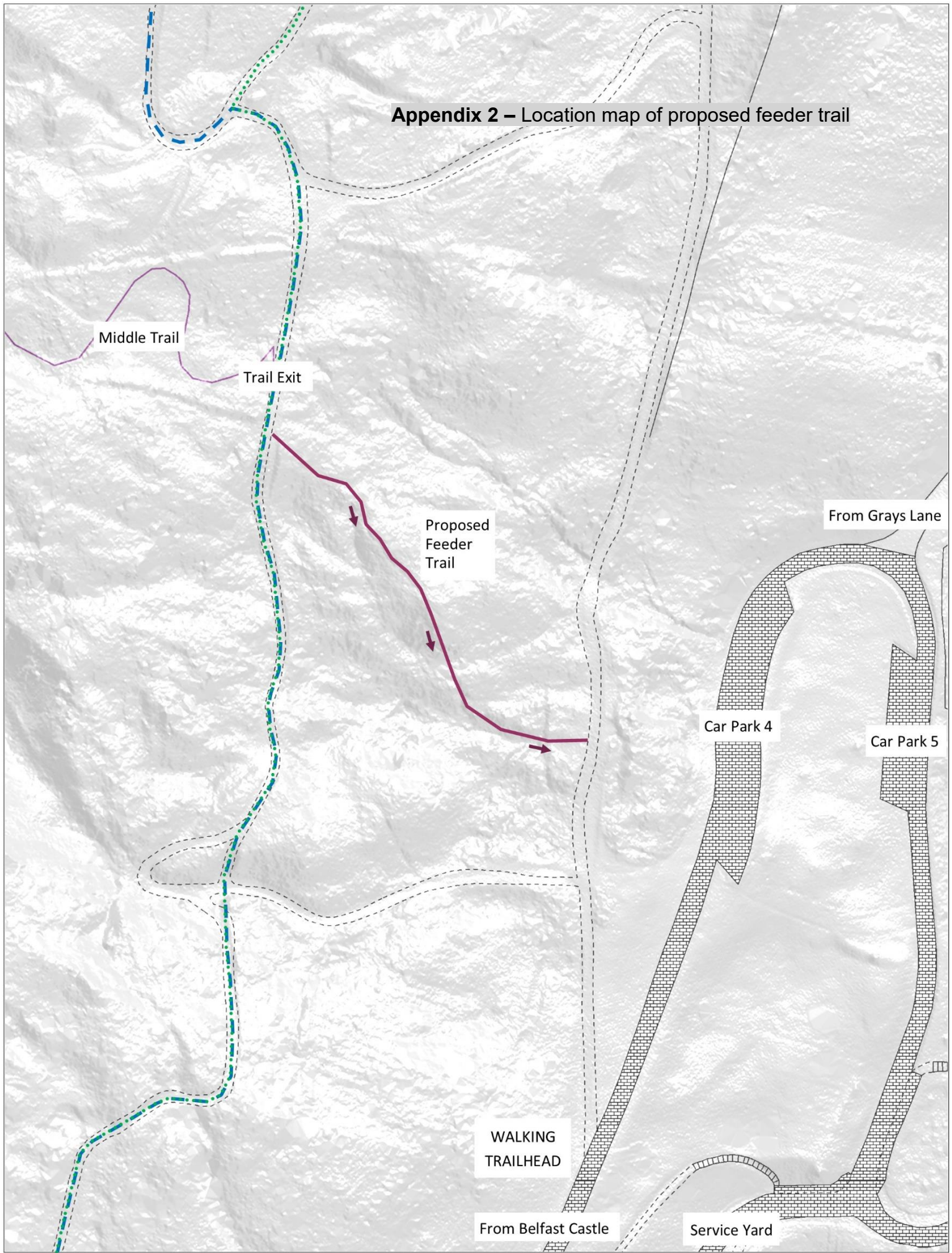
Subject:	Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot – update and proposed new MOU
Date:	6th February 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officers:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the outcome of the now complete Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot and seek Members agreement to a new 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the outcome of the Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot - Agree to a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountain Bikers Club, to be settled by Legal Services.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	At People and Communities Committee Members on 5th December 2023, Members agreed to a 2-month extension to an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountain Bikers Club (see Appendix 1). This MOU had originally been put in place on the agreement of P& C Committee in November 2021 to facilitate a Mountain Biking Pilot Project in Cavehill Country Park. The Pilot focused on a partnership approach to the maintenance, management, and inspection of the 'The Middle' - the first official mountain bike trail in Cave Hill Country Park which was formally opened for public use in October 2023 after construction by hand to temper environmental impacts.
3.2	The purpose of the recent 2-month MOU extension was to enable existing management arrangements with the Club to remain in place until the Pilot's evaluation was complete. This report outlines the key findings of that evaluation and officer's recommendation to put in place a new 3-year MOU with CMC to be settled by Legal Services.
3.3	Officers have now evaluated the pilot project using its agreed evaluation framework (see Appendix 2) and the findings are set out below.

3.4	Evaluation Findings
3.5	<p>The definition of success for the pilot project was pre-defined in an evaluation framework which set out a number of outcomes relating to partnership, operations, visitor safety and visitor satisfaction.</p> <p>The evaluation exercise has confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both BCC and CMC are content with the partnership working arrangements put in place to support the project. - The MOU had been adhered to in full. - The Middle's Trail Management Plan had been operationally delivered through the Pilot period. - Health and Safety records held by the Council have shown that there has been no increase in reported incidences or near miss collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians within Cave Hill Country Park (no incidences/near miss collisions at all recorded during 2-year Pilot period). - According to a consultation exercise on the pilot project carried out via the Council's Your Say Belfast platform visitor satisfaction was not adversely impacted by the opening of the Middle Trail. A total of 78% of respondents to the survey during the first month of the trail's official opening, agreed that their visitor experience within the Cave Hill Country Park had 'improved' since its introduction. This increased to 90.1% of respondents when the survey was repeated during the Pilot's last month.
3.6	<p>Finally, there has also been anecdotal evidence that there has been more use of the new Middle Trail by mountain bikers at the expense of the other existing informal trails in the Country Park.</p> <p>Next Steps</p>
3.7	Officers are in the process of updating the project Oversight Board (CMC; Belfast Hills Partnership; Cavehill Conservation Trust and BCC) regarding the evaluation findings and the new MOU.
3.8	The new MOU will also permit the Council to explore the viability of including further established trails at Cave Hill Country Park with CMC through similar partnership arrangements. Note that the formalisation of any further established trails will be brought back to Committee for consideration.
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – 5th December 2023 P&C Report – 'Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot update'</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Project Evaluation Framework Template</p>

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Appendix 2 – Location map of proposed feeder trail



- Cavehill Trail
- - - Estate Trail
- Middle Trail
- Proposed Feeder Trail
- ➔ Direction of Travel

Scale 1:500 at A4
Based on the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map
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Belfast City Council

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Subject:	Resources & Fleet Closed Bin Lid Policy & Removal of Liners
Date:	8 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>								

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform members of two operational issues which have Health and Safety implications and to seek approval for operational changes / policy enforcement to ensure the Health and Safety of Waste Collection Operatives as they carry out their collection duties.</p> <p>This report was discussed at PGLCF on 27th March 2025, and officers were requested to bring this report to the next People and Communities Committee.</p> <p>These issues centre round</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The practice of some households of attaching large bin liners to general domestic (black) bins and the safety requirement to prevent their use 2. The overfilling of bins and the subsequent adaptation / modification of bin lifters on the backs of vehicles following a fatality in mainland UK and the subsequent coroner's findings and recommendations. <p>Whilst necessary both changes have the potential to increase disrupt bin collections and the report also provides details as to how the service plans to mitigate against any potential disruption caused.</p>
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report and agree to the next steps as outlined in paragraph 3.29 and detailed in Appendix 2.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>In January 2014, the Council adopted its 'Waste and Recycling Collection Operation Policy' which covered the policies and procedures concerning the collection of Household Waste. For relevance, in relation to overfilled bins and unsafe bins, section 2.31 states:</p> <p>'The council may reject for collection, waste and recycling receptacles if the following reasons exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the bin is too heavy due to, for example, it contains heavy waste such as construction / DIY / soil etc; • If the bin contains hazardous or other waste material deemed to pose a risk under health and safety; • If the wrong receptacle has been presented for collection; • If unapproved multiple bins are presented (point 2.10); • If the wrong materials have been put into any receptacle (point 2.29); • If the receptacle appears to be damaged or is otherwise in an unfit state to be emptied safely;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the receptacle is not compatible with the council's waste collection vehicle; • If the receptacle contains electrical appliances / items (WEEE). (These should be disposed of through the council's bulky household waste collections, detailed in Section 3 of this policy • or at the nearest recycling centre.) • If the bin lid is not fully closed and could cause a health and safety problem; • If the bin has no lid/damage to wheels, body or axel • Domestic clinical waste'
3.2	<p>Domestic Bin Liners – Background</p> <p>Belfast City Council has an operational protocol, in alignment with the contamination policy, confirming the non-collection of comingled compostable (brown bins) and comingled dry recyclable (blue) bins, that are presented with bin liners. However, this protocol does not currently apply to residual (black) bins and as a consequence there has been a year-on-year increase in the use of bin liners is black bins across the city. It is believed that in the areas with the greatest occurrence, the bin liners are supplied and fitted by companies that provide a black bin cleaning service and examples of bin liners used are illustrated in the pictures below.</p>
3.3	<p>It has been recognised by operations that the use of these bin liners had the potential to snag on equipment and bin lifters on occasion and this had a risk of dislodging the bin from the bin lifter as it was being lowered from the collection vehicle. Risk assessments advised operators to stand in safety zones behind vehicles when emptying bins.</p>
3.4	<p>Recently a black bin detached from the lifting clamp, injuring an operative. The bin was lined with a liner tied around the clamping edge of the bin as illustrated in photograph 1 below. The investigation concluded that the liner between the clamp and the bin most likely contributed to the bin slipping out of the clamp.</p>
3.5	<p>There are currently several serious Health and Safety issues arising from the use of bin liners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin liners can impact the lifting gripping force resulting in the bin detaching and falling, placing staff and the public at risk. • Bin liner usage is not considered in any waste collections risk assessment. • Bin liners can become entangled in the lifting mechanism causing an unsafe overhead load during collection. This presents a safety risk to the operative to remove the liner (see photos 1 - 3).



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

3.6 In addition, General waste (black) bins often contain sanitary waste, pads, dressings and disposed nappies, along with dog faeces. Instances of needles have also been reported by staff. On review it has been established that bin liners contribute to the splashing/spillage of putrid substances and liquids onto staff and onto the street as the content of the liners are not fully emptied into the collection vehicle and can become entangled with the bin lifter mechanism.

3.7 Waste Collection management are currently dealing with staff impacted by waste materials falling from the bins and liners onto their persons. Putrid liquids, debris, glass, sanitary waste and surgical needles have all been reported. See photos 4 and 5 below



Photo 4



Photo 5

3.8 In order to clear the snagging of the bin liner, operators have to manually disentangle the bin liner from the lifting mechanism. Although there are Safe Systems of Work (SSOW) in place to allow this to happen, it is not best practice to have this situation occur in the first place as it still exposes the operator to any remaining waste within the liner. Given the accidents that have occurred, and the risks posed to operatives it is felt that removing this risk completely is the correct option.

3.9	<p>Waste Collections Operations have discussed the matter with Health and Safety colleagues. Departmental Health and Safety has carried out some comparisons with other Councils as to their approach to bin liners. They have advised:</p> <p><i>‘Bin liners have increasingly been raised as a safety concern across Northern Ireland. The liners have the potential to get caught on lifters or caused bin to detach for lifters which have resulted in a number to incidents and injuries to our operatives. The council has a duty of care to prevent injury to our staff, given that we are aware of the safety issues involve with these liners it would be prudent to put in place measures to eliminate this potential risk to our staff.</i></p> <p><i>Other Councils eg LCCC, ABC, CC&G, Mid & East Antrim and F&O all have put steps in place whereby bins are not collected if there is a bin liner attached to the bin.</i></p> <p><i>Failure for us to take action on this could result in further incidents/significant injury to our operatives which we could have prevented, therefore we would be liable for any claim or prosecution in light of this.’</i></p> <p>Scale of the issue</p> <p>3.10 Resources and Fleet , through the Departmental Performance and Improvement Unit, commissioned a survey in August / September 2024 to ascertain the size and spread of the issue of bin liners (alongside overfilled bins detailed below)</p> <p>3.11 The exercise covered a total of 6195 bins¹ across selected routes covering all areas of the city. It was found that found that a range, from 0% up to almost 33% of presented bins, on surveyed domestic black bin routes, had bins lined with single use plastic bin liners. Overall, a total of 6.6% of presented bins surveyed were lined. The survey would indicate that the issue of lined bins may be concentrated in areas in the West and perhaps the North of the City. See Appendix 1 - Summary of Survey Findings.</p> <p>3.12 Impact upon Bin Cleaning companies</p> <p>With the exception of prohibiting the fitting of a bin liner this measure will have no other impact upon Bin cleaning businesses. It does not prevent them from cleaning the bin. It will only prohibit the fitting of the plastic liner.</p>
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¹ The sample size will give a confidence level of 99% with a 2% margin of error

3.13	<p>Background to the Issue of Raised Bin Lids</p> <p>Operational crews have been raising for some time the issue of overfilled bins as a both a safety reason and a reason for non or missed collections.</p> <p>As per the Collections Policy mentioned above, section 2.31 states a valid reason for rejection of collection to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the bin lid is not fully closed and could cause a health and safety problem <p>Until now Waste Collections worked in a pragmatic way in that if an individual bin was open slightly then crews would be expected to collect. However, in effect this was running contrary to Council Policy.</p>
3.14	<p>Fatality in Coventry 2023 and the subsequent findings from the Coroner's report.</p> <p>However, unfortunate events have resulted in major safety issues that have a direct impact on the collection or otherwise of bins with open lids.</p>
3.15	<p>In Coventry in 2022 there was a fatality as a result of the operator being caught by the bin lifter and lifted into the back of the collection vehicle and crushed. As part of the coroner's findings, it was stated that the bin lifter mechanism, under certain circumstances, allowed bin lifts to be raised without differentiating what the bin lifter was actually lifting, causing the operator to be lifted into the back of the Refuse Collection Vehicle and subsequently crushed.</p>
3.16	<p>As part of the response and actions following the fatality referenced above, it has been made clear by the Vehicle and Bin Lift Manufacturer (Terberg / Dennis Eagle), that the practice of emptying bins with open lids runs contrary to the Operator's Training Procedure supplied by the Vehicle and Bin Lift Manufacturer, which states as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always ensure that the lids of wheeled bins are closed before presenting them to the binlift • DO NOT attempt to empty overfull wheeled bins, this can lead to spillage and falling objects which could cause personal injury or damage to the bin lift equipment
3.17	<p>They have informed Councils that allowing this practice to continue is at the user's risk.</p>
3.18	<p>In order to prevent a reoccurrence of the fatality, the bin lifter manufacturer has agreed with the coroner to carry out certain modifications to the lifting mechanism. For 'in service' vehicles there will be a 'Bin lift Compaction Control Upgrade (BCCU)' software upgrade to prevent the compaction (crushing) of items suspected of not being 'bin' waste, that may have been lifted and dropped into</p>

	the main body of the vehicle (the person may still be lifted but the compacting mechanism will be shut off).
3.19	For newly manufactured vehicles, new additional sensors will be attached to the bin lifters. Any object presented to the lifter, or enters within the safety zone of the lifter, that is greater in height than a standard bin (eg an operative or Member of the Public) will not be lifted as the sensor will disable the lifter. As a consequence, any bin presented with a raised lid will trigger the sensor and the bin lifter will cut out i.e. the vehicle will not lift overfilled domestic bins. In this instance the person will not be lifted.
3.20	This issue is of immediate concern as the Council has already taken ownership of 5 of the modified vehicles with 19 more on order, due to arrive by end of 2026. All subsequent Refuse Collection Vehicles will be designed with this safety feature as standard. If we consider that Waste Collections service currently collect approximately 54 routes per day, then currently 9% of routes cannot lift bins with raised lids and this figure will rise to approximately 48% within 2 years.
3.21	In addition, BCC has 38 'in service' vehicles. All of these have now received the software retrofit and drivers and operators are receiving refresher training on the vehicle modifications and their safe operation. As already outlined this training instructs them to operate the vehicle in line with the Operator's Training Procedure supplied by the Vehicle and Bin Lift Manufacturer as detailed in 3.18 above.
3.22	In light of these developments, it is essential to plan the cessation of the practice of emptying overfilled bins.
	Open Lid Data Survey
3.23	As outlined above, the Departmental Performance and Improvement Unit carried out a survey in August / September 2024 to ascertain the size and spread of the issue of raised bin lids.
3.24	The exercise covered the same 6195 bins across selected routes covering all areas of the city. It was found that an average of 9.5% of bins surveyed presented with raised bin lids, ranging from 2.9% up to almost 18.4% of presented bins. The survey would indicate that the issue of lined bins may be more widespread across many areas of the city. See Appendix 1 Summary of Survey Findings. Some examples of overfilled bins are shown below – (Photos 6 – 8).



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8

Next steps

3.25

A Project Team is currently in the process of developing an implementation plan in relation to tackling the two issues highlighted in this report. The draft plan includes a detailed exercise with Marketing and Comms, and proposes the following next steps. The latest iteration of the plan is attached at **Appendix 2**:

1. Phase 1 (March 2025) CMT report & political engagement. Phase 1 would also include TU & staff engagement and updating of Health & Safety documentation.
2. Phase 2 (Apr 2025) On-boarding focusing on Community engagement & Awareness and staff training
3. Phase 3 Bedding in phase 12th May 2025 for 6 weeks - Amber Bin Tags – Notify residents of non-compliance without penalty for three cycles - Monitor Reports & Feedback – Adjust messaging based on common issues.
4. Enforcement of full policy 23th June 2025 – onwards.

4.0 Appendices - Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Summary of Survey Findings
 Appendix 2 – Outline Plan as at 31/03/2025
 Appendix 3 – Mock Up Bin Tags pre and post 23rd June 2025

Appendix 1 – Summary of survey findings

Routes / Crew	Total Number of Bins	Bin lids open	% Bin Lid Against Bins	Bin with liners	% Bin Liners Against Bins
GC1	225	27	12.0	2	0.9
GC1	414	76	18.4	0	0.0
GC1	291	20	6.9	1	0.3
GC4	144	14	9.7	11	7.6
GE1	453	13	2.9	3	0.7
GE2	360	23	6.4	8	2.2
GE3	338	44	13.0	0	0.0
GN1	422	57	13.5	0	0.0
GN3	526	32	6.1	5	1.0
GN3	391	48	12.3	27	6.9
GS1	536	23	4.3	0	0.0
GS1	492	17	3.5	1	0.2
GW3	493	74	15.0	161	32.7
GW3	785	92	11.7	88	11.2
GW3	325	31	9.5	104	32.0
Total	6195	591	9.5	411	6.6

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Your bin was not fully closed or the bin was lined with a bin liner.

Your bin was collected on this occasion but, in future, bins which do not fully close or which are lined with a bin liner will not be collected.

Overfilled bins or lined bins are a safety risk to our staff and we cannot lift them safely.

Please follow these tips to make more room in your bin and make sure we can empty it safely in the future:

- recycle what you can
- use our free bulky waste collection service where needed
- make use of our recycling centres and amenity sites which accept a wide range of items
- flatten down items or bags in your bin ahead of collection day
- take additional black bags of waste to your nearest recycling centre or amenity site if space is still limited in your bin
- don't put a liner in your bin

Please remove this tag and follow the advice provided ahead of your next collection.

For more information, please visit our website or call us on 028 9027 0230.



Belfast
City Council

Your bin was not collected because the lid did not close properly or the bin was lined with a bin liner.

We cannot empty bins which do not fully close or which are lined with a bin liner. We do not provide a return collection where this has happened.

Overfilled bins or lined bins are a safety risk to our staff and we cannot lift them safely.

Please follow these tips to make more room in your bin and make sure we can empty it safely in the future:

- recycle what you can
- use our free bulky waste collection service where needed
- make use of our recycling centres and amenity sites which accept a wide range of items
- flatten down items or bags in your bin ahead of collection day
- take additional black bags of waste to your nearest recycling centre or amenity site if space is still limited in your bin
- don't put a liner in your bin

Please remove this tag and follow the advice provided ahead of your next collection.

For more information, please visit our website or call us on 028 9027 0230.



Belfast
City Council

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins

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Subject:	Integrated Advice Partnership Fund
Date:	8th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues		
1.1	The main purpose of this report is to advise members on the outcome of a second call for proposals to deliver activity that will meet the aims of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (IAPF) and seek their approval to award funds for delivery until 31 March 2026.		
2.0	Recommendation		
2.1	Members are asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the contents of the report, • approve funding for the bids received from organisations that are part of existing advice consortia • to consider and agree if the remaining unallocated IAPF budget can be used to recruit a dedicated staff member (who would be employed by one of the Lead Partners) whose role would be to co-ordinate the services offered by all BCC funded advice services. 		
3.0	Main Report		
3.1	Background information Members will recall that officers advised in November 24 of additional temporary funding from DfC through the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund for activity in 24/26. The objective of the fund is to 'Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach'.		
3.2	Following committee approval, members sought proposals from existing Lead partners within each advice consortia for projects that would meet the aims of the scheme. Advice Space (formerly Citizens Advice), submitted a project proposal and was awarded funding of £82,497 for delivery of a citywide project in January 2025, which will include delivery in central and east Belfast.		
3.3	Members agreed that council would invite further applications from all BCC funded advice organisations to allocate the remaining budget of £165,756.62. The deadline for submission of applications was 12 th March 25. The table below shows bids that were received by that date;		
	Organisation	Amount Requested	Debt Service Provision
	Upper Springfield Development Trust	£45,923	The project will deliver a range of additional debt advice to 640 beneficiaries, including; Income Maximisation , e.g. Benefit Checks Crisis Intervention to ensure those facing immediate hardship have access to basic necessities - Bryson House Emergency Relief, Warm and Well project, Social Supermarket and Food Parcels
			DEA
			Black Mountain Court

			<p>Referral to other organisations providing access to the most appropriate organisations.</p> <p>Debt Advice via money and debt services</p> <p>Cost of Living Workshops - how to navigate the complexities of managing finances and developing appropriate skills and resources.</p> <p>The provision of a Financial Wellbeing Booklet to 500 families.</p>	
	The Vine Centre	£48,867	<p>The project will provide a range of centre based and outreach activities to 365 beneficiaries.</p> <p>Augmenting the capacity of existing debt services to meet an increased level of demand. Increasing service hours offering specific debt advice available on an outreach basis.</p> <p>Developing an extended and enhanced referral network across north Belfast- increasing capacity of organisations to meet the needs of clients in relation to debt management and alleviation.</p> <p>20 workshops - focusing on debt and financial management</p> <p>Developing in partnership with the Science Shop at the University of Ulster, a website with accessible information and guidance on debt, money and financial management, and direct contact to services.</p>	Castle, Oldpark, Court
	South City Resource and Development Centre	£24,864	<p>Provision of services to 468 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The recruitment and training of Trainee Debt Advisors- Increase the capacity of the organisations to offer specific debt related services within local areas.</p> <p>Provision of additional service hours- increasing access to debt advice in a range of local facilities.</p> <p>Enhanced information services- provision of a debt advice and financial management handbook- 20,000 copies.</p> <p>Increase the number of organisations and their capacity to provide access to debt advice- including the development of a referral system</p>	Lisnasharragh, Balmoral, Botanic

	Officers have assessed these proposals and recommend that each is awarded funding as they meet the aims of the fund and scored highly against each of the agreed success criteria.						
3.4	<p>The total allocation for these projects is £119,652.87 This leaves an amount of £46,103.75 that has not been allocated. All partners within each advice consortia have had the opportunity to present proposals and there is no indication that any further proposals will be submitted if a further call was to be opened.</p> <p>Members may recall that council undertook an independent Review of BCC funded Advice Services which completed in December 2024. One of the key recommendations was that council should explore ways to enhance the current consortia model including efforts to increase co-ordination amongst existing delivery partners.</p>						
3.5	<p>Members are asked to consider and agree if the remaining unallocated budget from IAPF can be used to recruit a dedicated staff member (who would be employed by one of the Lead Partners) whose role would be to co-ordinate the services offered by all BCC funded advice services. This would meet the key aim of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund, which is; ‘to test proposals which focus on enabling better integration of funding/services, collaboration for early intervention and prevention to increase the reach of debt advice. This approach is grounded in collaborative advice partnerships; connecting services to improve the uptake of debt advice reach via an integrated approach.’</p>						
3.6	<p>At the time of writing, officers have not concluded consultation with all lead partners and consortia to identify the organisation best placed to employ this staff member, a verbal update on this process can be provided at committee. Funds are currently only available to fund this post until 31 March 26; if approved it would be introduced on a pilot basis and its effectiveness evaluated with a view to being funded on an ongoing basis through available advice funding if the post proves to be effective.</p>						
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The administration of this fund will be carried out by existing staff, there is no financial impact for council as 100% funding is being provided by DfC. The allocation for Belfast is as listed below.</p> <table><tr><td>24/25</td><td>25/26</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>£160,804.82</td><td>£87,448.66</td><td>£248,253.48</td></tr></table> <p>Members will know that advice funding is allocated on an area basis and members agreed in January that they would use the agreed allocation model for each consortia. The table below shows the percentage of the remaining budget that should be allocated to each area. However, given that no bids from central and east were received and that the entire budget has not been used, it is recommended that members provide the full requested allocation to each of the bids received. It is also worth noting that the Advice Space proposal which has already been funded covers all areas of the city; the north bid will also cover the Court DEA (Shankill) and that the South bid will also include Lisnasharragh.</p>	24/25	25/26	Total	£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48
24/25	25/26	Total					
£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48					

	Area	% Allocation Model	
	Central	£10,768.76	
	East	£17,349.67	
	North	£31,109.75	£48,867
	South	£18,546.19	£24,864
	West	£41,878.50	£45,923
	Total	£119,652.87	
3.8	<p>DfC have advised that any underspends in 24/25 can be carried forward to 25/26. Members should note that this is temporary funding which ends in March 26.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council is undertaking a screening exercise which will be concluded when allocations are agreed.</p>		
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached		
	N/A		

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Subject:	Partnership Agreements 25/26
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer Community Provision Cormac McCann, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 														
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>		After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>		Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>		Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>													
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>													
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>													
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>													

Is this report eligible for call in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members of the existing Partnership Agreements that are in place to deliver services aligned to Neighbourhood Services activity. Members are asked to approve future funding to continue these partnership agreements in 25/26.

2.0	Recommendations										
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to continue funding to each of the partners at the same level for the 25/26 financial year (£91,209) • Note that council is not in a position to provide an inflationary award to these groups there is no additional in year budget. 										
3.0	Main report										
	<u>Background</u>										
3.1	Members are aware that City & Neighbourhood Services work in partnership with a number of organisations that share common strategic objectives and that some of this work is supported through annual funding agreements to deliver against agreed outcomes.										
3.2	In 2021/22, an extensive review of the Partnership Agreements listed below was completed; the review concluded that the agreements provided strategic alignment, added value to the Council/City and were value for money. In line with these findings, council agreed that these partnership funding arrangements should continue at the same level to deliver services since that time.										
3.3	Members are asked to approve that these awards be issued at the funding levels indicated in the table below for 25/26.										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th><th>Funding</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Keep NI Beautiful (Live Here Love Here and Eco Schools Project)</td><td>£55,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mary Peters Trust</td><td>£5,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bryson Energy (previously Play Resource)</td><td>£31,209</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td><td>£91,209</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Funding	Keep NI Beautiful (Live Here Love Here and Eco Schools Project)	£55,000	Mary Peters Trust	£5,000	Bryson Energy (previously Play Resource)	£31,209	TOTAL	£91,209
Project	Funding										
Keep NI Beautiful (Live Here Love Here and Eco Schools Project)	£55,000										
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Bryson Energy (previously Play Resource)	£31,209										
TOTAL	£91,209										
3.4	<p><u>Financial implications</u></p> <p>The total financial allocation to these partner funding arrangements is £91,209. These budgets have been agreed as part of rate setting for 25/26.</p>										
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>These agreements have been found to support delivery of Belfast Agenda outcomes and as such will have a positive impact on Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs.</p>										
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached										
4.1	N/A										



Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events
Date:	Tuesday 8 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual. 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction. 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across our parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VE80 East Belfast Party at the Square – CS Lewis Square • Mary's Meals Step by Step Sponsored Walk – Falls Park
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
2.2	<p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><u>Legacy Network - VE80 East Belfast Party at the Square – CS Lewis Square</u></p>
3.2	<p>Belfast City Council have received a request from Legacy Network to host their VE day celebration at CS Lewis Square. They have provided us with the following information regarding their organisation.</p>
3.3	<p>"Legacy Network is a new community and cultural organisation that was constituted in March 2024. Since its inception, it has been delivering a variety of community and cultural events in East Belfast and North Down that seek to raise awareness of history and heritage, bring people together, enhance individual well-being and promote positive and edifying forms of cultural expression. The Legacy Network's mission is to create a peaceful, confident, and empowered community. We aim to do this by creating capacity, upskilling, peacebuilding and providing people with pathways to a more peaceful and fulfilling future. We aim to explore history, heritage and raise awareness of culture and identity."</p>
3.4	<p>Their proposed event is a VE80 celebration day to take place at CS Lewis Square to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war. It is free for all to attend. The event will be a street style party atmosphere that will include children's entertainment, musical performances, educational games and historical displays.</p>

	<p>At 9.30pm a beacon will be lit onsite, and they have requested permission to have a firework display to close out the event. Key dates for the event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Up – 1pm on Thursday 8 May 2025 • Main Event – 7pm to 10pm on Thursday 8 May 2025 • De-Rig – 11om on Thursday 8 May 2025 <p><u>Mary's Meals Step by Step Sponsored Walk – Falls Park</u></p>
3.5	<p>Belfast City Council have received a request from Mary's Meals to host a sponsored walk at Falls Park. Mary's Meals is a charity set up to deal with world hunger. They provide 2.6 million children in 16 of the world's poorest countries with a daily meal in school.</p>
3.6	<p>The organisers have requested permission to collect money on site for people to make donations through collection buckets and to set a gazebo up on site to provide additional information to those attending. 100% of all money raised will be donated to the charity. Their registered Charity Number is SC022140. Key dates for the event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up – 12pm on Saturday 14 June 2025 • Main Event – 12.30pm to 1.45pm on Saturday 14 June 2025 • De-Rig – 2pm on Saturday 14 June 2025
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no known implications.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Lower Shankill Park – Bespoke agreement with Denmark Street Community Association to support access and animation.
Date:	08 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources and Fleet and OSS.

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction.
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek approval from Committee for Denmark Street Community Association to enter into a bespoke agreement with Council to provide access to and assist with the animation and programming of the recently developed Lower Shankill Park and Community Garden.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That Council enters into an agreement with Denmark Community Street Association to enable local operation, key handling and access to Lower Shankill Community Garden and other facilities within the recently developed Lower Shankill Park.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background/Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members will recall a paper which was presented to the People and Communities Committee in October 2023 approving that where management arrangements with local community organisations exist that £15k budget be made available to the agreement holder subject to officer approval. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix 1.
3.2	An annual budget of £15k was allocated to all new parks to support access and promote positive animation at each of newly established or refurbished sites.
3.3	Council Officers have been working with Denmark Street Community Association since the opening of the new park and have developed a key holding agreement which supports access and activity outside normal park operating hours. The group have been providing key holding for the site and facilitating access to activity and programming for the past year.
3.4	The organisation want access to some of the money to support the key holding arrangements, litter picking and community programming.
3.5	The group has also recognised that Council is best placed to purchase certain materials for the community growing space and also to procure safe and reputable vendors to deliver activity at community events and programming, so they want access to only £5k of the overall budget to support their role in programming and making the space accessible for the local community.
3.6	The Community Garden is kept locked when not in use. The organisation also assists with the opening and closing of the MUGA and playpark, duties undertaken normally by Open Spaces and Street Scene operatives. This effective operation facilitates local community access to facilities outside of normal operating hours and encourages positive use of the space when otherwise would be susceptible to antisocial behaviour.
3.7	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> If approved, the cost of this proposal is included within existing revenue estimates. It commits an amount of £5,000 per annum from an existing £15,000 per annum animation budget to support the proposed keyholder and animation proposal.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality or Good Relations implications related to this decision.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – People and Communities Committee report – Páirc an Lonnáin – October 23

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ITEM 5K - APPENDIX 1

COMMITTEE REPORT OF 10/10/23

Subject:	Páirc an Lonnáin
Date:	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann, Lead Officer Community Provision

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide a report as requested by Councillor Black at Council on 4 September 2023 in relation to the operation of the Páirc an Lonnáin and the reinstatement of the temporary facility management agreement that had previously been in place.
1.2	To agree an approach to local management and programming of the facility.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That Council enters into a five-year Agreement with Falls Residents Association to enable local operation of the site, to include keyholding, litter picking and community programming which will maximise the opportunities from the capital investment and minimise the negative impact which anti-social behaviour had on the area prior to the site development.
2.2	That an annual programming budget of £15,000 is allocated for all new parks.
2.3	Where Council approves management arrangements with a local organisation, this budget is made available to the Agreement holder, subject to officer approval of a planned programme and subsequent reporting.
2.4	If People & Communities Committee agree with the suggested approach of providing £15k pa funding for all new parks, then this matter should be referred to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration as part of the estimates process.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	People and Communities Committee of 6 November 2018, within a report on asset acquisition, approved the establishment of a bespoke management arrangement at the Building Successful Communities regeneration project at Páirc an Lonnáin.
3.2	Officers worked with the local community organisation and developed a key holding agreement which supported access and activity at the site outside normal park opening

	hours. The group have been providing key holding for the site and continue to deliver a diverse range of programmes.
3.3	Whilst the Agreement holder is undertaking duties previously undertaken by Open Spaces and Street Scene operatives, the key holding Agreement does not include an annual amount which Council would provide to the Agreement holder. Following opening of the regenerated park, Council provided financial support of £15,000 for the initial year of operation for evidenced activity programming costs. Council provided further financial support of approximately £2,000 through Parks Outreach budgets for Halloween and Christmas activity in 2022. No further payments have been made to the group.
3.4	The work of this group at the site is saving Council revenue budget in terms of litter collection and maintenance, whilst their work in promoting positive animation at the site also safeguards against ASB behaviour and damage/repair costs which are high at nearby sites such as Dunville and Falls Parks. The group is currently receiving no funding from council and a revised Agreement would remedy this situation and ensure local supervision and community operation of the site.
3.5	Officers have recognised the need for significant growth in budgets to support operational and maintenance activity at all new parks. It is also important that specific budgets are in place to animate new spaces to ensure achievement of planned outcomes from capital investment.
3.6	Existing budgets within the Parks Events and Outreach team are stretched to support planned programming and development activity at current sites. Animation of new assets requires intensive delivery of programmes to kick start local activity which in some locations will move towards long term self-sufficient programming. Currently there are seven new parks assets, recently operating or due to come into operation, which do not have specific animation budgets for early development of local community programming.
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This report will commit an amount of £15,000 per annum to support a revised Agreement at this site, this amount is not currently included in any revenue budgets. Consideration should be given to adopting this programming budget at all new parks.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>This approach at Páirc an Lonnáin will ensure that the local community manage key holding of a Council asset and develop appropriate programming at the site for local</p>

3.9	<p>community benefit. The availability of a programme budget at all new parks will help to ensure that positive animation is in place from the outset of the asset's life.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for six

	existing streets within the city.																												
2.0	Recommendation																												
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Grace Street, Sussex Place, Russell Street, Russell Place, Lavinia Mews and Elisa Street Close																												
3.0	Main Report																												
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																												
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																												
3.3	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr><tr><td>Grace Street</td><td>Sráid Ghráinne</td><td>Off Hamilton Street, BT2</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Sussex Place</td><td>Plás Sussex</td><td>Off Alfred Street, BT2</td><td>65</td></tr><tr><td>Russell Street</td><td>Sráid Ruiséil</td><td>Off Alfred Street, BT2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Russell Place</td><td>Plás Ruiséil</td><td>Off Grace Street, BT2</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>Lavinia Mews</td><td>Eachlann Lavinia</td><td>Off Ormeau Road, BT7</td><td>44</td></tr><tr><td>Eliza Street Close</td><td>Clós Shráid Eilíse</td><td>Off Stewart Street, BT7</td><td>80</td></tr></table>	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Grace Street	Sráid Ghráinne	Off Hamilton Street, BT2	14	Sussex Place	Plás Sussex	Off Alfred Street, BT2	65	Russell Street	Sráid Ruiséil	Off Alfred Street, BT2	2	Russell Place	Plás Ruiséil	Off Grace Street, BT2	31	Lavinia Mews	Eachlann Lavinia	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	44	Eliza Street Close	Clós Shráid Eilíse	Off Stewart Street, BT7	80
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Sussex Place	Plás Sussex	Off Alfred Street, BT2	65																										
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Russell Place	Plás Ruiséil	Off Grace Street, BT2	31																										
Lavinia Mews	Eachlann Lavinia	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	44																										
Eliza Street Close	Clós Shráid Eilíse	Off Stewart Street, BT7	80																										
3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																												
3.5	In accordance with the Council’s policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.																												
3.6	Grace Street, BT2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">6 occupiers (42.86%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.																												
3.7	Sussex Place, BT2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">16 occupiers (24.62%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.																												

3.8	<p>Russell Street, BT2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 occupier (50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.9	<p>Russell Place, BT2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 occupiers (41.94%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 2 occupiers (6.45%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
3.10	<p>Lavinia Mews, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 occupiers (27.27%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.11	<p>Eliza Street Close, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 occupiers (15%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
	<u>Assessment against policy</u>
3.12	<p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.13	<p>All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.14	<p>There is a cost of approximately £1800 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.15	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations, and rural needs.</p>
3.16	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	Applications for dual language street signs with the second language in Irish for Applications for dual language street signs for Mount Merrion Avenue, Isoline Street, Onslow Gardens, Lismain Street, Kimberley Street and Loopland Drive.
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider if a street survey of occupiers will be carried out for six applications for the erection of dual language street signs in Irish within the city where potential adverse impacts have been identified by the initial assessments. Objections have also been received from an elected member for Mount Merrion Avenue and Isoline Street.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider the report and matters raised in relation to the applications for dual language street signs in Irish received for Mount Merrion Avenue, Isoline Street, Onslow Gardens, Lismain Street, Kimberley Street, Loopland Drive and either: <p>a) Agree that surveys of occupiers of these streets be carried out.</p> <p>or</p> <p>b) Agree that no surveys will be carried out on the grounds of the potential adverse impacts identified and these applications are closed.</p>
	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	The Dual Language Street Sign policy states that <i>“each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs and where any adverse impacts are identified that information will be brought to Committee.”</i>
3.3	The initial assessments were carried out for all the streets listed and potential adverse impacts were identified. Draft equality screenings were therefore carried out, assessing the request for dual language street signs in Irish for Mount Merrion Avenue, Isoline Street, Onslow Gardens, Lismain Street, Kimberley Street and Loopland Drive for equality and good relations issues.
3.4	The screenings have identified that the carrying out of surveys and the erection of Irish language street signs in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension. Conversely the screenings also identified that the process could assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The findings are outlined in the equality and good relation section below.
3.5	Objections have also been received from elected members for Mount Merrion Avenue and Isoline Street, during the elected member notification procedure.

3.6	<p>Mount Merrion Avenue – Cllr Davy Douglas, member for Lisnasharragh raised an objection stating: -</p> <p><i>“Mount Merrion is a mixed area bisecting the Cregagh estate and Flush Park, both traditional unionist areas. There have been issues in the area in recent years around messaging and posters on the Cregagh bonfire, election posters being stolen etc however a lot of progress has been made in the past couple of years. I feel that the adoption of Irish street signage could be seen as divisive and have an adverse impact on good relations within the community, undoing some of the progress that has been made to date. I would therefore ask that the Council exercise its discretion not to apply its policy at this location”</i></p>
3.7	<p>Isoline Street – Cllr Ruth Brooks, member for Titanic raised an objection stating: -</p> <p>Demographics:</p> <p><i>“According to the 2021 census results, this street and neighbouring streets (classed as Titanic_W2) has a population of 352 people across 220 households. Of this figure, 8% claim to have ‘some ability’ in Irish, meaning that approximately 28 people would have some ability to understand an English-Irish dual language sign.</i></p> <p><i>In comparison, 11% of this area have some ability in Ulster-Scots. This community do not want street signs in either language”.</i></p> <p><i>“The enforcement of Irish language street signs in this context may attempt to garner respect for the language, but it will unlikely encourage genuine acceptance or a positive sentiment within the community”.</i></p> <p>Cultural and Political Sensitivities:</p> <p><i>“The neighbouring street of Clara Street is used as a loyalist parade route throughout the year. The introduction of street signs in Irish within this area will be interpreted as political and culturally insensitive, and antagonistic”.</i></p> <p><i>“Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Belfast City Council need to have a due regard for promoting equality and fostering good relations. The implementation of Irish in an area that has no natural ties with the language but strong loyalist ties, will be seen to contravene this obligation and heighten tensions”.</i></p>

	<p><i>“Understanding that this application was first lodged in 2022, I wish to request that the Council exercises its residual discretion under the Dual Language Street Sign Policy to not proceed with the application for English-Irish Street signs in Isoline Street”.</i></p>
3.8	<p>These applications are therefore being brought to Committee to determine if surveys of residents of these streets will take place, considering this information.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If it is decided to carry out surveys, the resulting tasks are included within the normal resources for the process.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>An EQIA was carried out on the main Dual Language Street Signs policy in 2021-22. This confirmed the initial assessment process to be carried out, which may indicate the requirement for equality screening.</p>
3.11	<p>The applications for dual language street signs (with the second language in Irish) Mount Merrion Avenue, Isoline Street, Onslow Gardens, Lismain Street, Kimberley Street and Loopland Drive were assessed for equality of opportunity and good relations issues through the initial assessment process. This process identified that the potential for adverse impact existed and recommended further screening prior to referral to committee for authority to proceed to survey.</p>
3.12	<p>The draft screenings have identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore has the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It is acknowledged; however, the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.</p>
3.13	<p>The applications were also presented to elected members as part of the elected member notification procedure and objections were received from Cllr Davy Douglas with regard to Mount Merrion Avenue and from Cllr Ruth Brooks with regard to Isoline Street. The members were concerned about the potential for adverse impacts on good relations with full details of their objections in paragraphs 3.5-3.13 above.</p> <p>The council retains ‘residual discretion’ in relation to these applications. In effect this gives elected members the option to not proceed to survey and/ or halt the erection of an Irish</p>

	language street sign in this street where, in the view of elected members taking into account the agreed criteria, this action would be considered inappropriate.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None

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Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs at Raphael Street and McClure Street
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control.
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs on Raphael Street and McClure Street which are outside the Street Naming and Numbering Policy as there are either no properties and occupiers residing on the street (Raphael Street) or no occupiers on the electoral list (McClure Street)
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider the contents of the report and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to Raphael Street to determine if the application should proceed to the agreed additional consultation process for City Centre streets before being brought back to committee. 2. In relation to McClure Street to agree that the application survey should be deferred to allow sufficient time for the electoral register updates to take place enabling the normal survey process to be undertaken. The revised register is published in December each year
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to take account of the views of the occupiers of the premises in the street. The Council will normally canvass all people appearing on the electoral register of the street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second language.
3.3	The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.
3.4	In addition, the EQIA carried out in respect of the Policy states that any decision relating to the erection of a second nameplate in the city centre (business core) will, in addition to the current policy considerations and the survey of occupiers, be subject to a wider public consultation to reflect the community of users in accordance with the Council's policy on placing public adverts.
	<u>Raphael Street</u>
3.5	In relation to Raphael Street there are no properties located on the street and therefore no occupiers residing on the street to be surveyed.
3.6	There are a number of other streets in the immediate area which have been approved for dual language signs (Cromac Street, Catherine Street, Eliza Street Terrace, Lower Stanfield Street and Upper Stanfield Street). The adjacent street (McAuley Street) failed to meet the minimum 15% threshold when surveyed in January 2025 and this application has been closed.

3.7	In addition, Raphael Street has been identified as being situated within the city centre boundary agreed for the purposes of the dual language streets signs policy.								
3.8	For streets that meet the 15% threshold of occupiers in favour of the proposal and which fall within the city centre boundary, the current process is to take these streets through an additional public consultation in the form of newspaper adverts. These adverts are placed in Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter and Irish News to give the community of users an opportunity to provide representations in relation to the proposal. Any street which does not meet the 15% threshold is closed in line with process, subject to consideration of any exceptional circumstances.								
3.9	However, as this street has no occupiers and it has not been possible to carry out a survey, members are asked to consider if the application should proceed to this additional consultation.								
3.10	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>Raphael Street BT7 2DD</td><td>Sráid Raphael</td><td>Off Cromac Street BT7</td></tr></table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Raphael Street BT7 2DD	Sráid Raphael	Off Cromac Street BT7
English Name	Non- English Name	Location							
Raphael Street BT7 2DD	Sráid Raphael	Off Cromac Street BT7							
3.11	The translation was authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.								
	<u>McClure Street</u>								
3.12	McClure Street has 22 newly constructed properties which have recently become occupied. There are currently no residents registered on the electoral register, and therefore no data to allow the completion of a survey in accordance with policy.								
3.13	In addition, there are no other properties located on this street in which the views of occupiers, owners or tenants in possession can be canvassed.								
3.14	The electoral office has advised that electoral information is continually updated as new registrations are received with a new publication of the list created each December. They have also advised they will write to occupants of new properties providing an opportunity to register but this is a voluntary process. In these circumstances it is proposed that the application survey be deferred until publication of the new electoral list in December 2025 to allow for the standard process to take place.								
3.15	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>McClure Street BT7 1FW</td><td>Sráid Mhic Giolla Uidhir</td><td>Off Ormeau Road BT7</td></tr></table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	McClure Street BT7 1FW	Sráid Mhic Giolla Uidhir	Off Ormeau Road BT7
English Name	Non- English Name	Location							
McClure Street BT7 1FW	Sráid Mhic Giolla Uidhir	Off Ormeau Road BT7							
3.16	The translation was authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.								
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>								
3.17	The cost of public consultation in relation to Raphael Street is within existing budgets. There are currently three other streets which have met the 15% threshold at street survey which are being taken through this process. These applications are being held to minimise advertising costs pending the outcome of this report.								

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.18	Applications for dual language street signs are subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations, and rural needs. Applications are also presented to elected members who are given the opportunity to raise any adverse impacts on equality or good relations through a member notification process.
3.19	The initial assessments and elected member notifications carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts on the ground of equality, good relations or rural need.
4.0	Appendices
	None