

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



**Belfast
City Council**

4 November 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, 4th November, 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:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Correspondence re: Annadale Embankment pedestrian crossing to Lagan Gateway (Pages 1 - 4)**
3. **Schedule of Meetings 2026 (Pages 5 - 6)**
4. **Restricted**
 - (a) Request for the use of Ormeau Park - Belsonic (Pages 7 - 10)
 - (b) Greenwich Leisure Limited - contract compliance and performance (six-monthly update) (Pages 11 - 28)
 - (c) Healthwise and Physical Activity Referral Programme (six-monthly update) (Pages 29 - 36)

- (d) Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group (Pages 37 - 40)
- (e) Appointment of a Public Analyst (Food Safety Order) (Pages 41 - 42)

5. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Imagination Library (Pages 43 - 46)

6. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) People and Communities Committee Plan (Pages 47 - 68)
- (b) Partnership Liaison Officer (HSCNI part-funding) (Pages 69 - 76)
- (c) Partnership Agreements 2025/26 (Pages 77 - 80)

7. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Belfast Boxing Strategy 2025/26 (quarters 1 and 2 update) (Pages 81 - 86)
- (b) Commonwealth Games NI - Request for Financial Support for Glasgow 2026 (Pages 87 - 100)
- (c) Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2025/26 (quarter 1 and 2 update) (Pages 101 - 110)
- (d) 'School Streets' - Air Quality Monitoring Report (Pages 111 - 144)
- (e) Resources and Fleet Waste - Update (Pages 145 - 156)
- (f) Request for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields (annual Easter Circus) (Pages 157 - 160)
- (g) Management of Invasive Species (Himalayan Balsam) (Pages 161 - 164)
- (h) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 165 - 168)

8. **Issue Raised in Advance**

- (a) Environmental Health - Staffing and Capacity (Chairperson to raise)
- (b) Leaf Clearance from Roads and Pavements (Councillor McKeown to raise)
- (c) Consultation Process for the Pedestrian Crossing at Knockbreda Road - (Councillor Abernethy to raise)

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Subject:	Annadale Embankment pedestrian crossing to the Lagan Gateway
Date:	4th November, 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on a response received in relation to the above-mentioned matter.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the meeting on 6th August, Councillor de Faoite, with the permission of the Chairperson, requested that the Committee agree to write to the Minister for Infrastructure - and the Active Travel Unit - to support the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Annadale Embankment to access the Lagan Gateway. The Committee acceded to the request.
3.2	A response (Appendix 1) has since been received from the Minister, Liz Kimmins MLA, which addresses also the correspondence which was sent to the Active Travel Unit.
4.0	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from the Minister.

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Eilish McGoldrick
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Private Office
3rd Floor, James House
Gasworks Site
2 - 4 Cromac Street
Belfast
BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: COR-0783-2025
13 October 2025

Eilish, a chara,

LAGAN GATEWAY PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2025 on behalf of Belfast City Council's People and Communities Committee to express their support for a pedestrian crossing under Lagan Gateway Phase 2.

With regards to the provision of a pedestrian crossing within this area. Officials have advised that an assessment was carried out on Annadale Embankment in the vicinity of College Drive on 8 June 2023.

Whilst the survey indicated there is indeed a demand for a crossing, the result of the assessment currently places this location 68th on the prioritised list of potential sites assessed for a controlled crossing in the Belfast area. As such, it is unlikely this site will attract funding in the near future. Officials will, however, continue to keep this location on our list of potential sites for consideration for inclusion in programmed works in future years.

A further survey was completed on Annadale Avenue at Mornington on 9 November 2023. The survey indicated that this location did not meet the minimum requirement for a pedestrian crossing, and we therefore have no current plans to introduce a pedestrian crossing at this location.

Delivery of Active Travel projects investment in Belfast is primarily focused on the delivery of the short-term Belfast Cycling Network schemes. Annadale Embankment and Annadale Avenue are not currently being prioritised for consideration.

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LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

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Subject:	Committee Schedule Report
Date:	4th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer
Contact Officer:	As above.

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report												
	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of meetings in 2026.												
2.0	Recommendation												
	The Committee is requested to approve the 2026 schedule.												
3.0	Main report												
3.1	The Committee is requested to approve the following dates for 2026. As previously requested, no meetings will occur on the day following Council meetings. To that end, Members should note that the Committee will meet on *Wednesday 4th March. Meetings with NIHE and the Youth Council will be agreed in due course. All meetings will commence at 5.15pm. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Tuesday 13th January</td><td>July – no meeting</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 10th February</td><td>Tuesday 11th August</td></tr> <tr> <td>*Wednesday 4th March</td><td>Tuesday 8th September</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 14th April</td><td>Tuesday 6th October</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 12th May</td><td>Tuesday 10th November</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 9th June</td><td>Tuesday 8th December</td></tr> </table> <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None	Tuesday 13th January	July – no meeting	Tuesday 10th February	Tuesday 11th August	*Wednesday 4th March	Tuesday 8th September	Tuesday 14th April	Tuesday 6th October	Tuesday 12th May	Tuesday 10th November	Tuesday 9th June	Tuesday 8th December
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*Wednesday 4th March	Tuesday 8th September												
Tuesday 14th April	Tuesday 6th October												
Tuesday 12th May	Tuesday 10th November												
Tuesday 9th June	Tuesday 8th December												
4.0	Appendices – N/A												

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Imagination Library
Date:	4 th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ewa Bajorek – Play Development Officer

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

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To advise committee of completion of actions to establish Belfast City Council's Imagination Library pilot project following a Notice of Motion.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That committee notes the work carried out to date to establish the project, that officers will continue to manage the project and agree that the Notice of Motion is closed.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	People and Communities committee of 6 th December 2022 adopted a Notice of Motion referred from the 24 th November 2022 Business and Standards Committee and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting.
3.2	People and Communities committee of 7 th March 2023 agreed to defer a report which was presented by officers. This was to enable the proposer of the motion to liaise further with Council officers regarding the proposal and the anticipated costs in advance of a report being submitted to a future meeting.
3.3	The Special People and Communities committee of 29 th January 2025 agreed a non-recurrent amount of £10,000 would be allocated to support the pilot project.
3.4	Following engagement with the project delivery partner, Dollywood Foundation, in line with the standard operating model for the scheme, Council has agreed a contract to supply age-appropriate reading materials to a pilot cohort of 75 children for a period of 5 years.
3.5	The opportunity was very positively received on council's Facebook page, with 566 people liking the post and 149 sharing it.
3.6	Registrations to the project commenced on 1 st October 2025, with the Registrar's Office working directly with families registering their babies and encouraging them to sign up to the scheme. All 75 places were allocated within four days.
3.7	A celebration event, hosted by the Lord Mayor, was organised in City Hall on Thursday 23 rd October. Attendees included representatives from the Dollywood Foundation, families supported by the scheme and potential partners who may support extension of the scheme via financial support in the future. Family friendly activities were organised by the Play Services team.
3.8	Play Services will undertake regular monitoring of the scheme, in collaboration with the Dollywood Foundation, for the duration of the pilot project.
3.9	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no additional resource implications from this report.

3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications from this report.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None.

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Subject:	2025-26 People and Communities Committee Plan Six-Month Update
Date:	04 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance, and Improvement Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Insert number

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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

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This paper provides a mid-year progress update on the key actions contained in the 2025-

	26 People and Communities (P&C) Committee Plan, as agreed by the Committee in May 2025.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the content of the mid-year progress report against the agreed actions within the 2025-26 People and Communities Committee Plan.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will recall that the 2025-26 P&C Committee Plan was agreed at the Committee meeting on 6 th May 2025.
3.2	At that time, it was proposed that the Committee would receive a six-month progress update report regarding the priorities. This report outlines the progress in the first six months of 2025-26, that is the start of April to end September 2025 (i.e. the end of Q2).
3.3	The plan was developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda and considering the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that were agreed in May.
3.4	The structure of the plan is themed under the following, aligned to the Belfast Agenda: • Our People and Communities • Our Place • Our Planet • Compassionate City • Improving our Services • Organisational Priorities.
3.5	The Committee Plan demonstrates that the Department is continuing to focus on the delivery of business-as-usual services while progressing the transformation and improvement agenda in the CNS Departmental key priority areas (Open Spaces & Streetscene; Neighbourhood Services; City Services; and Resources & Fleet).
3.6	The Committee has received specific reports on a number of these priorities, and while it is likely that some of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver, the update table in Appendix 1 provides detail and commentary on the progress of all the actions.
3.7	39 actions were identified across the Department's three Directorates. Of these, 21 are currently on track (marked 'green'), 8 are considered at risk and change is required (marked 'amber'), 6 actions are considered behind, requires intervention, and are marked 'red' in the attached table and a further 4 are marked 'blue' for target met/complete.
3.8	The Department intends to bring a further report to provide an end of year update to the 2025-26 Committee Plan to a subsequent P&C Committee meeting.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>

3.9	The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 31 st January 2025, for 2025-26 for the People and Communities Committee, of £109,423,272.
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies and plans will be subject to the council's equality, good relations, and rural needs requirements.
4.0	Appendices - Appendix 1 – People & Communities Committee 2025-26 six-month update on key priorities.

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People & Communities

Committee Plan 2025- 2026

Six Month Update



Belfast
City Council

Introduction

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

Its specific functions include:

- Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety and wellbeing at a local level
- Developing and delivering programmes, events and activities to promote health, safety and well being at a local level.
- Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.
- Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.
- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including:
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Cleansing
 - Waste Management
 - Parks and Leisure Service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle)
 - Neighbourhood and Development Services
 - Community Services,
 - Community Safety
 - Emergency Planning
 - Building Control

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Ruth Brooks (Chairman)
Party: DUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Collin



Councillor Micky Murray
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Christina Black
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Christine Bower
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting
Party: DUP
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Fred Cobain (Depty Chair)
Party: DUP
Ward: Castle



Councillor Micheal Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Joradn Doran
Party: DUP
Ward: Old Park



Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Nicola Verner
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn
Party: Green Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown
Party: SDLP
Ward: Botanic



Councillor Sonia Copeland
Party: UUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Hedley Abernethy
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Michael Collins
Party: People Before Profit
Ward: Collin

Our People and Communities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Build capacity within our communities.

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
1.Implement the recommendations of the review of the Belfast City Council Funded advice services	Ongoing	On Track	Recommendations of the review of Belfast City Council funded advice has progressed and all outcomes were achieved in Q4 by our partner organisations. Ongoing meetings continue to be held with our advice partners.
2. Develop a new Community Support Plan for the period 2025-29 which set out the basis for how we provide support to local communities and residents across the city. This will include support to the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors.	October 2025	Target Met/ Delivered	Community Support plan (CSP) 2025-29 was ratified by council in July 2025. First stage of implementation is delivery of CSP large grant programme which opened on 28th July 2025 and is closing on 6th October 2025.

Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
3. Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.	March 2026	On Track	June council ratified that all 24/25 funded groups would receive funding until 31st March 2026. SP&R committee to consider and agree new application process from 1st April 2026 on 19th September 2025.

Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
4. Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast.	March 2026	On Track	Targets have been achieved for the 2024/25 year and extension has been agreed to complete year 10 of the project. Funding going forward to be confirmed through physical activity and sports development strategy.
5. Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	March 2026	On Track	Action plan for 25/26 approved. Collaborative final Action plan and funding to go to October committee. Committee approval for extension to allow work to progress.
6. Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	On Track	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-monthly contract compliance report, covering quarter 3 and quarter 4 2024/25, was presented to the People and Communities Committee in April 2025. The next six-monthly report, covering quarter 1 and quarter 2 for 2025/6, will be presented to committee in November 2025.
Senior responsible officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
7. Scope the recommended options from the review and agree an action plan for allotments	March 2026	On Track	Action plan has been agreed, and implementation is in process. Monthly meetings taking place to progress action plan.
8. Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to ensure that we	Ongoing	On Track	PIP 2024/25 is complete. Grampian Avenue (completed in March 2025), Michelle Baird (Due to complete in Q2), & Balfour Avenue (Completed Aug 25). Sites agreed for

can continue to provide high quality playground facilities and equipment across the city.			PIP 25/26 Roddens Crescent, Ohio street, Whiterise Playground, Finvoy Street Playground - design work / information sharing commenced in Q2.
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Our Place

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Heritage Tourism Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
9. To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall.	TBC	At Risk/ Change Required	Procurement exercise to be completed to appoint operator. Currently with Legal and the City Solicitor.
Off-street Car Parking Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
10. Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.	January 2026	At Risk/ Change Required	Engagement ongoing with DfI and BCC Legal Services on progressing OSP Order. Consultation is required on the new Off-Street Parking Order which will depend on DfI revoking their order via the NI assembly. A status update report was taken to SOLACE in December 2024. BCC ready to consult on draft order.
Open Spaces			

Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
11. Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.	Ongoing	On Track	Continuing to work in partnership with Planning to secure and deliver Section 76 development contributions for open spaces.
Reservoir Improvement Programme			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
12. Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	On Track	Contract now in place for 1 year only, need to explore a longer contract through existing Frameworks. Continued engagement with P&P required.

Our Planet

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Transition to low carbon			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
13. Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.	June 2026	On Track	In year activities are on track and full end date of the action plan is June 2026. This year's local air quality management programme: a 2025 Air Quality Progress Report was prepared and presented to the People and Communities Committee prior to submission to DAERA in August 2025 and has been subsequently submitted to DAERA's Technical Appraisers. The Progress Report includes details of recent ambient

			air quality monitoring data for Belfast, an analysis of monitoring trends, and an assessment of progress with actions detailed within the Belfast Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026. This will also include any ambient air quality conclusions and proposed actions. The findings of the Schools Air quality monitoring project is being collated for presentation at November P&C.
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
14. Develop the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.	TBC	Behind/requires intervention	In year activities are behind, but officers are engaging with an external consultant as a strategic review is required for the fleet transition from fossil fuels to an alternative power source. The AECOM report produced in July 2021 needs refreshed to reflect changes in cost and available technology.
15. Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.	TBC	Behind/requires intervention	In year activities are behind. All new vehicles purchased as part of the fleet replacement programme, will be powered by low emission Euro 6, or equivalent standard, engines. Also, fleet will continue to utilise low emission HVO fuel as an alternative to diesel fuel. 85% of the Council fleet fuel consumption is HVO.
16. Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery.	September 2025	Target Met/Delivered	OSS work is complete, business case for Beechvale Farm which includes Tree Nursery sitting with Estates. Work will continue with Estates; this will be closed off for OSS. Action will be removed from the plan for next quarter.
17. Deliver the Belfast City Council's Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations.	October 2033	On Track	In year activities are on track and full end date of the strategy is October 2033. Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: - A tree establishment plan for tree planting opportunities (soft and hard landscapes) has been agreed at P&C in June 2024 and due to full council in July 2024.

			- In March 2025 (second year in a row), we were awarded Tree Cities of the World status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold this status. - We have changed our health in condition tree inspection cycle from once 7 years to 3 years this will improve the health safety of our trees.
Promote sustainable circular economy approaches. Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
18. Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	October 2025	Target Met/Delivered	Implementation plan agreed and the approval for phase 2 and 3. Additional vehicles being requested through 26/27 estimates process.
19. Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	March 2026	At risk/change required	In year activities are at risk and change is required Options paper has been completed, and a further paper is to be taken through Council's governance.
20. Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	January 2026	Target Met/Delivered	A Single Use Plastic Policy was developed and the approved at P&C. Implementation is with City and Organisational Strategy.
21. Complete a review of litter bin provision to ensure adequate resourcing and arrangements for waste disposal across the city.	December 2025	On Track	Condition survey for litter bins completed Q2 25/26, paper going to committee Oct 2025 with recommendations. Additional resources have been secured for additional bin provision across the city. Officers are working with PMU to try to work around challenges to bin installation. New systems project officer will help support the roll out of the bin survey. Recruitment completed and person started Aug 2025
Climate Resilience Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update

22. Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems.	September 2026	At risk/change required	Progress on this action is behind. An additional Biodiversity resource however has been secured including a new post. The LBAP will be progressed by the new biodiversity resource. Procurement process to secure consultancy support is ongoing. In addition to these officers have secured additional external funding support to help deliver actions emerging from the LABP and a wider biodiversity programme. This includes additional staff and equipment for conservation management plan actions.
23. Develop a Herbicide use policy for the Council	March 2026	At risk/change required	Progress on this action is behind. Work, however, has now commenced, and herbicide reduction processes are being drafted. A draft operational protocol is being developed with OSS Managers and Assistant Managers.

Compassionate City

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Good Relations Action Plan

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
24. Continue to implement the Good Relations Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.	Ongoing	On Track	Letter of Offer has been received and returned, and action plan is in full operational progression. Q1-4 48 grants have been approved and interface open call completed. Refugee integration week, Day of Reflection and the Beacons programme are being rolled out. 5 projects allocated support Under Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme, 5 Projects Supported under the Interface Programme. 2 Projects for Good Relations Week, Shared Education Programme developed, and 6 Strategic Connections Programmes supported.

Community Safety

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
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25. Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	On Track	The PCSP action plan has been developed, and delivery is underway.
26. Continue to facilitate the five multi-agency (D) PCSP's which work to make communities safer, making sure that the voices of local people are heard.	Ongoing	On Track	Meetings are scheduled monthly across the 5 partnerships- reactive meetings held as required. In Q2 there were a number of private meetings and in Q3 there will be several public meetings.
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
27. Delivery of the ending violent against women and girls' initiative	Ongoing	On Track	The Belfast EVAWG Momentum programme concluded at the end of March 2025. The diverse programme reached over 1000 participants across 65 sessions with a number of extremely successful projects. Following an open application process, council have committed £254,553 to 27 local community grants under the Local Change Fund. From this point there is potential for additional funding from TEO for both the Local and Regional Change Fund contracts. Council is awaiting Letters of Offer in Q3.

Improving Our Services

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
28. Complete the review of Bereavement services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible	December 2025	Behind/requires intervention	Work to be completed to deliver and implement service review of structural element. Various internal stakeholders working to resolve including CI, Legal and CHR.

services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.			
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
29. Complete the review of Port health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	March 2027	Behind/requires intervention	The original end date of March 2025 has been extended to March 2027 due to challenges remaining in identifying medium/longer term actions as this work is heavily dependent on the direction from UK Government and in particular any SPS agreement negotiated as a result of UK/ EU announcement in May 2025 and an associated long term sustainable funding model. Baselining exercise to look at service review has been completed, and a range of short-term development actions have been identified.
Houses in Multiple Occupancy			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
30. Complete the review of HMO to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	June 2026	Behind/requires intervention	The original end date of June 2025 has been extended to June 2026. The service review of HMO services is ongoing, further work is however required to complete the review and implement the agreed changes. As a result, the new timeline has been agreed to change to June 2026. Trade Union discussions ongoing in relation to this matter. Outstanding SLA's with legal services for sign off.
Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
31. Complete the review of Neighbourhood Services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the	March 2027	On Track	The Pathway Forward has identified 12 work streams to achieve the aims of the review of neighbourhood services. The pathway forward has agreed an initial 5 work streams:

programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.			• Cohesive departmental plan and outcomes framework • Staff learning and development • Funding and advice governance • Data Management • On-line booking system (on hold) Project scoping and plans for the five are in place and progressing. Staff engagement continues across the work streams and neighbourhood services staff engagement sessions within city hall.
Park Warden Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
32. Complete the review of Park Warden to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	April 2026	On Track	Static pilot evaluation completed in April and update report taken to P&C Committee - further extension to pilot agreed. Wider review of the park warden (mobile) service is currently ongoing. A full engagement exercise with staff, managers and key internal and external stakeholders has been completed, along with relevant benchmarking. Microsoft Forms solution implemented to improve data capture in the interim (to mirror the SNO approach). Options development for the proposed new delivery model is underway with the project team, whilst being cognisant of recent proposals regarding 24 hour opening pilot. Update report detailing the new model will be brought back to Committee by the end of quarter three for consideration on completion of park warden review.
Park Events and Outreach Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
33. Complete the review of Park Events and Outreach to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the	December 2026	On Track	Communication sessions with staff outlining the proposed management position took place in April and June. Consultation sessions with staff on revised job descriptions and to outline implementation procedures, were held in July and August.

programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.			Job descriptions for the new structure have been agreed with Management and released to staff for their information, week commencing 28th September. Final report now expected to go to CMT this month (October).
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Organisational Priorities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Bereavement Services

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
34. CNS to work with Physical Programmes and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.	TBC	At risk/change required	A burial provision board has been established with representation from P&P, Corporate Finance and CNS as client. The objective of this board is to track progress, manage risks and ensure good governance.
35. CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building.	January 2026	Behind/requires intervention	A review of the 2016 financial business case (FBC) for the new crematorium has been completed. This was presented to a member's workshop in September 2025.

Port Health

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
36. Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2026	Behind/requires intervention	Conversations remain active between key partners and stakeholders in advocating for and promoting the development of a long-term funding model. Again, this is influenced and shaped by UK Government direction and discussions with EU. In particular any forthcoming SPS agreement.
Digital Development			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
37. Progress plans to replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core regulatory areas of City Services & community safety within Neighbourhood Services.	January 2030	On Track	The Case Management Replacement project currently has 3 work streams – drafting the specification of requirements, cleansing the current systems data and mandatory legislative changes. Specification: The functional and digital specification is progressing well, with the aim of obtaining final functional approval from Units by the end of September. Cleansing: Batch deletions within the current system have commenced. Legislative Changes/Updates: All new legislative requirements are on track and the FSDM reports update is scheduled for October.
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
38. Procure and implement a modern booking system for parks and community facilities subject to digital services work programme.	March 2026	On Track	This is a project within the Neighbourhood Services Pathway forward Initiative. Agreement that the booking system will support corporate bookings. The project is now part of digital services work plan and an IT project manager to be appointed.
Asset Management			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
39.Develop a container policy for parks.	December 2025	At risk change required	Performance and Improvement team support in place; draft report completed by P&I team. Scope of the report has been widened resulting in the extension of the timeline. This includes a parallel audit of containers which is still being completed.

Contact us:

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Belfast
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for N. Ireland & District Councils and continuation of funding for a joint Post
Date:	6 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officers:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager James Cunningham, Assistant City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted? 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? <i>After Committee Decision</i> <i>After Council Decision</i> <i>Some time in the future</i> <i>Never</i> 	Yes No ☒

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 continued support from Belfast City Council for maintaining the current arrangements and the Council's contribution for the Health and Safety Partnership Officer post, until the end of the 2027/2028 financial year.
1.2	The purpose of this multiagency joint funded role is to enhance collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that Members approve the continued funding for the H&S Partnership Officer post until the end of the 2027/2028 financial year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members are reminded that the Council, in April 2010, agreed to support collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) and district councils by investing in a Partnership Liaison Officer post. This post ensures the continuing effective partnership and operational delivery of the joint Health and Safety strategy between district councils and the HSENI.
3.2	This officer post is currently employed by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council and the costs associated with the post are divided equally amongst the 12 partners (11 district councils and HSENI).
3.3	Attached as Appendix 1, are the Minutes of the March 2010 Health and Environmental Services Committee, providing background on the necessity of the PLO post.
3.4	Members are further reminded that at a meeting of the People and Communities Committee in January 2024, Members agreed to a two-year extension of support and a funding contribution, for continuation of the Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post to 31 st March 2026
3.5	Correspondence has been received from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council seeking continued support from all Councils for a further two-year extension of the current arrangements, to ensure continuity of the post beyond March 2026 and to facilitate retention of the current postholder and the continuing partnership working with HSENI.
3.6	As previously highlighted to the Committee, the main purpose of the Partnership Officer remains as follows: Assist in the continuing development and implementation of the Strategic Framework for Partnership Working by building effective working relationships and processes.

	• Co-ordinate the delivery of specific aspects of partnership arrangements such as joint planning, joint enforcement initiatives and campaigns, joint training and innovative ways of targeting resources more effectively. • Monitor the output of these defined areas of joint work. • Liaise with district councils and their representative bodies and partners on issues relating to workplace health and safety and provide a district council perspective on the Partnership Team. • Support district councils in meeting their partnership commitments, particularly when developing business plans etc. • Act as an effective communication channel between district councils and HSENI. • Ensure that district council interests are fed into the joint planning processes.
3.7	The effectiveness of the Partnership officer role was reviewed in 2024/5 by all 11 Councils via the Health and Safety Liaison Subgroup of Environmental Health NI, resulting in a refreshed job description with added focus on ensuring value for all 11 contributing District Councils.
3.8	The effectiveness of the current arrangements will continue to be reviewed jointly by all 11 Councils.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.9	Belfast City Council's contribution to the funding of this post will be in the region of £7,000 per annum which is included within existing budget. There are no human resource implications as Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will continue to be the employing authority and provide day-to-day management support and recover costs from the 12 partners (11 district councils and HSENI).
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.10	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	There are no issues associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - March 2010 Health and Environmental Services Committee

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	Improved Partnership Arrangements between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and District Councils
Date:	3rd March, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Head of Environmental Health, ext 3281
Contact Officer:	Valerie Brown, Environmental Health Manager, ext 3301

Relevant Background Information

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the 26 district councils share responsibility for securing workplace health and safety standards in Northern Ireland. They apply similar legislation in different business sectors, with district councils being responsible for enforcement across the service, retail and entertainment sectors. It is imperative therefore that the respective work programmes of HSENI and district councils are complementary and that common goals and objectives are shared.

In June 2000, the Health and Safety Executive/Local Authority Liaison Committee for Northern Ireland (HELANI) was established as a HSENI Board Committee, and it has endeavoured over the years to provide strategic direction and focus for district councils in the production of realistic and targeted operational plans. In recent years however the partnership arrangements between HSENI and district councils have not been particularly effective, mainly due to changing circumstances and structures and it was considered that a review of the partnership should be carried out.

It was agreed that future collaborative working would be based on the principle of making the best use of respective strengths and applying collective resources in the most effective way to raise workplace health and safety standards across Northern Ireland and to improve the overall economic and social wellbeing of our community.

In a report to the Health and Environmental Services Committee in April 2009, a set of proposals for new partnership arrangements was outlined. These proposals included a statement of intent and an agreed joint strategic framework incorporating a set of guiding principles for the health and safety regulatory system in Northern Ireland. *Copies of both these documents have been attached.*

The statement of intent sets out 3 main commitments:

- Agree a joint strategic framework that identifies a set of guiding principles for the health and safety regulatory system in Northern Ireland;
- Work together to develop arrangements that will embed and deliver closer partnership working;
- Introduce a system that will facilitate effective joint planning and delivery at all levels between HSENI and district councils.

The Committee agreed that the Council should endorse the proposed working arrangements with HSENI and the statement of intent and strategic framework were signed by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council in May 2009.

Key Issues

The economic and social significance of improving workplace health and safety standards in terms of reducing the number of workplace accidents, reducing absenteeism and getting people back into work creates a compelling argument for HSENI and district councils to work together in developing cohesive and complementary planning arrangements and in applying collective resources in the most effective way to raise workplace health and safety standards across Northern Ireland.

However, to ensure progress in the implementation of these arrangements it is vital that a mechanism is put in place to actually bring about the achievement of the strategic framework's guiding principles and values. Ultimately the intention is to develop a single health and safety strategy for Northern Ireland come 2011.

Work has started on the development of a new single strategy which will set out a 'blueprint' for health and safety regulation in Northern Ireland. The operational plans of HSENI and the district councils will align with the goals that are set down within it. This will enable employers, employees, safety representatives and members of the public to have a clear understanding of the role of HSENI and district councils as health and safety regulators and the role that they themselves have in ensuring that Northern Ireland is a safe and healthy place to work.

Partnership working will lie at the heart of this overarching strategy as it is intended that the improved joint working arrangements will help to overcome a number of issues and challenges that currently exist within the regulatory system in Northern Ireland and will enable all health and safety regulators to work together more effectively in tackling both regional and local workplace health and safety priorities.

HSENI has already committed resource to developing the partnership by restructuring its Local Authority Unit to form a Partnership Team, comprising a Partnership Manager and a Partnership Officer, both at a senior level within the organisation. It is also prepared to invest in 50% of the cost of a Partnership Liaison Officer post on the basis of the 26 district councils providing the remaining 50%.

The main purpose of the Partnership Liaison Officer post will be to:

- Assist in the continuing development and implementation of the Strategic Framework for Partnership Working by building effective working relationships and processes;
- Co-ordinate the delivery of specific aspects of partnership arrangements such as joint planning, joint enforcement initiatives and campaigns, joint training and innovative ways of targeting resources more effectively;
- Monitor the output of these defined areas of joint work;
- Liaise with district councils and their representative bodies and partners on issues relating to workplace health and safety and provide a district council perspective on the Partnership Team;
- Support district councils in meeting their partnership commitments, particularly when developing business plans etc;
- Act as an effective communication channel between District Councils and HSENI;
- Ensure that district council interests are fed in to the joint planning processes.

The post holder will be based at HSENI, but for logistical reasons will be employed by a nominated 'employer' council, now agreed as Castlereagh Borough Council. The person will spend a significant proportion of time working with and within councils. A draft job description is attached. Line management for the PLO will reside with the Partnership Manager, who will complete any performance reports in conjunction with the employing council.

The post has not yet been evaluated but it is estimated that Belfast City Council's contribution, should it agree to invest in the post, will be approximately £1000 per year. In agreeing to contribute to the post, Belfast City Council will benefit in the following ways:

- Its work plans for its health and safety enforcement roles will have greater impact, as they will align to an over-arching strategy;
- Its officers will be able to share training resources with HSENI and other councils;
- Its enforcement and educational campaigns will be more cost effective as they will link in with province wide approaches;
- The Council will have greater access to specialist expertise;
- There is less duplication of effort across district councils and with HSENI;
- Resources will be better targeted to where impact can be maximised;
- The businesses within the area will have higher health and safety standards and will be better served by the regulators.

Resource Implications

The contribution to the PLO post being requested from Belfast City Council is £1,000 per annum and will be funded from the Revenue Estimates. A review will be carried out at the time that the Review of Public Administration is implemented.

The arrangement will enable resources such as training to be shared and information, additional expertise and specialist resources to be provided to the council by HSENI at no additional cost.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to support the new approach to collaborative working between HSENI and district councils by investing a maximum of £1000 per year in a Partnership Liaison Officer post to be based in the Partnership Team at HSENI.

Decision Tracking

The Head of Environmental Health will bring a report back to Committee within the first year of the post having been filled, detailing progress which is being made.
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Key to Abbreviations

HSENI – Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland HELANI – Health and Safety Executive Local Authority Committee for Northern Ireland H&S Unit – Health and Safety Unit within the Environmental Health Service BIS - Business Improvement Section
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Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Statement of Intent. Appendix 2 - The Northern Ireland Health and Safety Regulatory System – A Strategic Framework for Partnership Working. Appendix 3 - Partnership Liaison Officer draft Job Description.
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Subject:	Partnership Agreements 25/26 LVRP
Date:	4 th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, OSS

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? <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">☐</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					After Committee Decision	☐		After Council Decision	☐		Sometime in the future	☐		Never	☐	
After Committee Decision	☐															
After Council Decision	☐															
Sometime in the future	☐															
Never	☐															

Is this report eligible for call in?	Yes	☒	No	☐
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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 arrangement between Lagan Valley Regional Park Ltd. (LVRP) The partnership delivers services aligned to Open Spaces & Streetscene activity. Members are asked to approve future funding to continue this partnership agreement in 25/26.

2.0	Recommendations				
2.1	It is recommended that Committee; • Agree to continue funding to LVRP at the same level for the 25/26 financial year (£88,0000) • Note that council is currently not in a position to provide an inflationary award as there is no additional in year budget, please also note that Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited has notified the Council, pursuant to section 8 of their funding agreement, i.e. 'that the Project for whatever reason has been jeopardised as to its future continuance' and have identified the risk that the organisation may fold. They have submitted a high-level options appraisal for consideration to both partner Councils. (BCC & LCCC).				
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 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	At the June committee members approved a number of financial awards, however the funding to LVRP was withheld due to an ongoing piece of work by the department.				
3.4	LVRP came in and presented to the September meeting of the People and Communities committee and members asked for further exploration by Council officers, in consultation with both Lagan Valley Regional Park Ltd (LVRP), as well as DEARA and Lisburn and Castlereagh counterparts. An update will be brought to a future meeting of the committee.				
3.5	As this work continues to progress LVRP have asked for the original funding allocation to be released as they continue to face ongoing financial challenges.				
3.6	Members are asked to approve that this award be issued at the funding level indicated below for 25/26.				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Project</th><th>Funding</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lagan Valley Regional Park</td><td>£88,000</td></tr> </table>	Project	Funding	Lagan Valley Regional Park	£88,000
Project	Funding				
Lagan Valley Regional Park	£88,000				
3.4	<u>Financial implications</u>				
	The current financial allocation to this funding arrangements is £88,000. This budget has been agreed as part of rate setting for 25/26.				
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u>				
	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.				

4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A

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Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2025-2026 Quarters 1 & 2
Date:	4 th November 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
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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 on implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period April- September 2025 (quarters 1 and 2).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date of the Belfast Boxing Strategy annual work plan for the current year 2025/26.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Council agreed, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) for delivery of an agreed annual action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.
3.2	Committee agreed on 4 March 2025 to extend to extend the scope of the strategy and to provide funding for the delivery of the work plan from 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026
3.3	The IABA have provided council with a detailed breakdown of programmes to be delivered under six main areas. Salary – Development Officer and Coaches, Pathways, Events, Coach Education, Club Support and Governance.
3.4	Following this decision, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has continued to meet quarterly with the most recent meeting taking place via MS Team on Thursday 23rd October.
3.5	The Steering Group is chaired by the Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers, IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials attending. Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan and the programme is on schedule to deliver all KPIs within budget.
3.6	Monitoring - The Leisure Development Unit works directly with IABA officials to verify reporting on performance, vouching actual spend and provides detailed reports for discussion at the Steering Group.
3.7	Performance - Council agreed a total of 38 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes.

	IABA have complied with reporting requirements and their performance report for 25/26 (Quarter 1 & 2 is at Appendix 1). IABA have provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and have advised that they anticipate that all KPIs will be achieved by the end of 25/26.
3.8	<u>25/26 Action Plan</u> The IABA have an extensive city-wide programme planned for Q3 & Q4 including: Halloween Box Cup- Running 26th- 28th October at Girdwood Community Hub. Over 400 entries confirmed which will require 3 rings. Competitors from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Italy. Harry Cunningham Boxing Cup- 19th-20th November Balmoral Hotel- Competitors from Cyprus, Italy and Greece taking part. Female Development Squad- between 40- 50 females, including female coaches. Venues to include Cairn Lodge and Midland Fundamentals Coaching Course- to take place at the City of Belfast Boxing Club (the first course ever to be delivered in East Belfast). Antrim 6s – to take place in December and that will attract between 300-350 boxers. Try- it day in Girdwood - 22nd October. 4 schools coming in to participate. Day of Boxing 19th November to coincide with Men’s Mental Health Day and will involve schools from all parts of the City
3.9	The funding for the Belfast Boxing Strategy work plan is scheduled to finish on 31st March 2026.
3.10	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> A total of £200,000 is available within the current year to support the current Action Plan. It is projected that the full budget will be expended in 2025-2026.
3.11	<u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council’s equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Members agreed that an equality screening be undertaken prior to a decision being made in relation to funding for 19/20. Officers finalised this screening and the findings show that progress has been made in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups and this has been reported separately through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The IABA continue to target underrepresented groups in its delivery of the 25/26

	programme with particular focus on the events, club based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1: IABA 2025-2026 Performance Report to end of Quarter 1 & 2

Boxing Strategy KPI Report 25-26 Year to 30 Sept 2025 Total

To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast

KPI	Description	Female	Male	Total
1.1	Run 3 talent squads in Belfast (2 Male 1 Female)	37	0	37
1.2	To Run competitive opportunities for Belfast talent squads (2/3)	0	0	0
1.3	Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership	3	3	6
1.5	Number of boxers obtaining support for sport funding	0	4	4
2.1	To run 1 volunteer education event with 32 clubs represented and 40 participants (number of participants)	0	0	0
2.2	To run 1 Volunteer recognition event with a minimum of 30 participants from clubs present	0	0	0
3.1	To run 1 Scoring/Event Official Course with 10 newly trained officials	0	0	0
3.2	To run 1 Referee and Judging Course with 20 newly trained officials	0	0	0
3.3	Delivery of 2 Committee training courses throughout the year	4	11	15

To recruit, train and sustain active coaches within Belfast

4.1	5 coaches receive talent coach training and mentoring	0	0	0
4.2	20 new grassroots coaches trained	6	16	22
4.3	50 new people accessing online resources	12	22	34
4.4	Increase the number of female coaches	6		6
4.5	To work with mental health training providers to design a toolkit for every club and to deliver training and webinars.			4
4.6	5 clubs trained on inclusive boxing module			29

To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast

5.1	160 participants at come and try it event	0	0	0
5.2	1600 pupils taking part in non contact boxing sessions	576	741	1317
5.3	160 participants at Belfast Day of Boxing	0	0	0
5.4.1	2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant			0
5.4.2	4 clubs obtaining equipment grants			0
5.4.3	27 clubs obtaining membership development grants			0
5.5	50 new members in Belfast clubs	12	78	90
5.6	15 clubs receiving for support for sport grants			3
5.7	180 participants in holiday camps	0	0	0

To promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast clubs

6.1.1	2 clubs to attain clubmark accreditation			6
6.1.2	8 clubs to attain reaccreditation			6
6.2	180 participants in good relations programme	0	0	0

Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast

7.1	Deliver 8 local events			2
7.2	Deliver 2 international events			1
7.3	150 male competitors		258	258
7.4	50 female competitors	45		45
7.5	50 visiting competitors	24	106	130
7.6	150 Belfast competitors	23	120	143
7.7	5 visiting officials	4	14	18
7.8	15 Belfast officials	3	13	16
Total Number of Participants		755	1386	2141

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Subject:	Commonwealth Games NI - Request for Financial Support for Glasgow 2026
Date:	4 th November 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
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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?	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To seek permission to provide financial support to Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland to present the team travelling to Glasgow to compete in the XXIII Games from 23 July until 6 August 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The committee is asked to: • Agree make a contribution of £10,000 to Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland to support the team competing in the 2026 Commonwealth Games
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland have made a written request to seek financial support from Belfast City Council (appendix 1).
3.2	All funds raised will go directly towards athlete preparation and delivery of Team Northern Ireland at the games in Glasgow in July 2026
3.3	In Glasgow there will be a total of 10 Sports and 6 Para Sport, and it is anticipated that a team of approximately 100 will be selected to represent Team Northern Ireland.
3.4	Team Northern Ireland has taken part in ever occurrence of the Commonwealth Games, (except 1950) and success has been achieved across a range of sports including bowls, athletics, boxing and gymnastics.
3.5	Previously Council has financially supported Belfast athletes and coaches travelling to the games.
3.6	• Birmingham 2022 - £10,000 • Gold Coast 2018 - £15,000 • Glasgow 2014 - £15,000 • Delhi 2010 - £25,000 • Melbourne 2006 - £25,000 • Manchester 2002 - £20,000
3.6	At the most recent Games in Birmingham in 2022, 40 athletes from Belfast were part of Team Northern Ireland and four of those athletes were medal winners.
3.7	<u>Financial Implications</u> Finance to support this request can be ring-fenced from the Support for Sport Development Grant budget for 2026-2027.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.
4.0	Appendices - Appendix 1 – Correspondence received from Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland

4.1	
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CNS Dept
24 SEP 2025
Support Services

Mr Paddy McGrattan
Leisure Development Manager
Belfast City Council
9 – 21 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8DJ

22nd September 2025

Dear Paddy

As part of our fundraising campaign for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, we are reaching out to the Northern Ireland business community and to our local authorities seeking financial support.

All funds raised go directly towards athlete preparation and delivery of TeamNI at the Games next summer. The Council has a long history of supporting the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games team, no doubt due to the large number of athletes, coaches and support staff at previous Games who have had connections to the City. While it is early in the selection process, we envisage a total team size of approximately 100 for Glasgow, with the usual large contingent from the Belfast City area.

I have attached a Partner Information Pack which provides some ideas of how a partnership with TeamNI can support the Council's objectives within both community based physical activities and high-performance sport.

Recognising the significance of working with local government we are pleased to provide a 50% discount from the commercial rate and offer this partnership at £10,000. This could be either invoiced as sponsorship or the Council may deem it appropriate to award a grant to CGNI. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



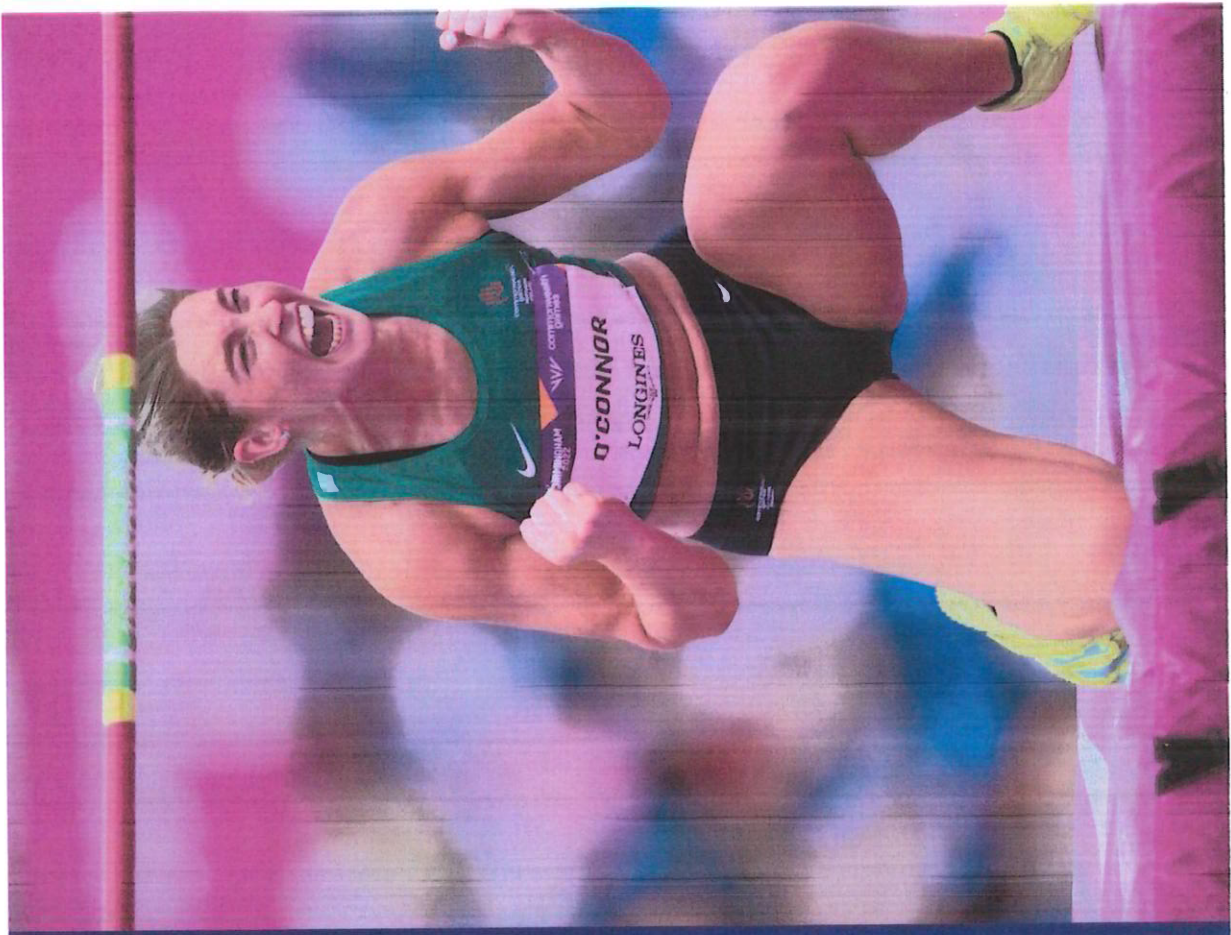
Conal Heatley
Chief Executive

T: 07787 414776
E: conal.heatley@teamni.org

Our Role

- TeamNI represents NI at each Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.
- We are currently preparing for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.
- We create an environment for athletes, coaches and support staff to thrive and be the best version of themselves.

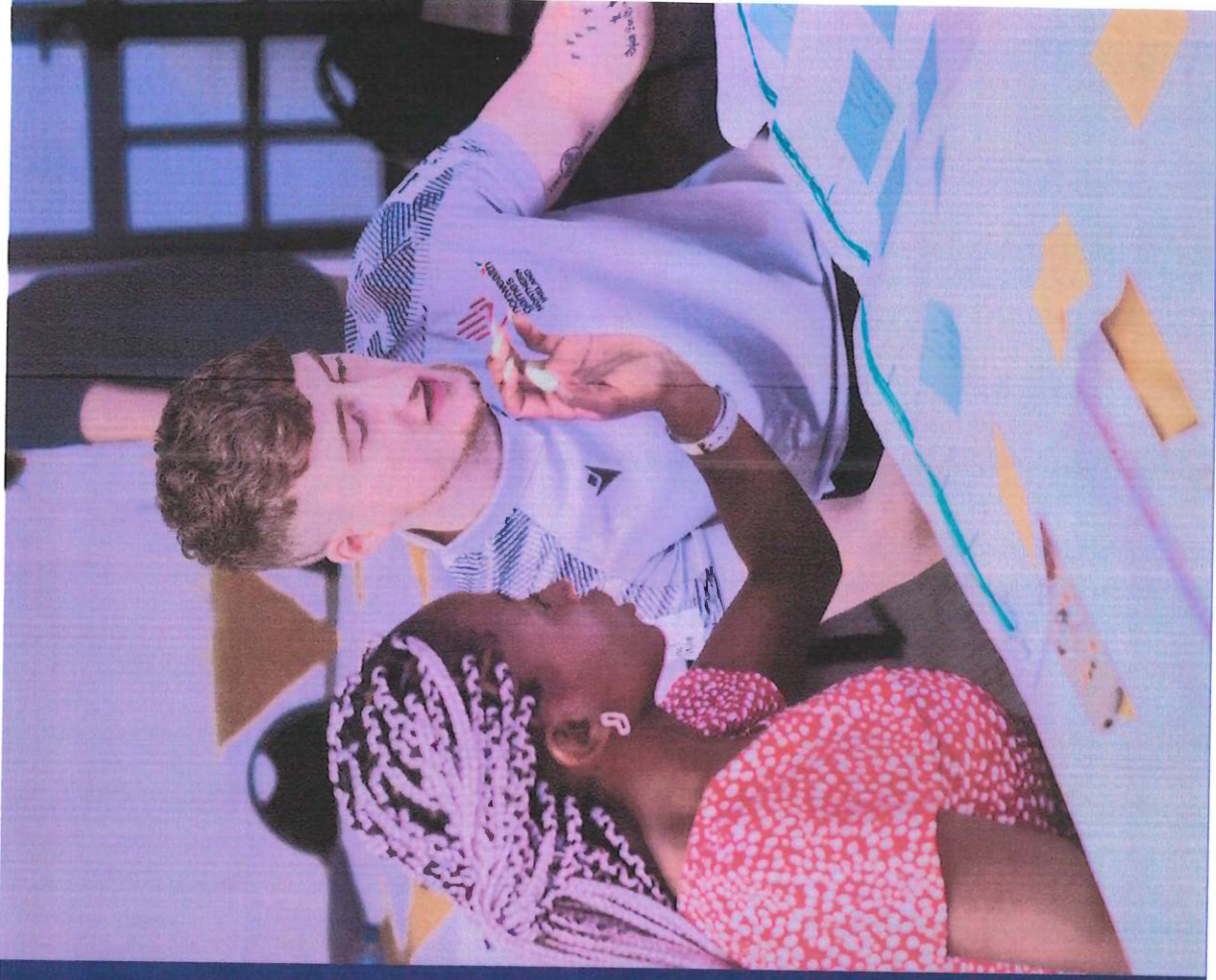
Page 93



In the community, we focus on:

- Empowering youth.
- Using sport for development.
- Encouraging inclusion.
- Supporting women in sport.
- Developing our people.

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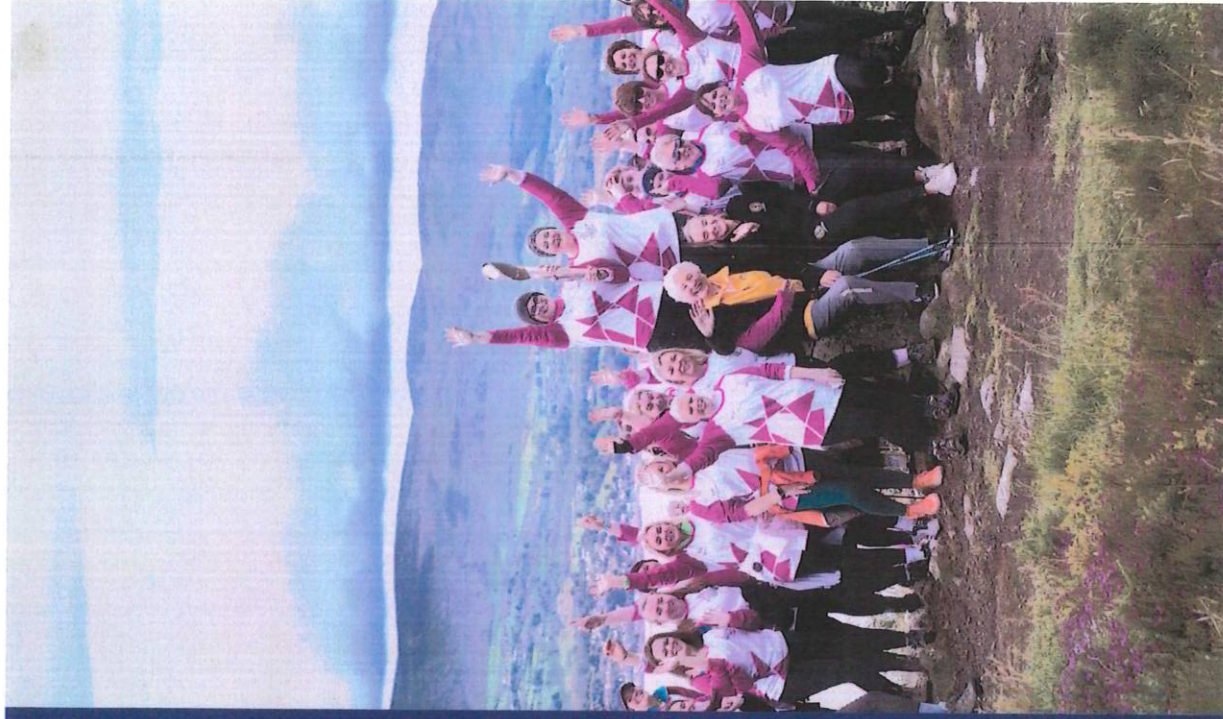
Who we work with

- Ulster University
- PwC
- Pioneer Group Event Management
- SportNI
- SportNI Sport Institute
- Oasis Travel
- Macron Sportswear
- Hastings Hotels



How can we contribute to your business?

- TeamNI representation at your events.
- Contribution to your staff development - based upon the establishment of a high-performance environment and mindset, as used successfully by TeamNI.
- Volunteering opportunities for your staff.
- A positive relationship with one of NI's premier sporting organisations; respected both locally and internationally.





Be part of:

- Team Launches.
- Pre-Games TeamNI dinner.
- Homecoming events with medallists.
- The King's Baton Relay during June 2026.
- Our community outreach activities.
- Annual partners' lunch.
- Glasgow 2026, with guided tours to watch TeamNI athletes in action.

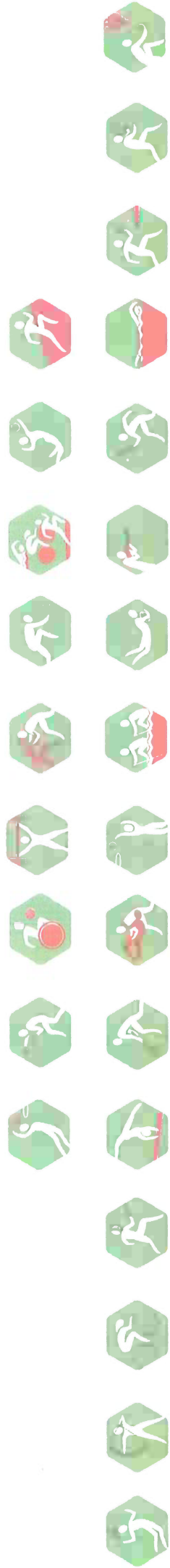
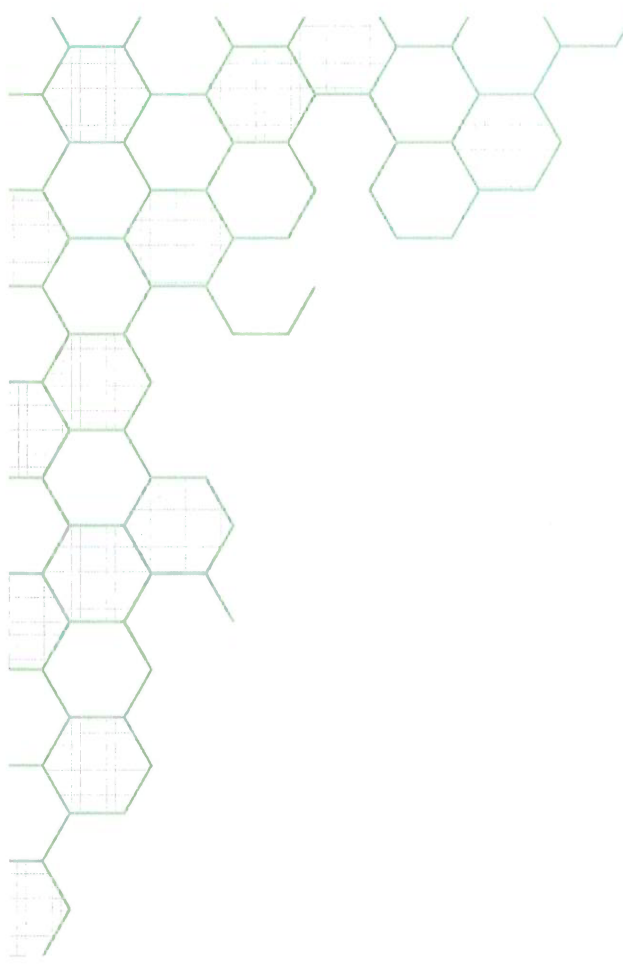
Partner activation examples:

- Use of the TeamNI logo and imagery in advertising, on packaging and across your digital channels.
- Access to current and former Games athletes for your promotional activities.
- Inclusion within TeamNI's Games related media programme; 200 days to go, 100 days to go etc.
- Branding of TeamNI training kit and other equipment.
- Your branding on the TeamNI website, on our digital channels and within the TeamNI Games handbook.



Contact Us

Conal Heatley
Chief Executive
Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland
07787 414776
conal.heatley@teamni.org





Subject:	Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2025-2026 Q1-Q2
Date:	4 th November 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? <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	☐	After Council Decision	☐	Sometime in the future	☐	Never	☐
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 advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative (SCBI) for 2025/2026 quarters 1 and 2.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee note progress to date.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In March 2016 the Council, Department for Communities and Irish Football Association signed an Agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the SCBI project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it was anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement.
3.2	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.
3.3	The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place and will run until 31 March 2026.
3.4	Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners.
3.5	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: a. Number of coaching sessions provided b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching c. Number of sessions improving club governance d. Number of volunteering opportunities e. Participation opportunities for under 16s f. Female participation rates

	g. Number of people completing skills development programme i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups k. Community group usage of stadia l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark m. educational opportunities o. Number of programmes targeting ASB q. Improved collaborative working r. Number of disabled participants s. Number of older people participating
3.6	The policy and performance group held their most recent meeting on 4th September 2025 to review performance for 2025/26 and to be updated in terms of the programme for 2025/26 including the joint work programme.
3.7	The programmes and performance indicators for 2025/2026 have been agreed by the Policy and Performance Group and approved by Committee on 8 April 2025.
3.8	Delivery for Q1 & Q2 2025/2026 has now been completed and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendix (i) and appendix (ii). The Joint Delivery programme for 2025-2026 has also been agreed and is attached at appendix (iii) . The plan and performance reports demonstrate strong engagement across coaching, participation, and skills development initiatives. It should be noted that the Stadium Community Benefits Programme will finish on 31 March 2026.
3.9	<u>Financial Implications</u> In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council committed a partnership contribution amount of £1,000,000 over a period of ten years. When the planned programme for 2025/2026 is completed the project budget will be fully expended.
3.10	<u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no additional impacts related to this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached

4.1	1. IFA Performance Report Q1-Q2 2025/2026 (Appendix i) 2. GAA Performance Report Q1-2 2025/2026 (Appendix ii) 3. Joint Work Plan for 2025/2026 (Appendix iii)
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DRAFT

Irish Football Association SCBI Performance Report		To End of Quarter 2 2025-2026	
Intermediate Benefits	Q1	Q2	Year to Date Totals
A. Number of coaching sessions provided	231	5	236
B. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	41	12	53
C. Number of sessions improving club governance	5	0	5
D. Number of volunteering opportunities	4	12	16
E. Participation opportunities for under 16s	43	0	43
F. Female participation rates	51	1	52
G. Number of people completing skills development programme	84	12	96
H. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	20	5	25
I. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	20		20
J. Community group usage of stadia	2	5	7
K. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0	0	0
L. Educational opportunities	4	4	8
M. Number of programmes targeting ASB	0	0	0
N. Improved collaborative working	32	4	36
O. Number of disabled participants	20	0	20
P. Number of older people participating	0	0	0
TOTALS	557	60	617

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GAA SCBI Performance Report		To End of Quarter 2 2025-2026	
Intermediate Benefits	Q1	Q2	Year to Date Totals
A. Number of coaching sessions provided	12	172	184
B. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	85	208	293
C. Number of sessions improving club governance	2	1	3
D. Number of volunteering opportunities	0	214	214
E. Participation opportunities for under 16s	330	279	609
F. Female participation rates	185	207	392
G. Number of people completing skills development programme	403	430	833
H. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	8	117	125
I. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	5	58	63
J. Community group usage of stadia	0	0	0
K. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0	0	0
L. Educational opportunities	72	72	144
M. Number of programmes targeting ASB	0	3	3
N. Improved collaborative working	20	28	48
O. Number of disabled participants	13	103	116
P. Number of older people participating	7	16	23
TOTALS	1142	1908	3050

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Benefits/Outcome	Programme
Engaging Communities	Primary School FMS/Ball Familiarisation
Engaging Communities	Primary School Celebration Days
Engaging Communities	University Students - Coach Education: (Safeguarding, IGCC, IFA Coaching Disabled Footballers Award)
Engaging Communities	Summer Community Camps
Empowering People	Autism Awareness (Disability NI)
Empowering People	Injury Prevention Workshops
Empowering People	Nutrition Workshops
Empowering People	First Aid
Empowering People	Female Empowerment/Retaining Females in Sport
Engaging Communities	Equipment (Schools, Universities, Camps)
Engaging Communities	Match Tickets
Engaging Communities	Branded Clothing
Programme End Report	Evaluation

Additional Notes
Children & Young People Focus
CPD - Coaches, Volunteers
Capacity Building/Leaving a Legacy



Subject:	'Schools Streets' Air Quality Monitoring Update Report
Date:	4 th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
Contact Officer:	Alastair Curran Environmental Protection Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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Insert number

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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 Committee will recall that at its meeting of 9th January 2024, Members considered a paper at agenda item 6b concerning monitoring of ambient air quality in the vicinity of a number of primary schools across the city to help to inform Action 22 of the 2021-2026 Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan concerning a pilot scheme for the designation of 'school streets'. Action 22 was proposed by and is to be delivered by Sustrans and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). Council air quality officers have however undertaken to provide air quality monitoring data for typical road transport related pollutants in order to help inform the consideration of 'school streets' under Action 22. https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/belfast-city-air-quality-action-plan-2021-2026#Table5.1
1.2	Council Air Quality Officers have subsequently liaised with Sustrans in order to identify a selection of primary schools situated across the city where transport related ambient air quality monitoring in their localities might be undertaken to help inform the designation of school streets. The Committee will recall that a 'school street' is a road outside of a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at the start and end of the school day. School street schemes may cover part of a road, a whole road or even several roads near to a school but government guidance indicates that a 'school street' is unlikely to be feasible where the school is located on a major road or a bus route. Eight primary schools were initially suggested by Sustrans, which were then surveyed by council officers in order to identify suitable monitoring locations, resulting in the council agreeing to install Earthsense Zephyr ambient air quality monitors in the vicinity of the following four initial primary schools; (i) Rosetta Primary School, Knockbreda Rd; (ii) Belvoir Park Primary School, Belvoir Drive; (iii) Holy Rosary Primary School, Sunnyside Crescent and; (iv) Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glasvey Drive, Dunmurry.
1.3	Air quality monitors were installed from March 2024 onwards and for the purposes of the project, monitoring data was initially considered until the end of July 2024, to obtain nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) air pollution measurements and trends whilst the schools were in operation and by way of comparator, during the July holiday period. A summary report concerning the outcome of the monitoring data was provided to the Committee at its meeting of 3rd December 2024. https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=11604
1.4	The monitoring data was additionally reviewed and discussed with Sustrans and DAERA and it was consequently agreed that the air quality monitors would be maintained at two primary schools (Rosetta Primary School and Holy Rosary Primary School) in order to obtain further data, and the remaining two monitors would be redeployed to two new sites at Nettlefield Primary School, Cherryville Street, and Strandtown Primary School, North Road. It was additionally agreed that a further monitor, located at Henry Place and Carlisle Road, adjacent to the A12 Westlink, would be relocated southerly along the A12 Westlink corridor to undertake air quality monitoring in the vicinity of St. Mary's Primary School, Barrack Street; located adjacent to the A12 Westlink at Divis Street and adjacent to the boundary of the M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink Air Quality Management Area. The relocation of the monitors was completed in December 2024.
1.5	This paper therefore serves to provide an update to the Committee concerning monitoring data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) for the above-mentioned five primary schools. The data has been provided in the form of hourly and monthly means, and weekday and weekend diurnal (24-hour profile) nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) means. The paper also considers exceedances of relevant air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the contents of this ‘Schools Streets’ air quality monitoring update report. • Agree that next steps are for council air quality officers to engage with Sustrans, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), to appraise them of the results of the school streets monitoring and to seek support for the retention of the existing ‘school streets’ air quality monitors, or relocation of the monitors to undertake monitoring in the vicinity of other schools across the city.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee is advised that council air quality officers have installed solar powered Earthsense Zephyr small sensor air quality monitors in the vicinity of the above-mentioned five primary schools to target road traffic emissions from immediately adjacent public roads and transport routes to and from the schools. The Committee is further advised that ‘low cost sensors’ like the Zephyr analyser, although initially calibrated against reference standard monitoring equipment, such as those used to monitor and analyse ambient air quality across Belfast within our permanent monitoring sites, are nevertheless regarded as being indicative grade air quality analysers. Data from Zephyr monitors may therefore be further refined through co-location intercomparison studies.
3.2	This paper provides a summary of monitoring data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) for the period August 2024 - August 2025 for the retained monitoring sites at Rosetta Primary School and Holy Rosary Primary School, and from December 2024 – August 2025 for the three new monitoring sites at Nettlefield Primary School, Strandtown Primary School and St. Mary’s Primary School. The various monitoring data presented within Section 4.0 Appendix 4.1-4.6 is a continuation of the monitoring data provided in the previous Committee report of 3rd December 2024.
3.3	Monitoring data has been resolved into hourly mean concentrations to enable comparison with the 200 µg/m³ 1-hour mean objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and the 50 µg/m³ longer term 24-hour mean objective for particulate matter (PM₁₀). The Committee will appreciate that the 1-hour mean objective is applied at locations where members of the public might reasonably be expected to spend one hour or more and is therefore typically applicable to kerbside locations such as pavements of busy roads or streets, such as in the vicinity of schools during morning ‘drop off’ and afternoon ‘pick up’ periods. The 24-hour mean particulate matter objective would not normally apply at a roadside or kerbside location, where public exposure is typically short term. A summary of relevant air quality objectives has been provided in Section 4.0, Appendix 4.1 of this report. Hourly and monthly means, and diurnal weekday and weekend NO₂ mean profile graphs for the five primary schools have been provided at Section 4.0 Appendices 4.2 – 4.6 to this report.
3.4	In consideration of the monitoring data, it is noted that the diurnal (24-hour profile) nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) mean graphs (Section 4.0 Appendices 4.2 - 4.6) broadly exhibit higher nitrogen dioxide concentrations during the weekday peak morning travel period when compared to the equivalent weekend period during the school term periods, and to a lesser extent during the summer period. The diurnal graphs similarly demonstrate an increase in nitrogen dioxide concentrations during the weekday evening travel period, when compared to the corresponding weekend period, and again, to a lesser extent during the summer months. Moreover, at some of the primary schools, it is considered that due to their location, the morning and evening peak hour increases shown within the diurnal profile graphs are reflective of wider morning and evening peak hour commuter road

	traffic travelling in the locality. Seasonal variations are exhibited within the monitoring data, with higher nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter concentrations recorded during winter months.
3.5	The Committee is advised that no exceedances of the 200 µg/m³ 1-hour mean objective (not to be exceeded more than 18 times per annum) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) or of the longer term 50 µg/m³ 24-hour mean objective (not to be exceeded more than 35 times per annum) for particulate matter (PM₁₀) were recorded throughout the monitoring periods. Accordingly, it is considered that there are no requirements to amend the council's existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) or to declare any new Air Quality Management Areas as a consequence of the school streets monitoring. Moreover, the outworkings of the school streets monitoring are in broad accordance with the conclusions of the council's 2023 Detailed Assessment for Ambient Air Quality, undertaken by Aecom and presented to the Committee at its meeting of 13th June 2023.
3.6	Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is not presently in regulation for the purposes of local air quality management by NI councils, although a 25 µg/m³ annual mean target has been established, together with a 15% cut in urban background exposure, also assessed as an annual mean. The Committee is advised that an annual mean target for PM_{2.5} would not apply at roadside or kerbside monitoring locations, where public exposure is transient. Monthly mean monitoring data for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) have nevertheless been presented for each of the five primary schools within Appendices 4.2 – 4.6 of this report for additional information. Monitored monthly mean PM_{2.5} concentrations were substantially below the 25 µg/m³ target level during the monitoring period.
3.7	The monitoring data presented within Section 4.0 Appendix of this report does, however, confirm that elevated particulate matter concentrations (both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) were recorded across the various 'school street' monitoring locations around Thursday 20th March 2025, indicating the presence of more widespread particulate matter pollution across the city at that time, and not localised to individual school street monitoring sites. Elevated particulate matter concentrations were also recorded at the Belfast Centre AURN monitoring site between 18th and 22nd March 2025. In this regard, it is noted that the Met Office issued an air quality episode notification, based on a forecast of elevated particulate matter pollution concentrations across the United Kingdom, for Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March 2025.
3.8	Moreover, referring to the nitrogen dioxide monitoring data obtained for St. Mary's Primary School, Barrack Street, located at a kerbside monitoring location adjacent to the A12 Westlink, Divis Street and to the M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink Air Quality management Area, declared for exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide 1-hour and annual mean objectives, it is noted that eight exceedances of the 200 µg/m³ 1-hour mean standard were recorded during the monitoring period (18 permitted per annum). In considering the time of day when the exceedances occurred, however, it is noted that the majority occurred during the evening rush hours, i.e. 17:00 – 19:00, and not within the typical primary school day. It is additionally noted that Divis Street serves to provide access to the city centre from west Belfast and from the A12 Westlink city and country bound off slips. Moreover, Divis Street also forms part of the Belfast Rapid Transit G1 West route, and this locality is not therefore typical of the other school street monitoring locations that tend to be located in less trafficked residential areas of the city.
3.9	Further to consideration of this paper by the Committee, council air quality officers will share and discuss the monitoring data presented with Sustrans, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and

	the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Air and Environmental Quality Unit.
3.10	It will then be for Sustrans and the Department for Infrastructure in conjunction with DAERA to consider how they may wish to utilise the monitoring data generated during this project to help inform the designation of 'school streets' in accordance with Action 22 of the 2021-2026 Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan, and whether further monitoring in the vicinity of primary schools or at other schools across the city is required.
3.11	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with this report. The operation of the Zephyr air quality monitors is supported via the DAERA 2025-2026 Local Air Quality Management grant process. The 'Schools Streets' monitoring project is being undertaken from within existing Scientific Unit air quality staff resources.
3.12	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None.
4.0	Appendix
4.1	Appendix 1 – Air Quality School Reports

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Appendix 1

4.1 UK Air Quality Objectives.

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Objective
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	1-hour mean	200 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 18 times per annum).
	Annual mean	40 µg/m ³
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	24-hour mean	50 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 35 times per annum).
	Annual mean	40 µg/m ³
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Annual mean	25 µg/m ³ target concentration.

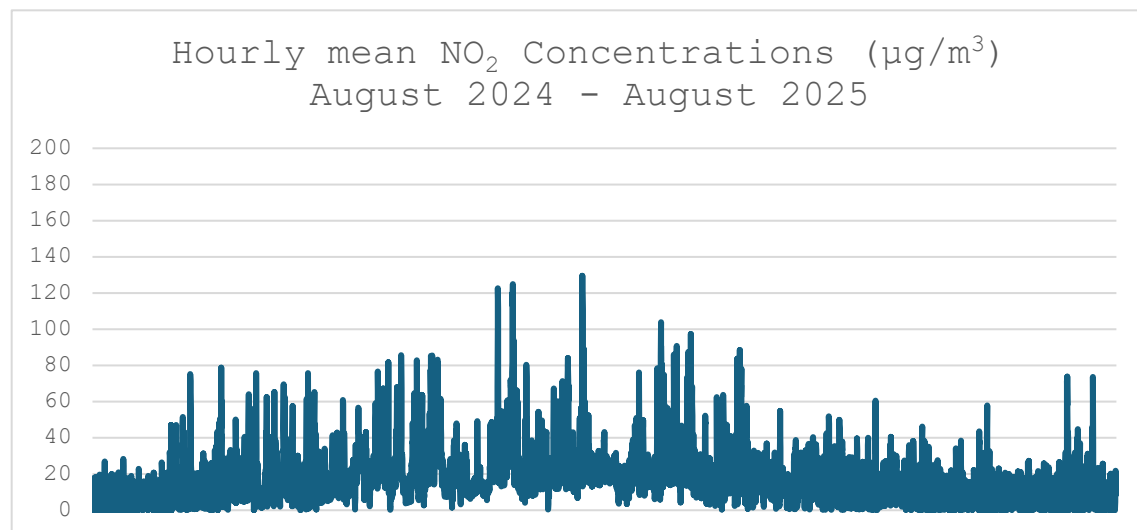
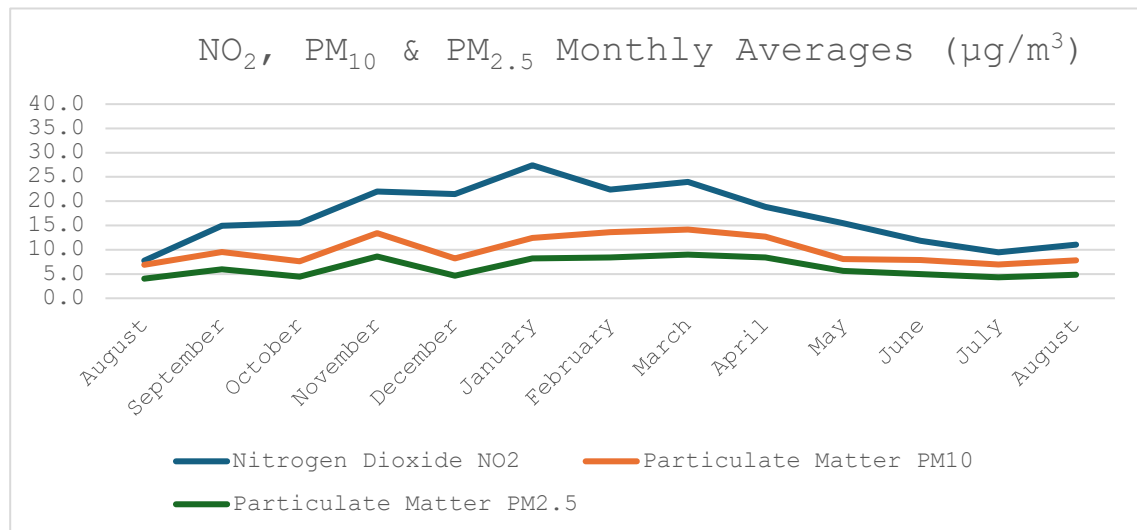
4.2 Holy Rosary Primary School, Sunnyside Crescent.

Monthly Means (µg/m³) 2024

	August	September	October	November	December
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	7.8	14.9	15.5	22.0	21.5
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	6.9	9.5	7.7	13.4	8.2
Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})	4.0	6.0	4.5	8.6	4.7

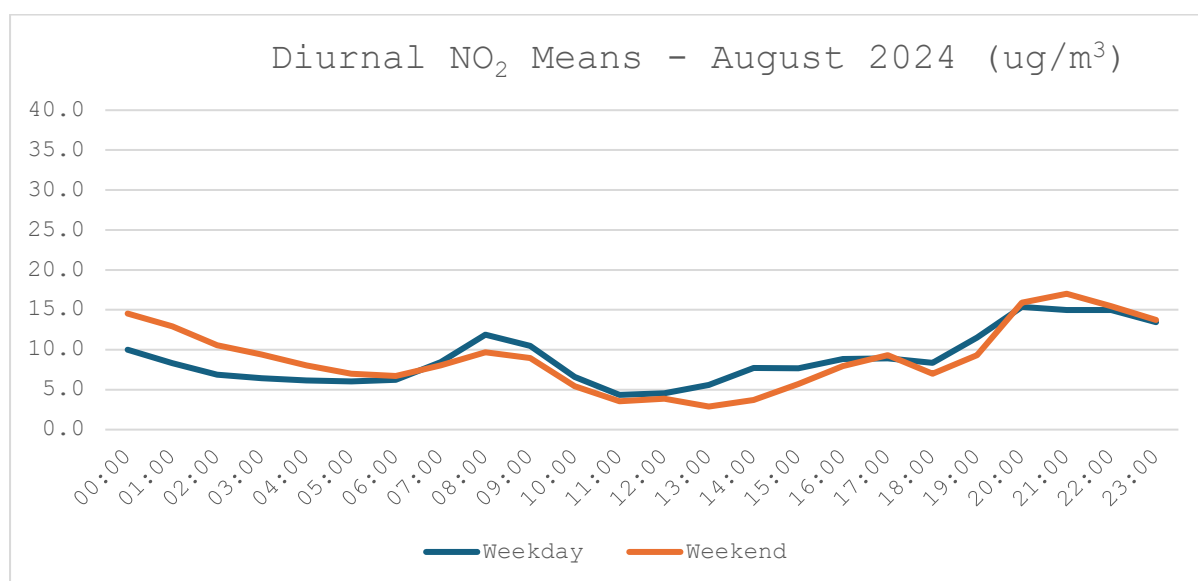
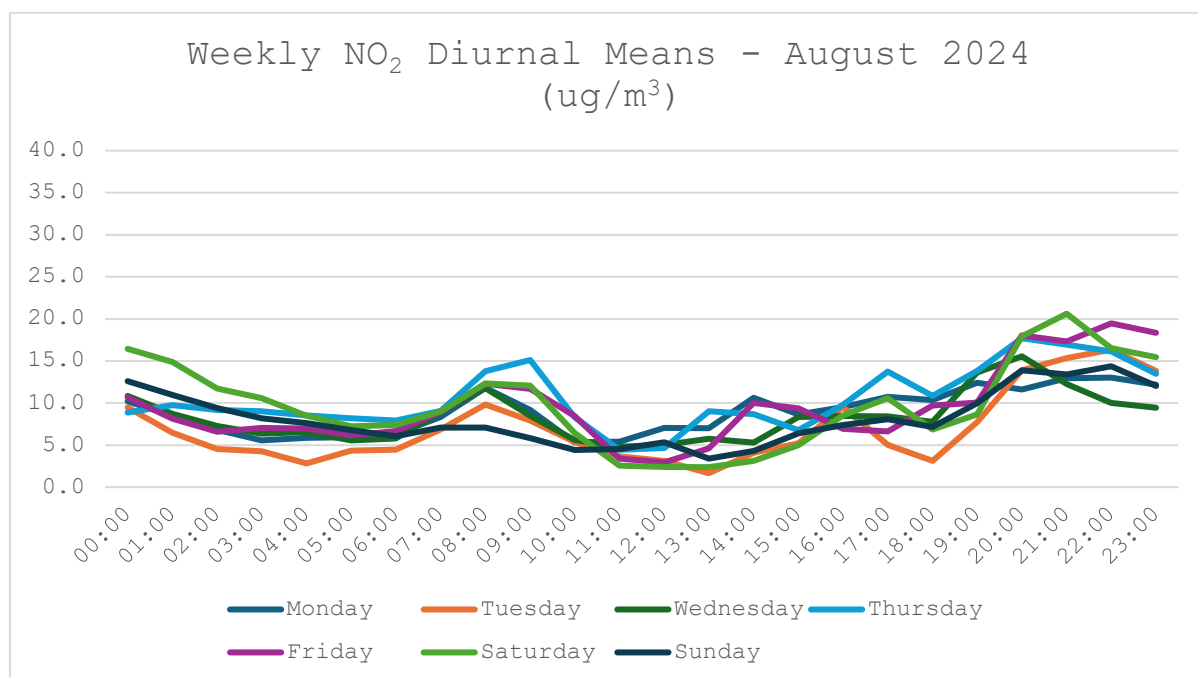
Monthly Means (µg/m³) 2025

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	27.4	22.4	24.0	18.8	15.4	11.8	9.5	11.0
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	12.5	13.6	14.2	12.7	8.1	7.9	7.0	7.8
Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})	8.2	8.4	9.0	8.4	5.6	5.0	4.3	4.9

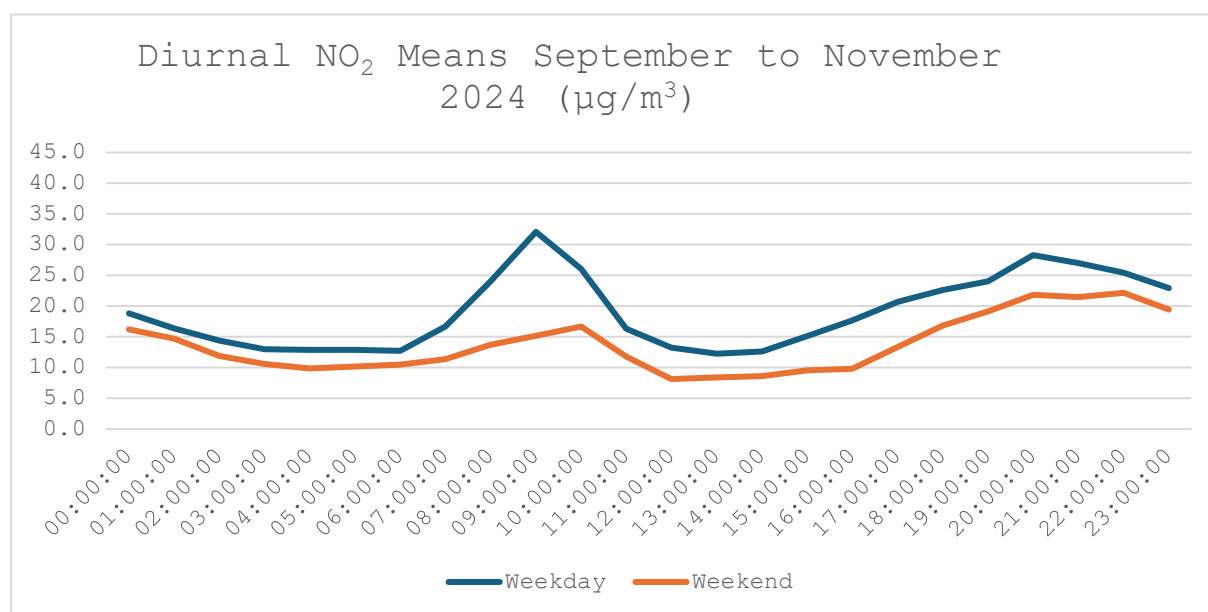
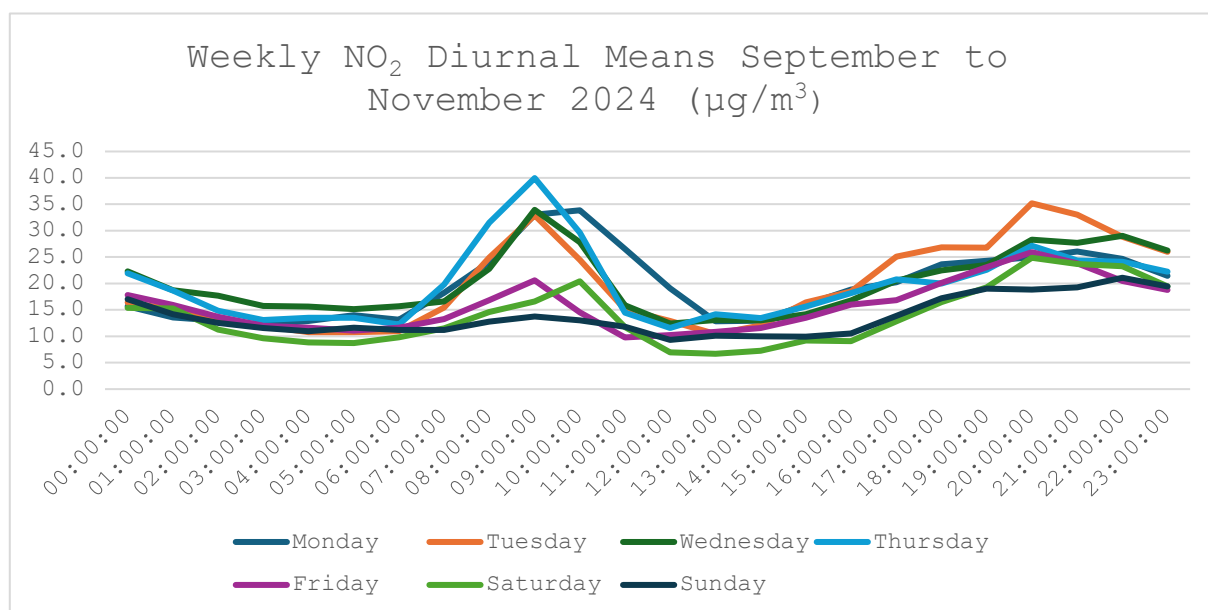


- The maximum nitrogen dioxide 1-hour mean concentration of $130 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred at 10:00 on Thursday 6th February 2025.
- The maximum particulate matter (PM_{10}) 24 hour mean concentration of $46 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.
- The maximum particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) 24-hour mean concentration of $28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.

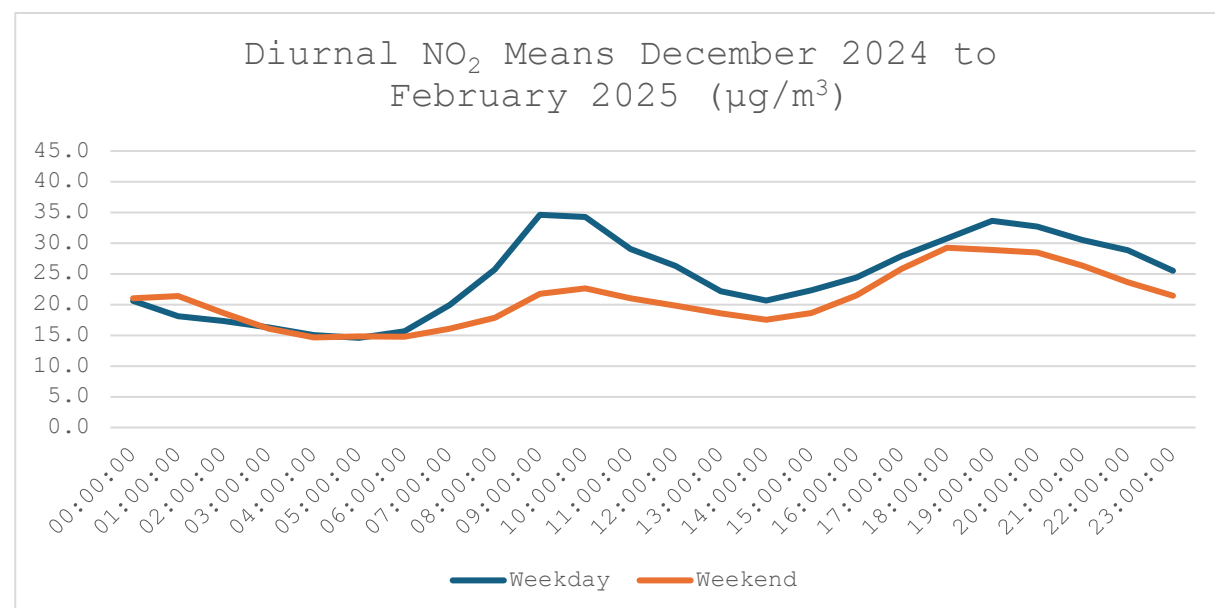
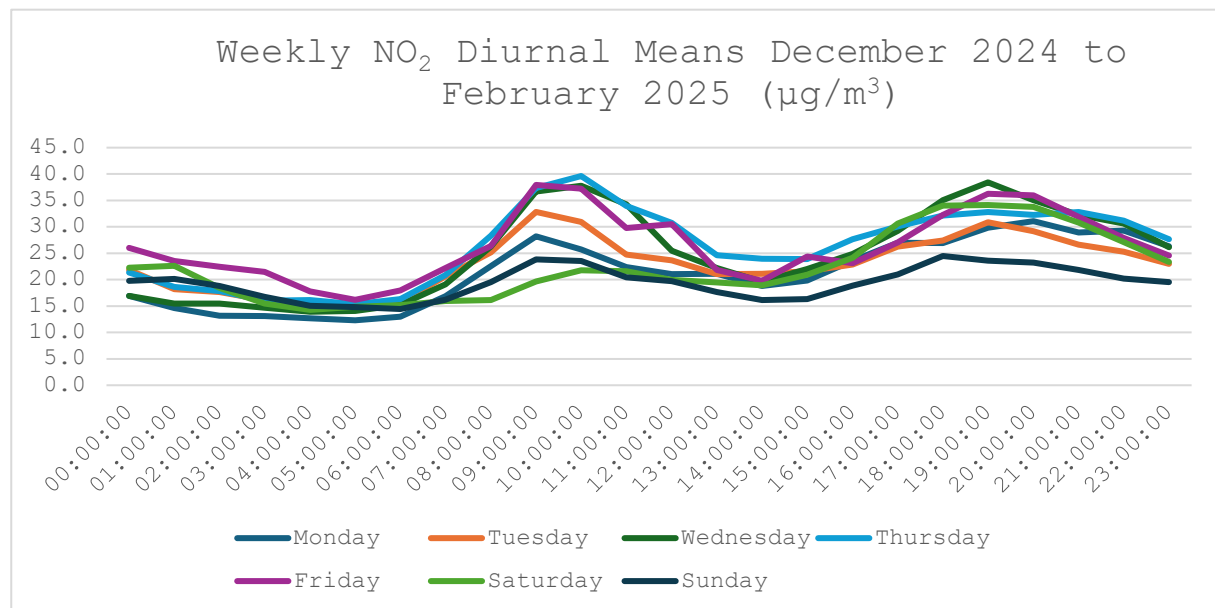
Summer period: August 2024.



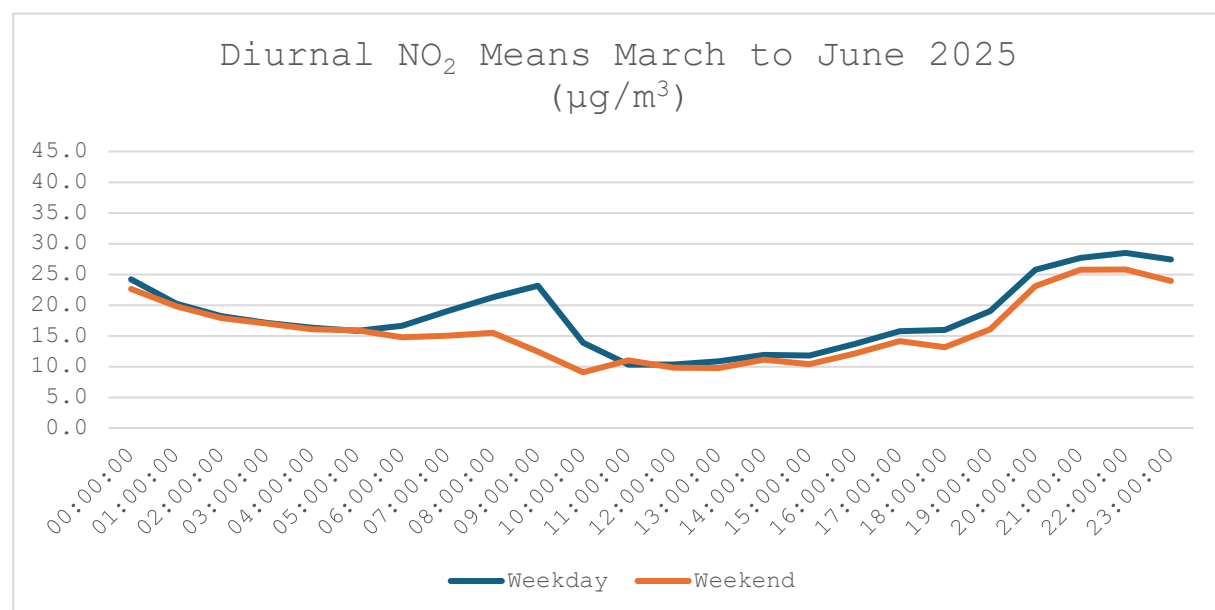
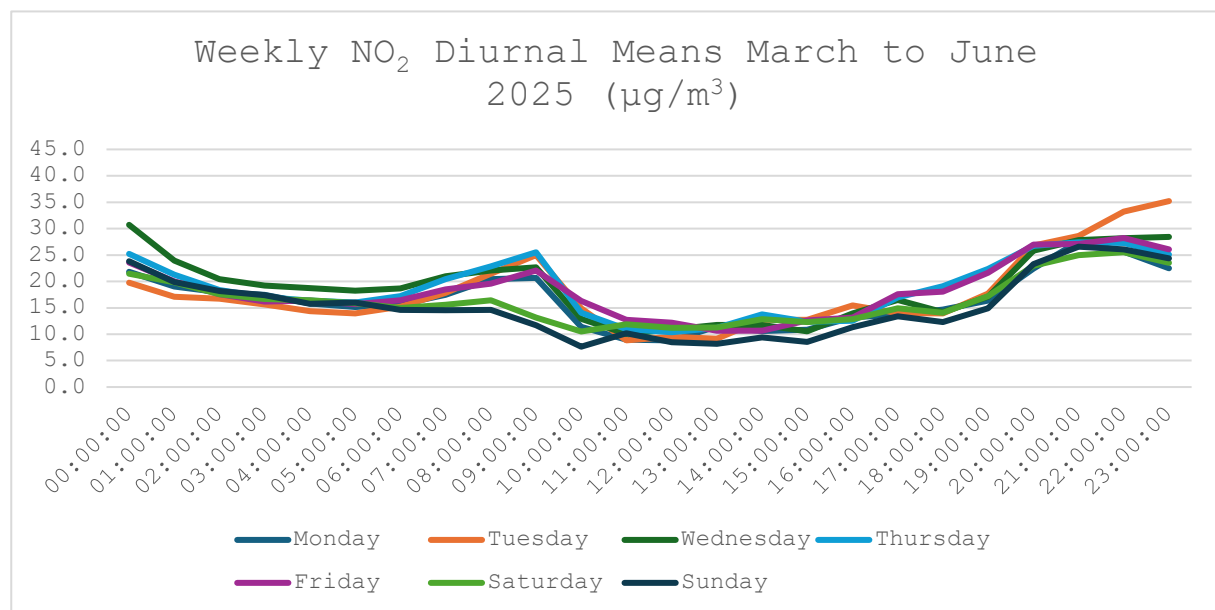
Autumn period: September, October and November 2024.



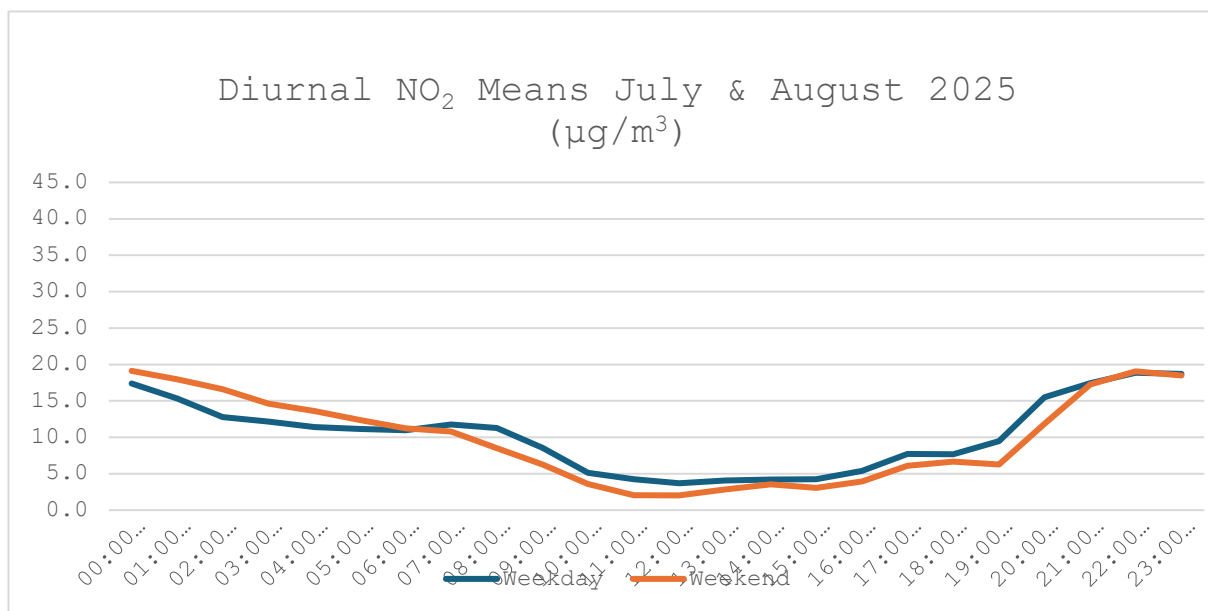
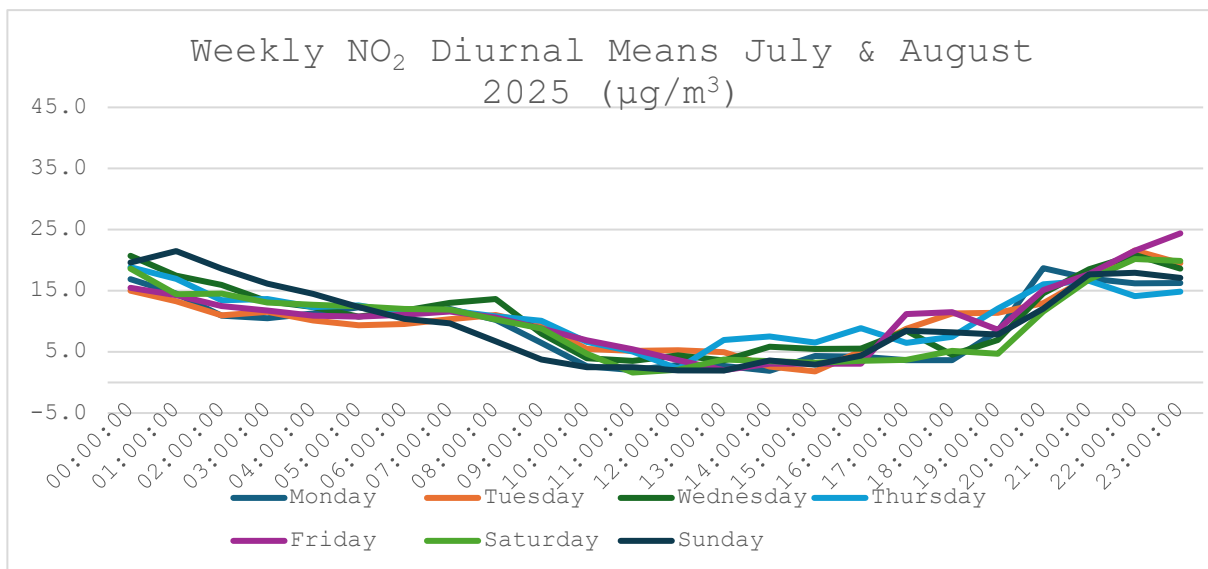
Winter period: December 2024, January and February 2025.



Spring period: March, April, May and June 2025.



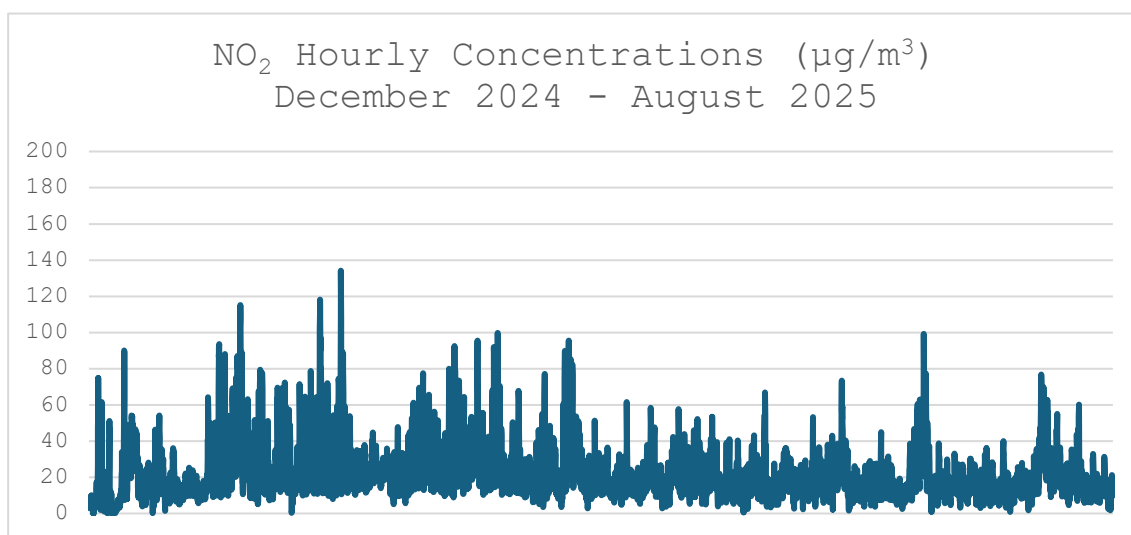
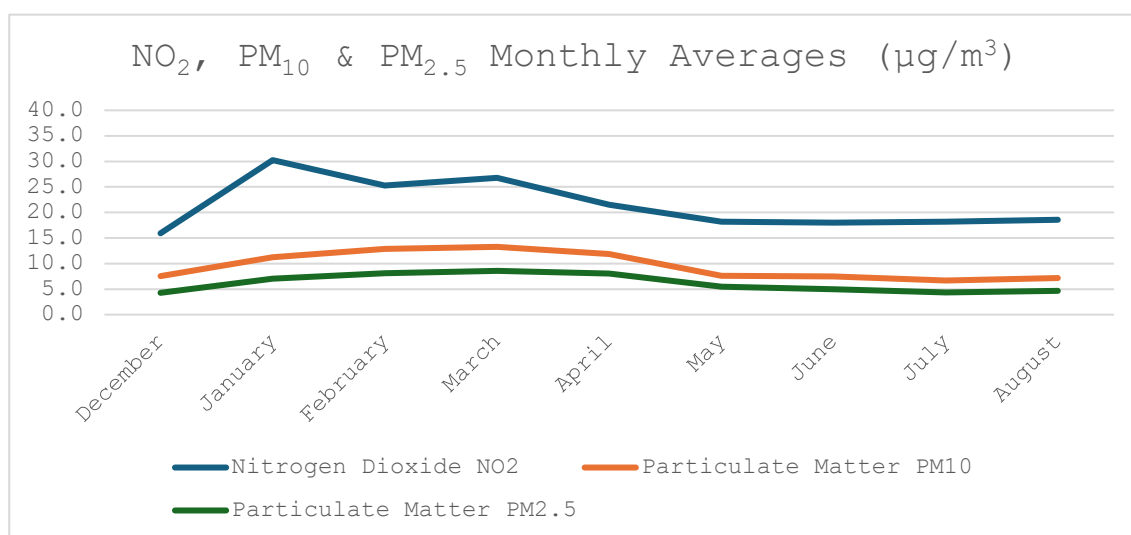
Summer period: July and August 2025.



4.3 Nettlefield Primary School, Cherryville Street.

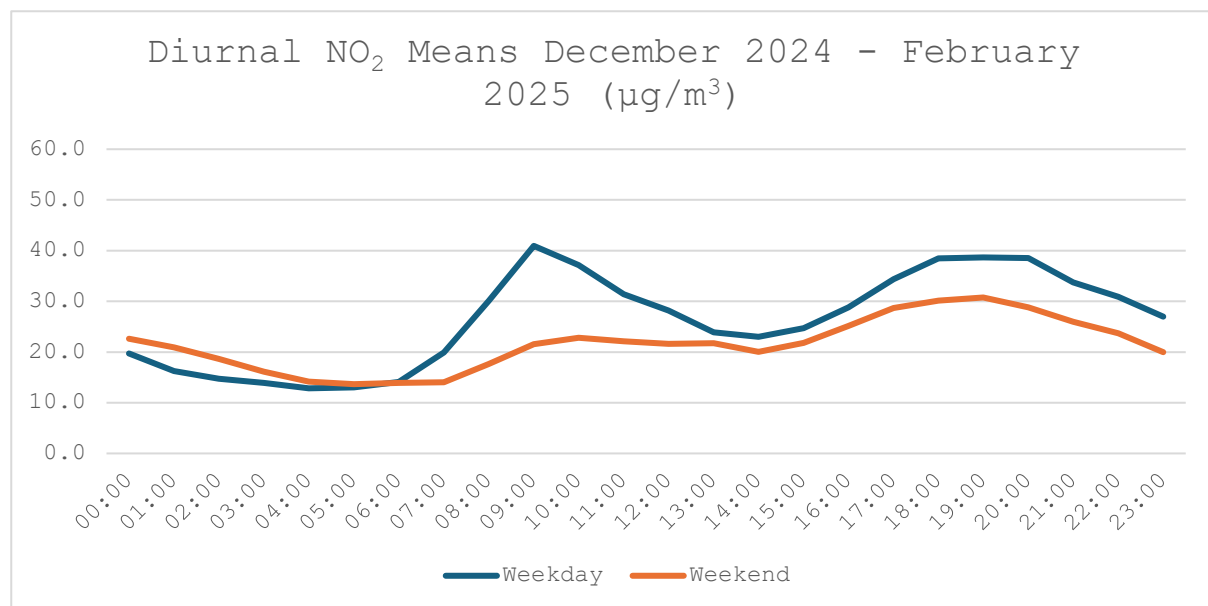
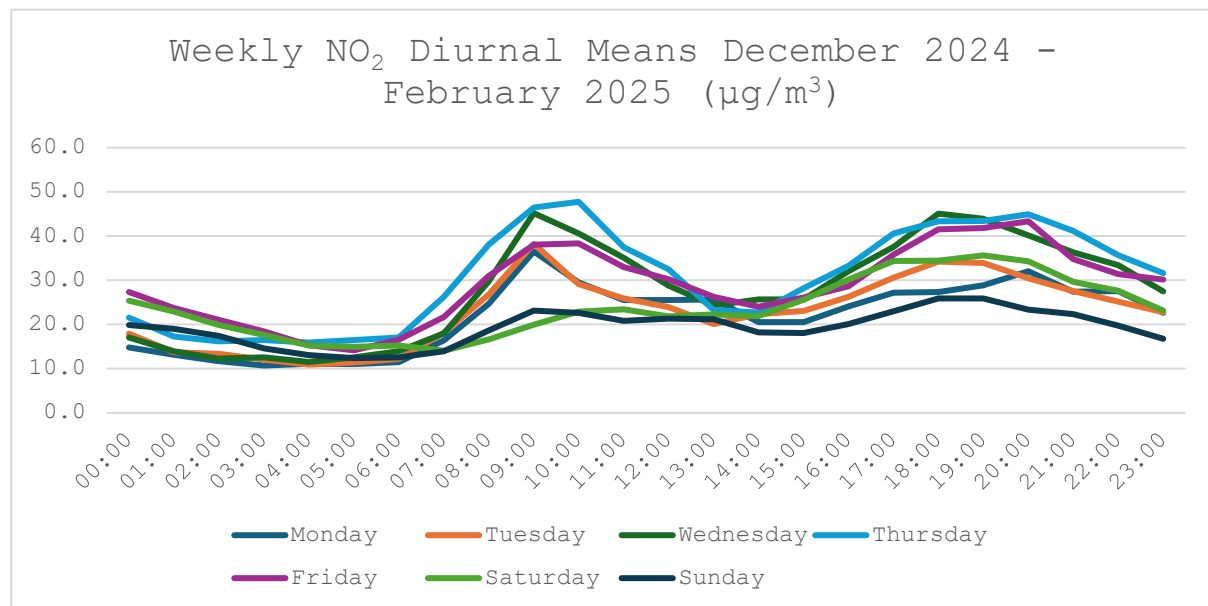
Monthly Means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 2024 - 2025

	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
NO₂	15.9	30.3	25.3	26.8	21.5	18.2	18.0	18.2	18.6
PM₁₀	7.5	11.2	12.8	13.3	11.9	7.6	7.5	6.7	7.2
PM_{2.5}	4.3	7.0	8.1	8.6	8.0	5.5	5.0	4.4	4.7

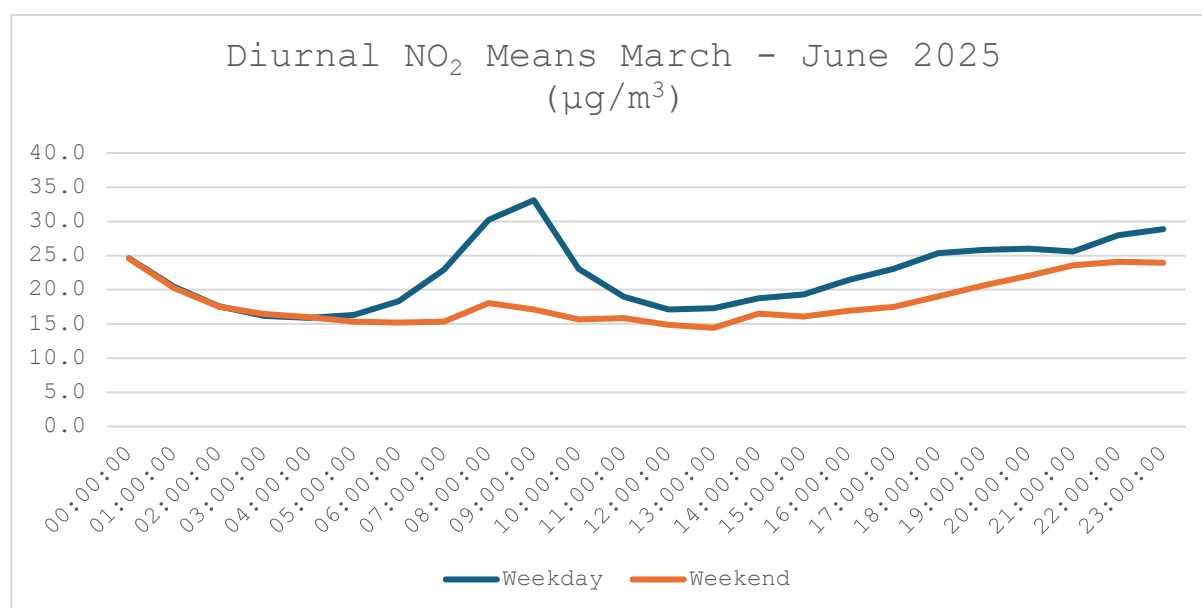
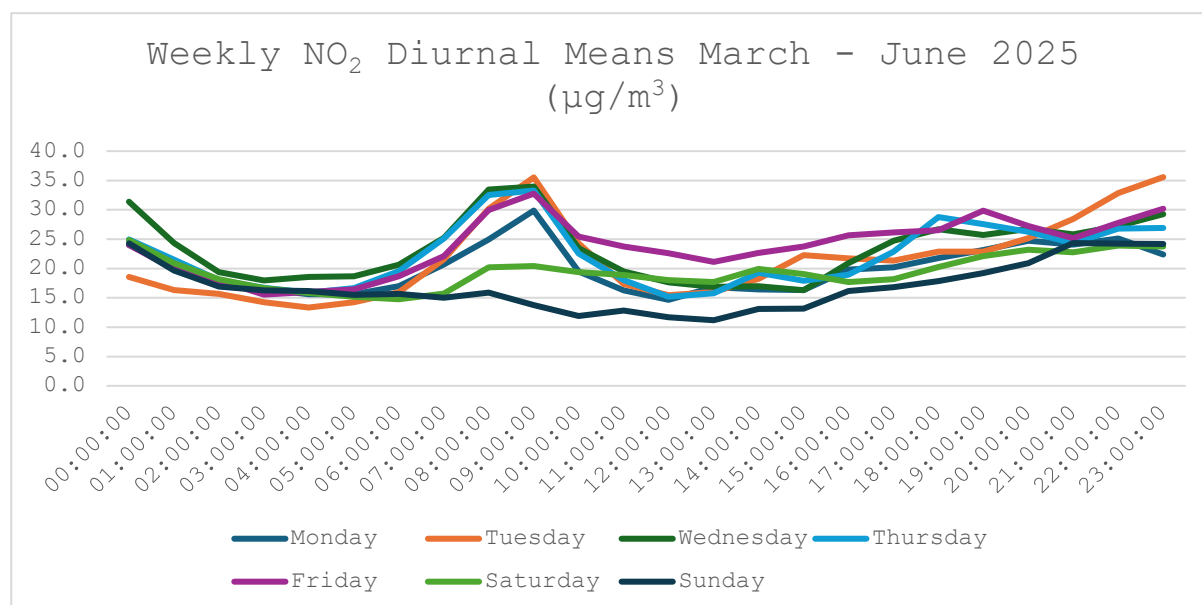


- The maximum nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) 1-hour mean concentration of 134 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred at 10:00 on Thursday 6th February 2025.
- The maximum particulate matter PM₁₀ 24-hour mean concentration of 46 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.
- The maximum particulate matter PM_{2.5} 24-hour mean concentration of 29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.

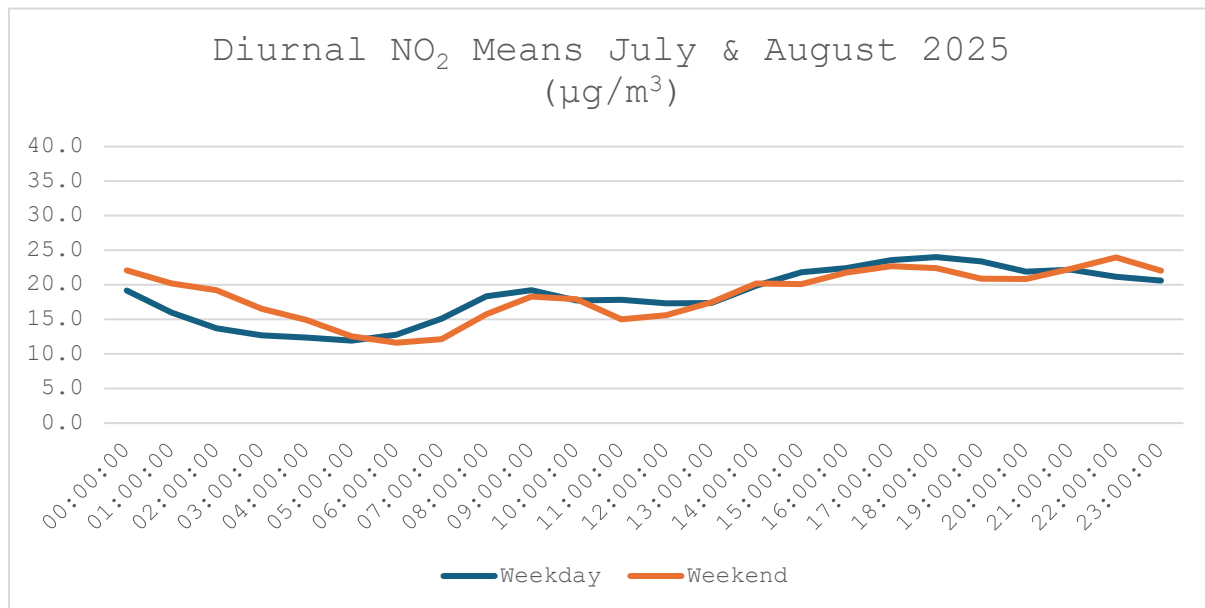
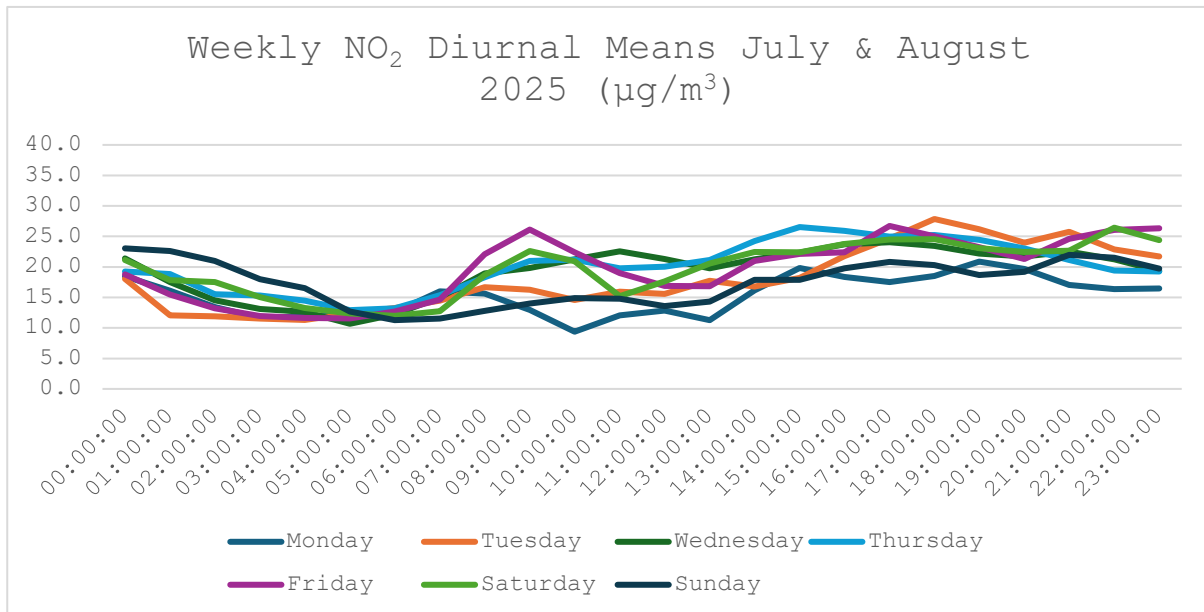
Winter period: December 2024 to February 2025.



Spring period: March, April, May and June 2025.



Summer period: July and August 2025.



4.4 Rosetta Primary School, Knockbreda Road.

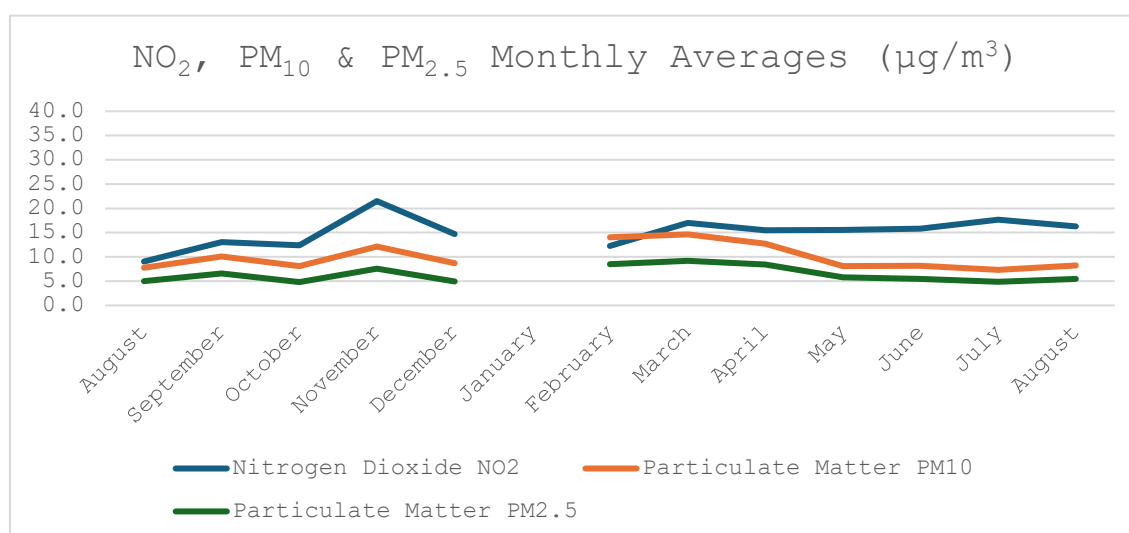
Monthly Means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 2024

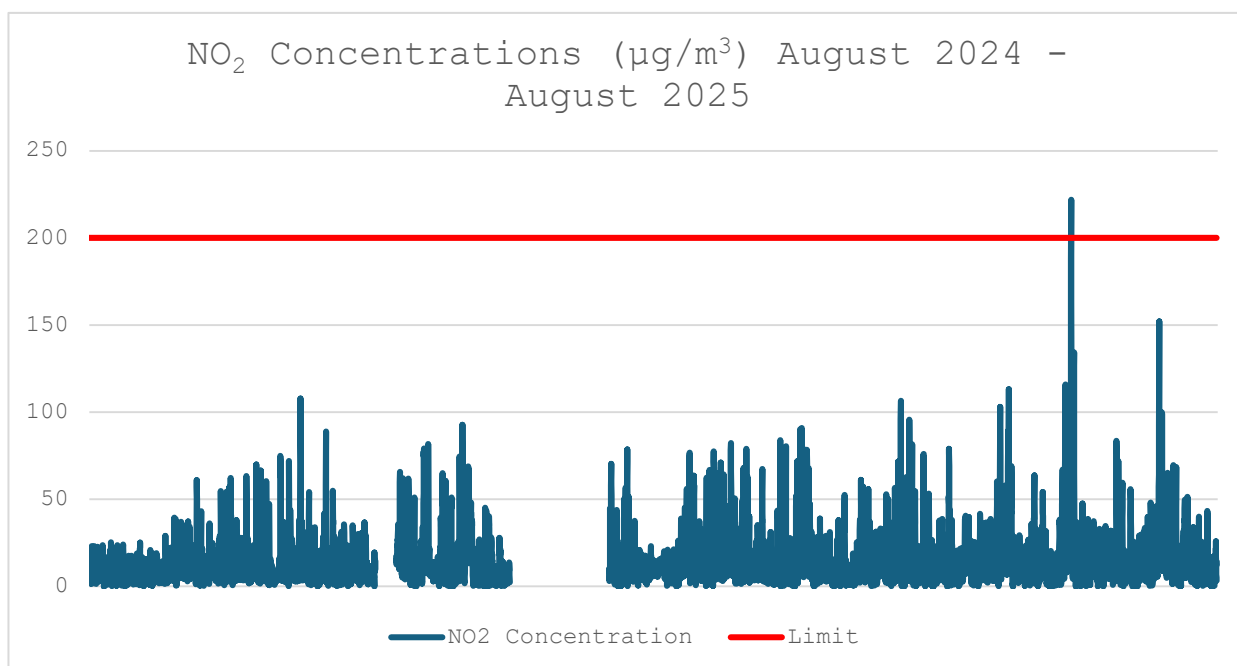
2024	August	September	October	November	December
NO ₂	9.1	13.0	12.4	21.5	14.7
PM ₁₀	7.8	10.1	8.1	12.2	8.7
PM _{2.5}	5.0	6.6	4.8	7.6	4.9

Monthly Means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 2025

2025	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
NO ₂	-	12.3	17.0	15.5	15.6	15.8	17.7	16.3
PM ₁₀	-	14.0	14.6	12.7	8.1	8.3	7.3	8.2
PM _{2.5}	-	8.5	9.2	8.4	5.8	5.5	4.9	5.4

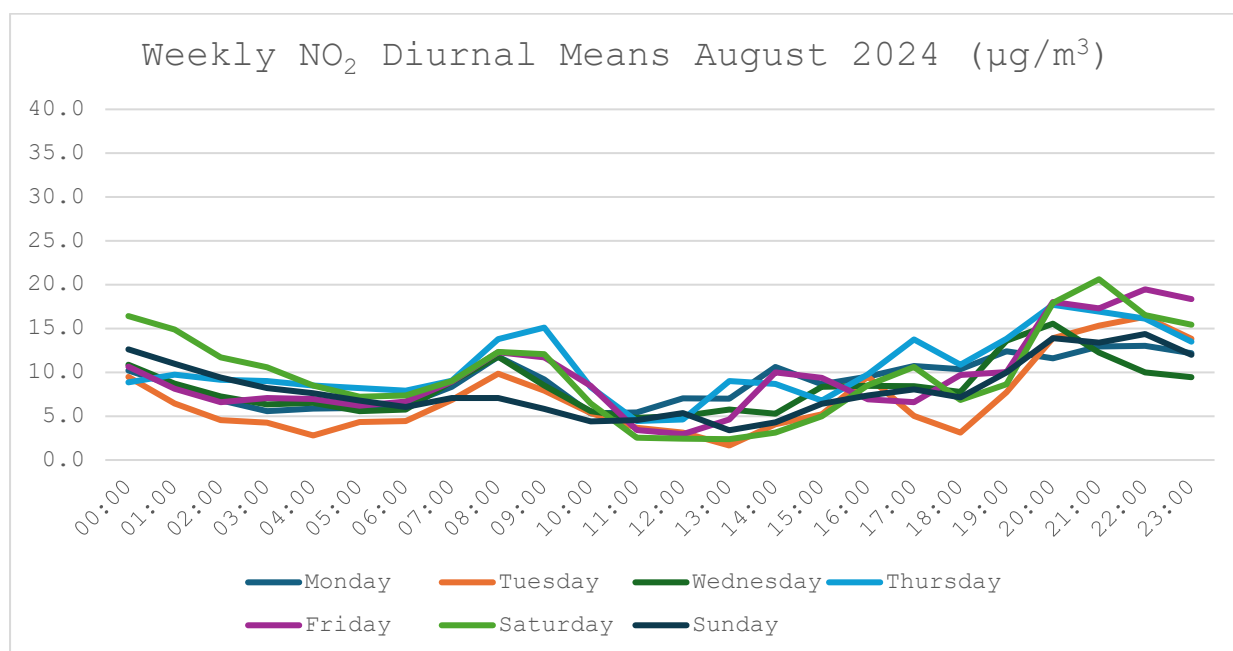
January 2025 data was removed due to an instrument fault identified during data ratification.

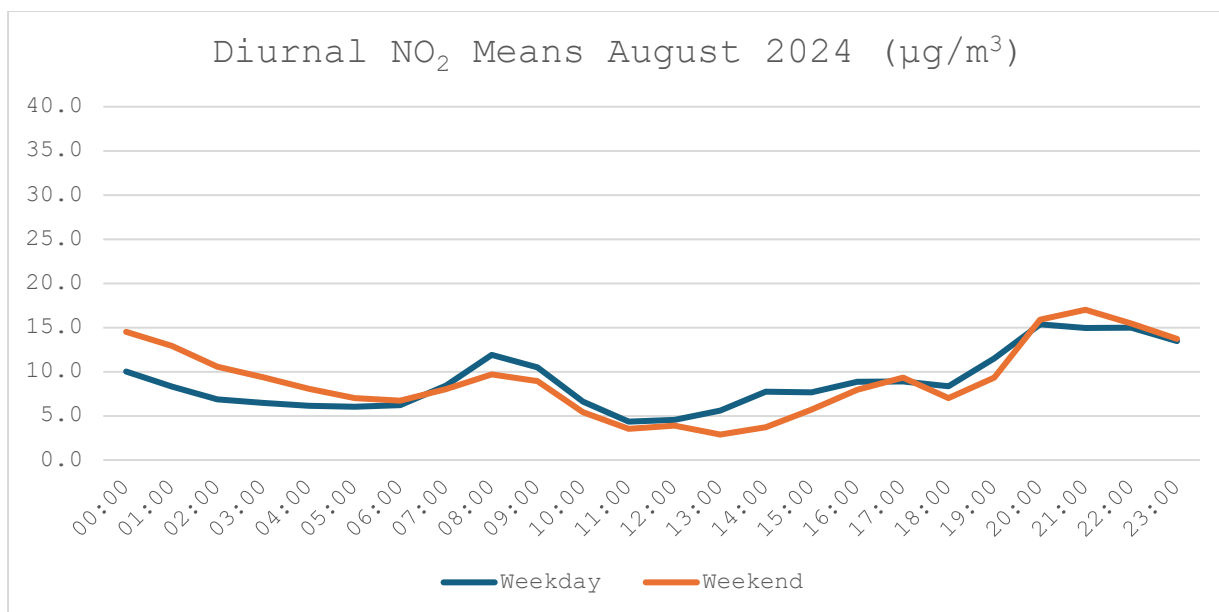




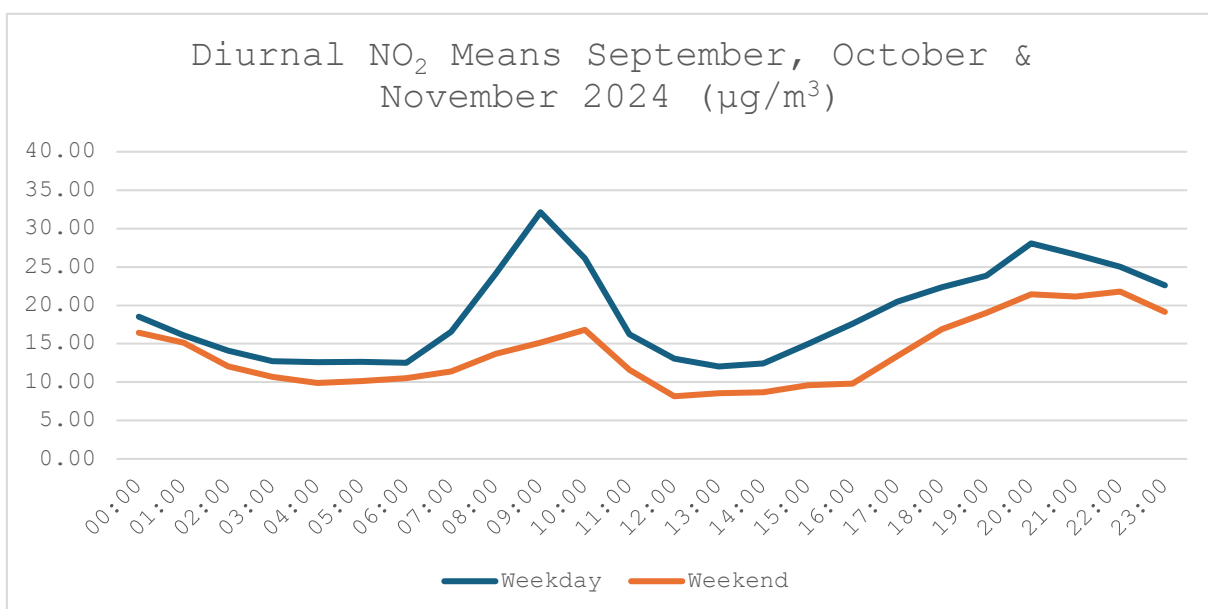
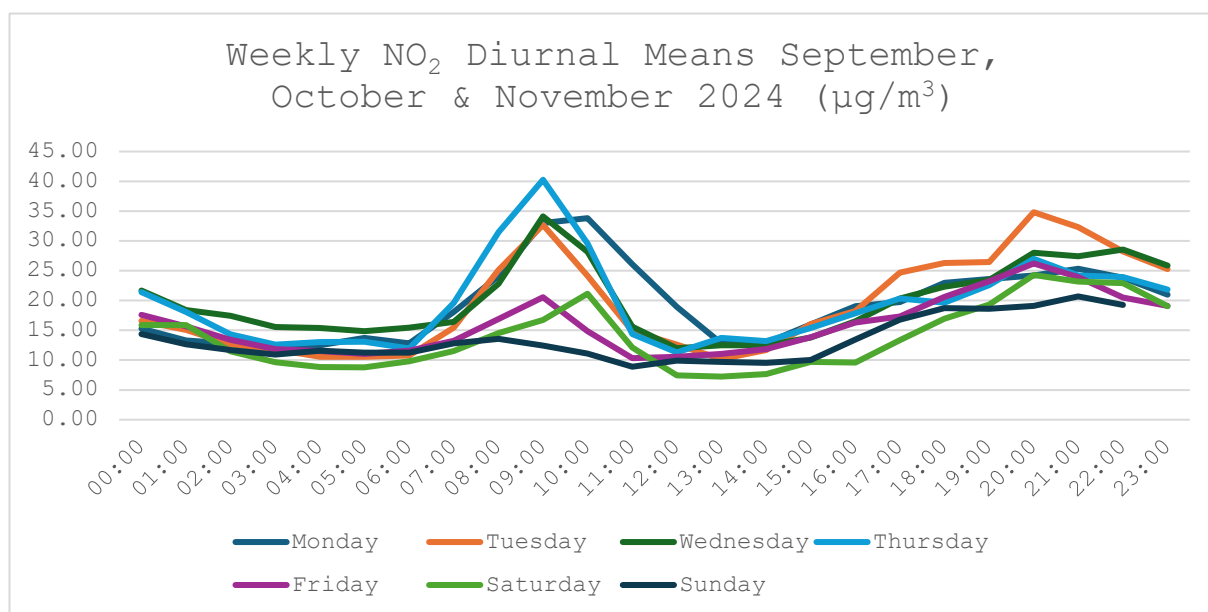
- There was one monitored exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) 1-hour mean objective of 200 µg/m³, which occurred on Saturday 12th July 2025 at 18:00 - 222 µg/m³.
- The maximum particulate matter (PM₁₀) 24 hour mean concentration of 49 µg/m³ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025
- The maximum particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) 24 hour mean concentration of 29 µg/m³ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.

Summer period 2024: August 2024.

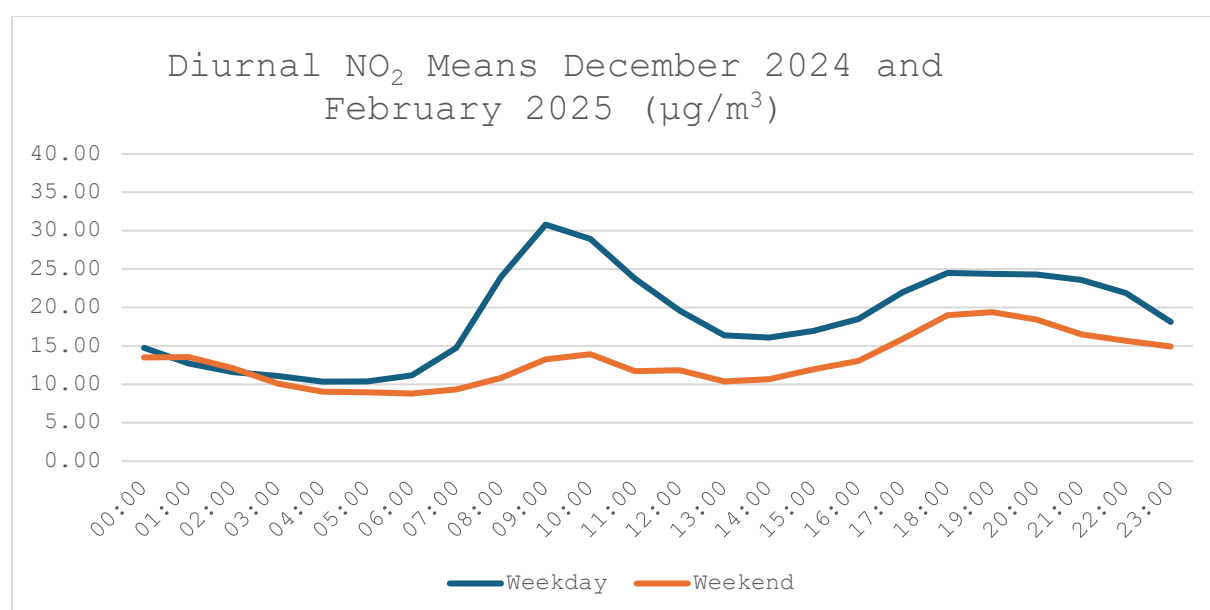
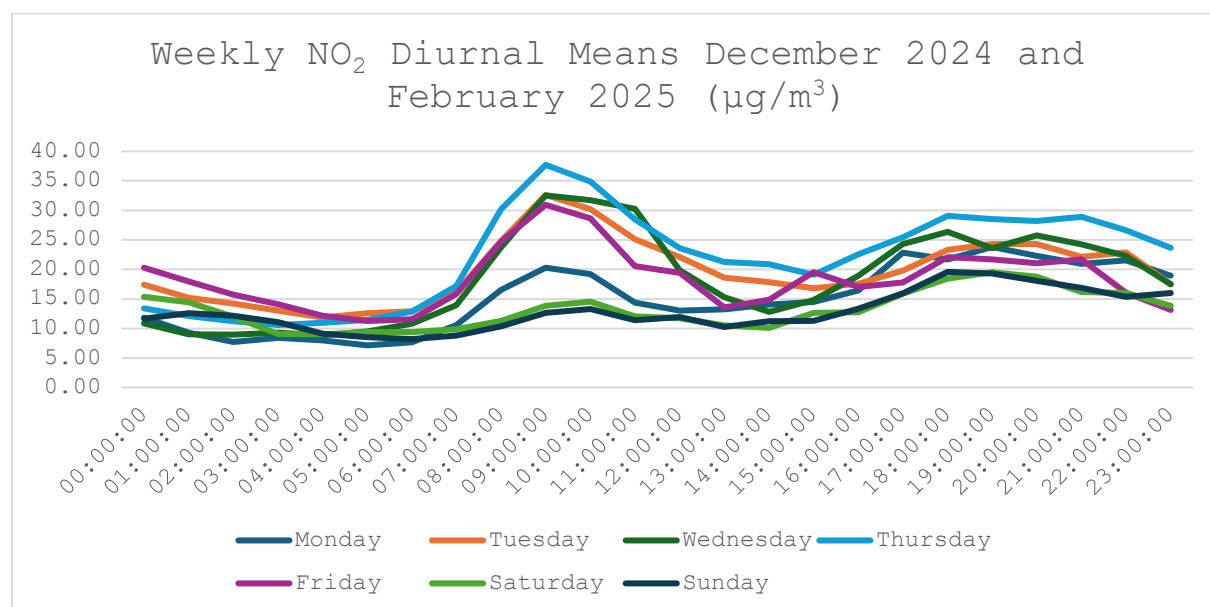




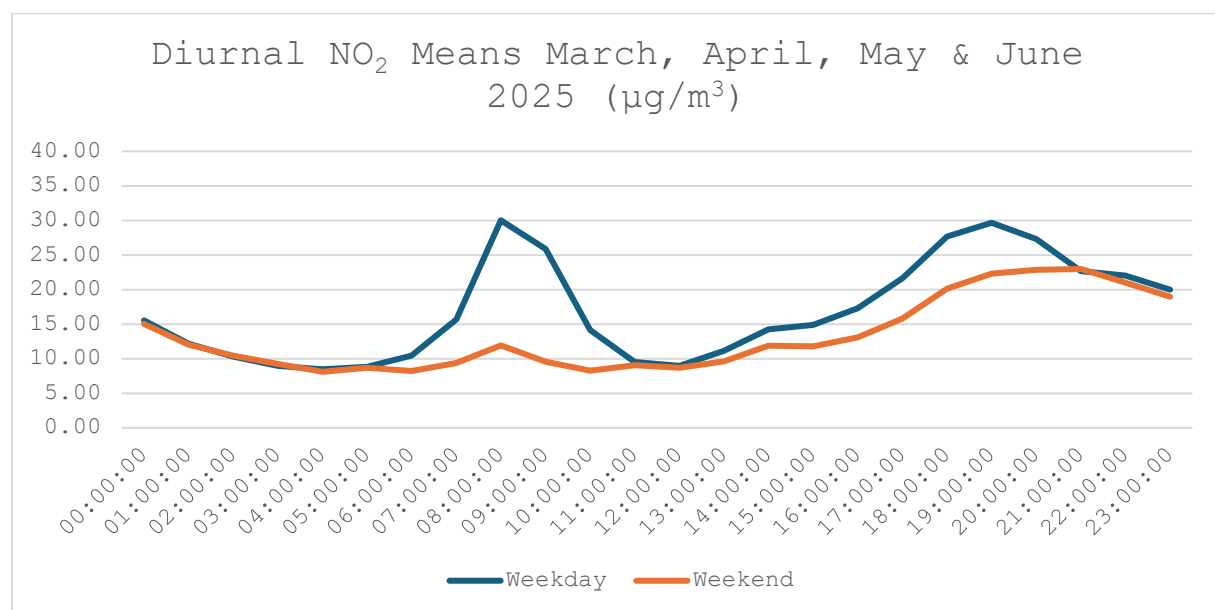
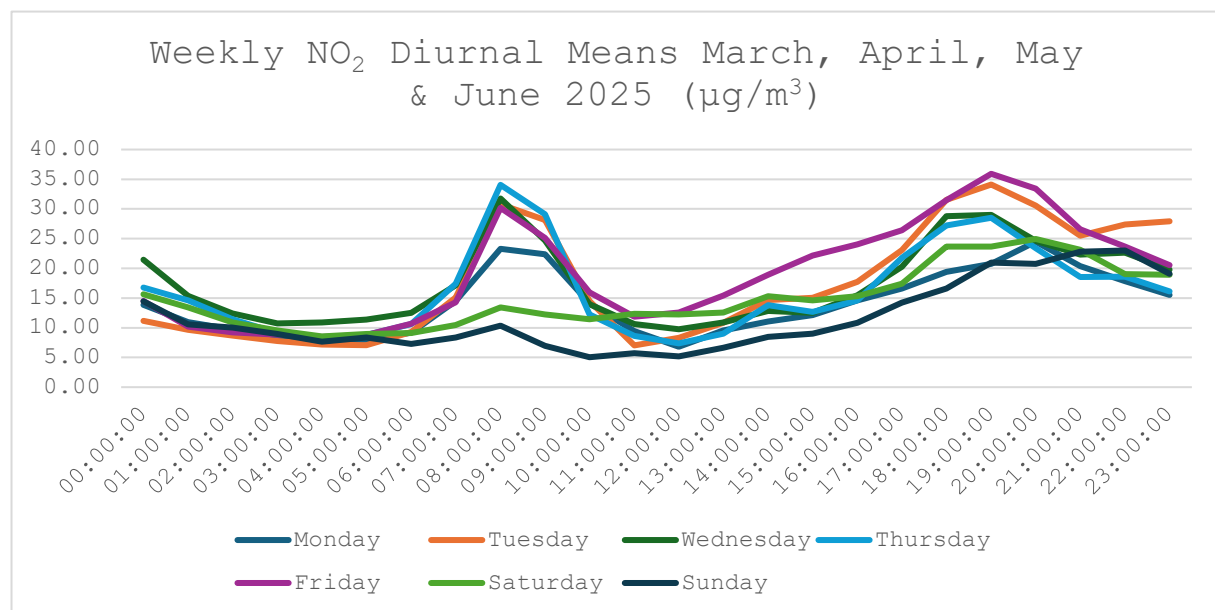
Autumn period: September, October and November 2024.



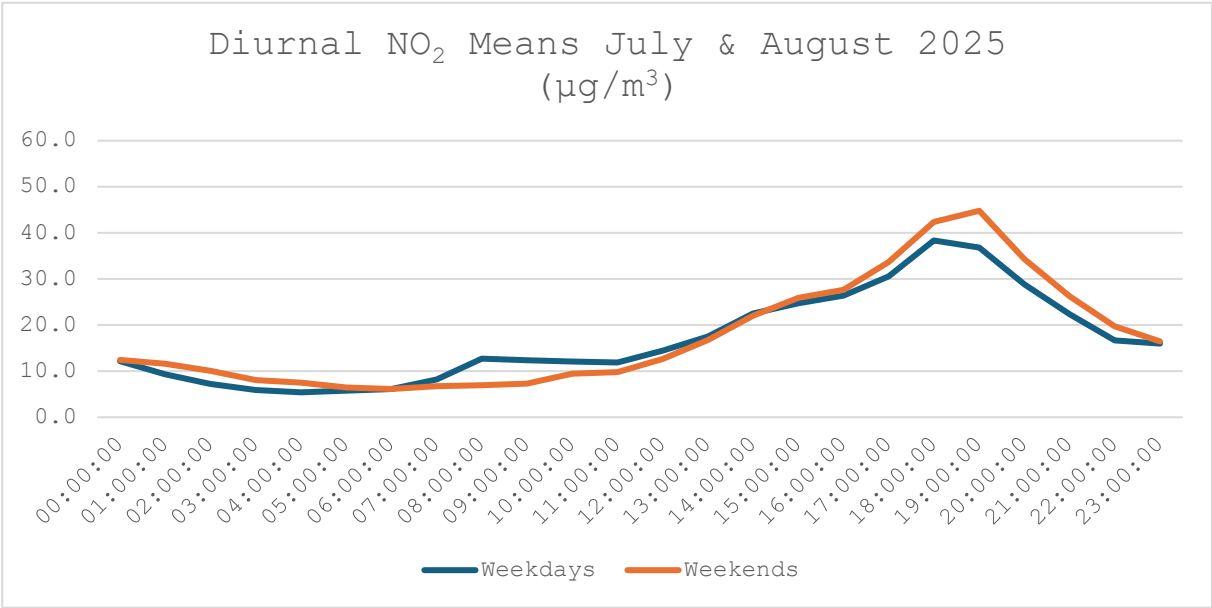
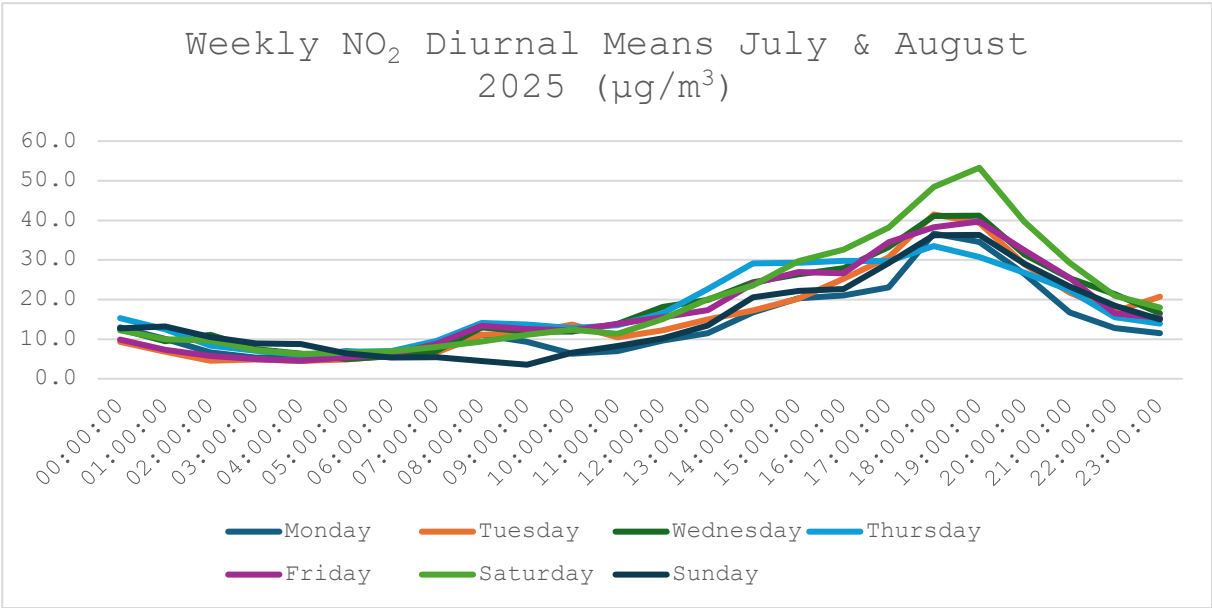
Winter period: December 2024 and February 2025. (January 2025 data was removed during data ratification).



Spring period: March, April, May and June 2025.



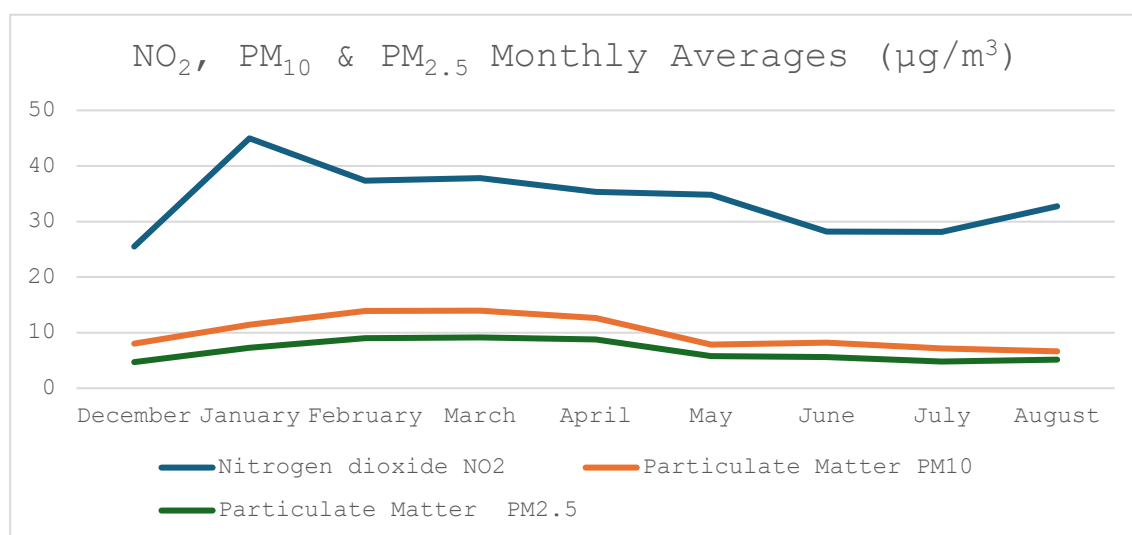
Summer period: July and August 2025.

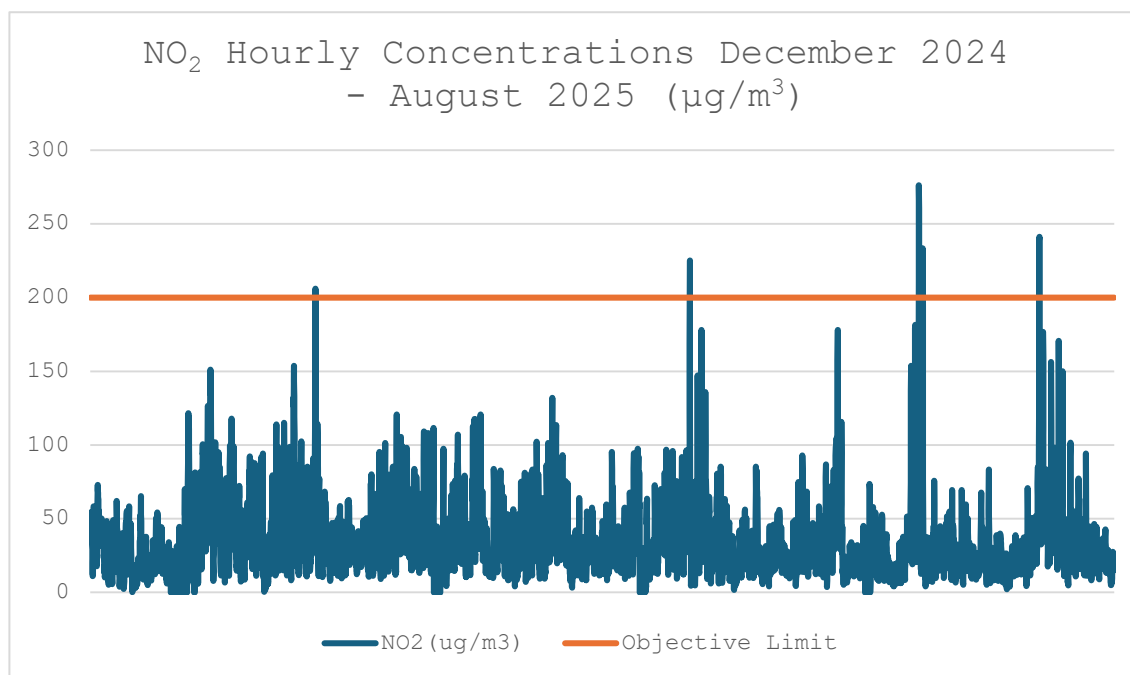


4.5 St. Mary's Primary School, Barrack Street (adjacent to the A12 Westlink and Divis Street)

Monthly Means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 2024 - 2025

	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
NO₂	25.5	45.0	37.4	37.8	35.3	34.8	28.2	28.1	32.7
PM₁₀	8.0	11.4	13.9	14.0	12.6	7.8	8.2	7.2	6.6
PM_{2.5}	4.7	7.3	9.0	9.1	8.8	5.8	5.6	4.8	5.2

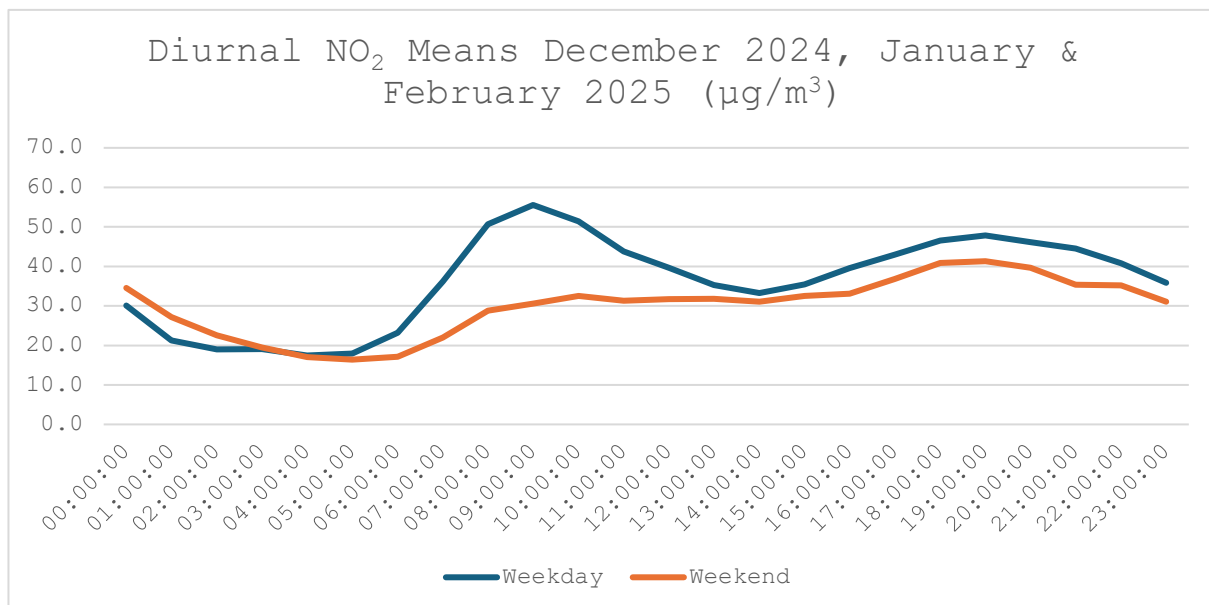
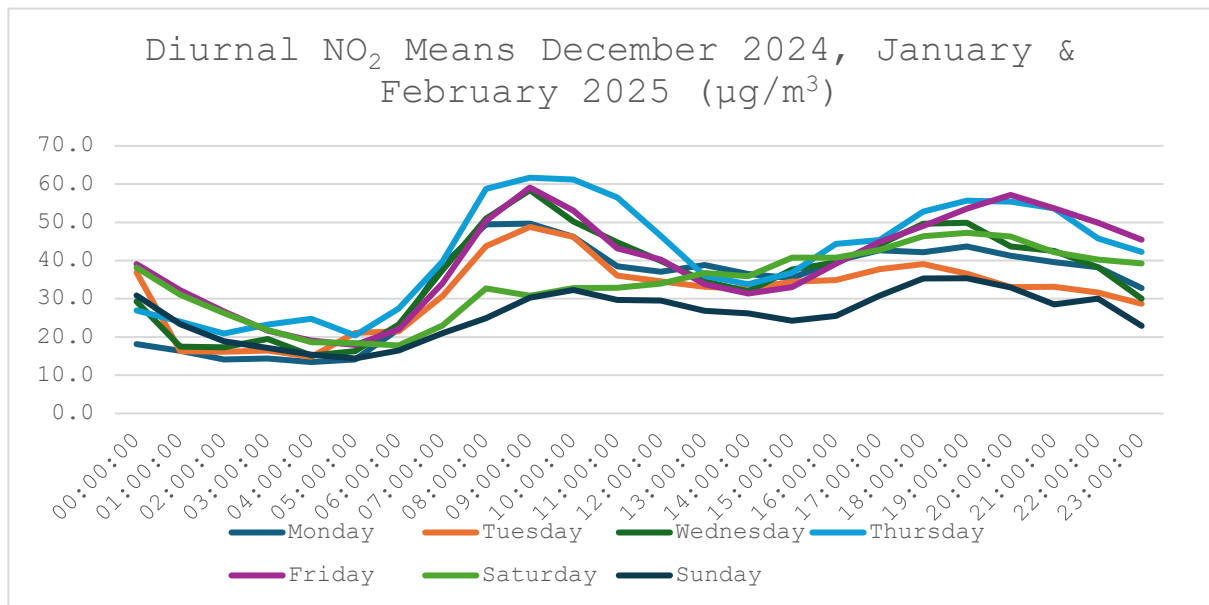




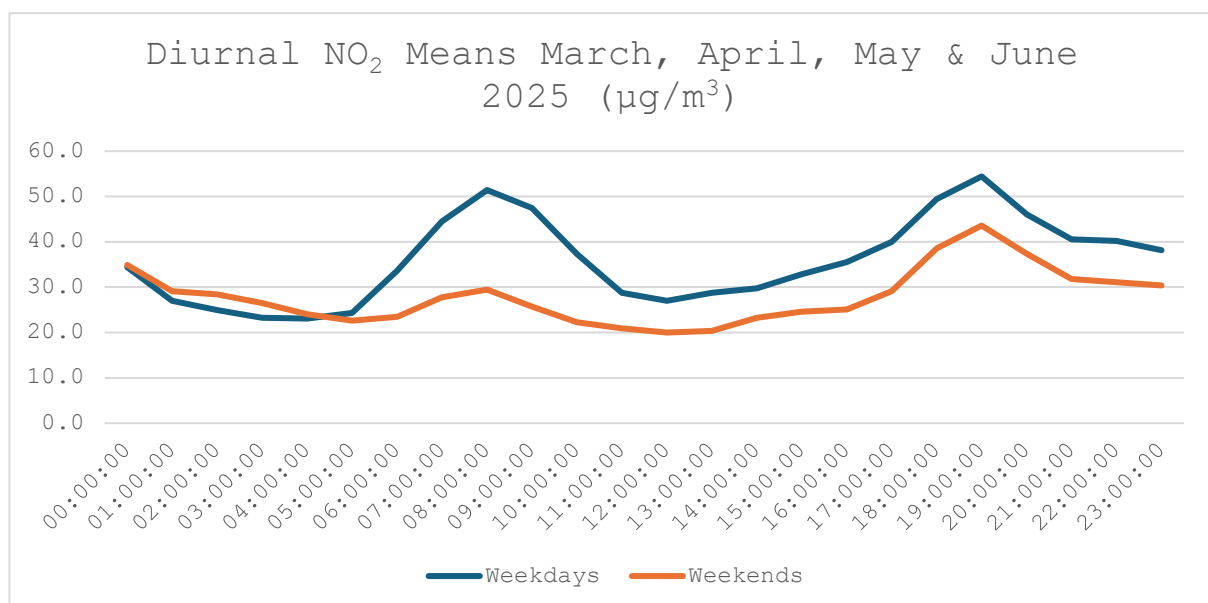
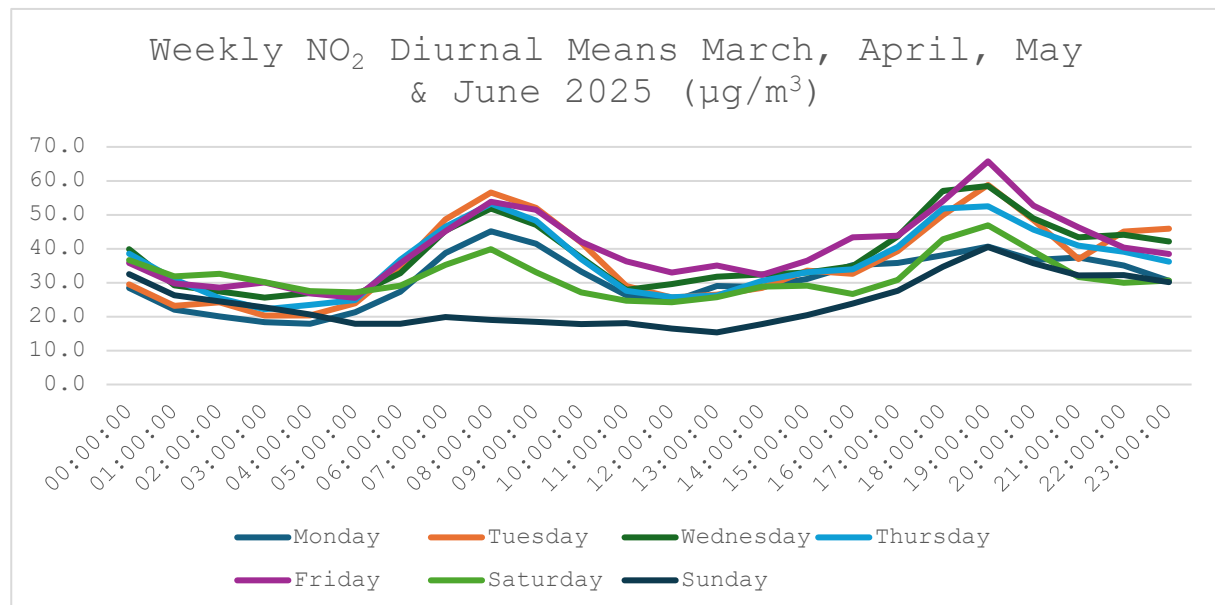
The monitor located adjacent to St Mary's Primary School at the A12 Westlink and Divis Street detected eight exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) 1-hour mean objective of 200 µg/m³ throughout the monitoring period. Exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective occurred at the following dates and times:

- Thursday 6th February 2025 at 11:00 - 206 µg/m³
- Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 19:00 - 225 µg/m³
- Saturday 12th July 2025 at 18:00 - 211 µg/m³
- Saturday 12th July 2025 at 19:00 – 276 µg/m³
- Saturday 12th July 2025 at 20:00 - 261 µg/m³
- Sunday 13th July 2025 at 19:00 - 233 µg/m³
- Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 18:00, 239 µg/m³
- Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 19:00, 241 µg/m³
- One exceedance of the 50 µg/m³ particulate matter (PM₁₀) 24-hour mean objective was detected on Thursday 20th March 2025 – 50.2 µg/m³.
- The maximum particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) 24-hour mean concentration was detected on Thursday 20th March 2025 – 31 ug/m³.

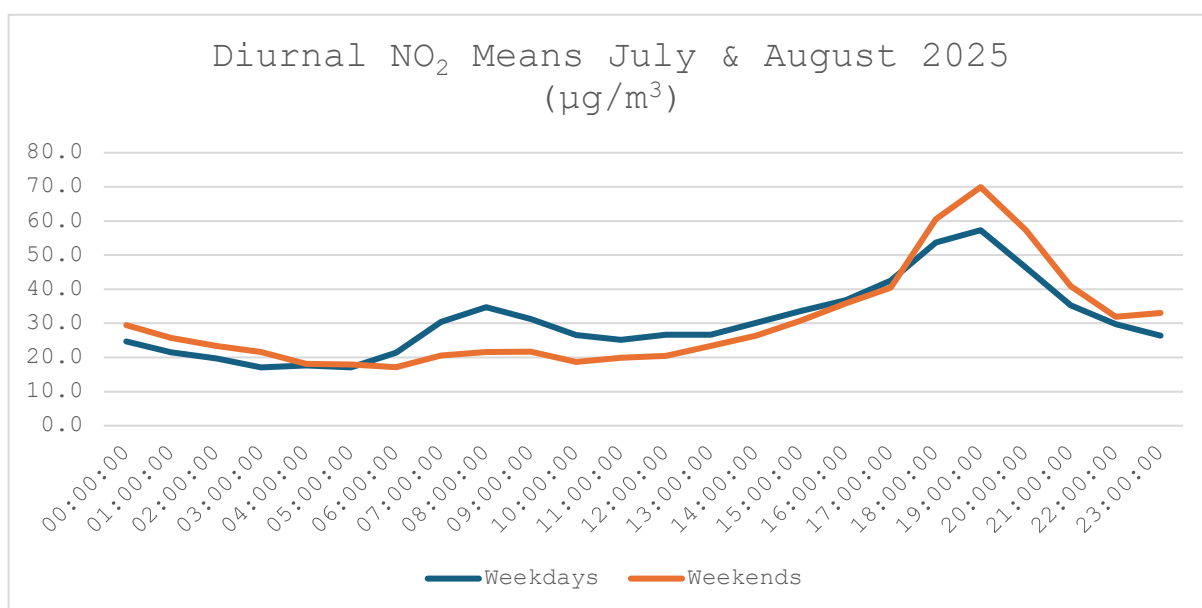
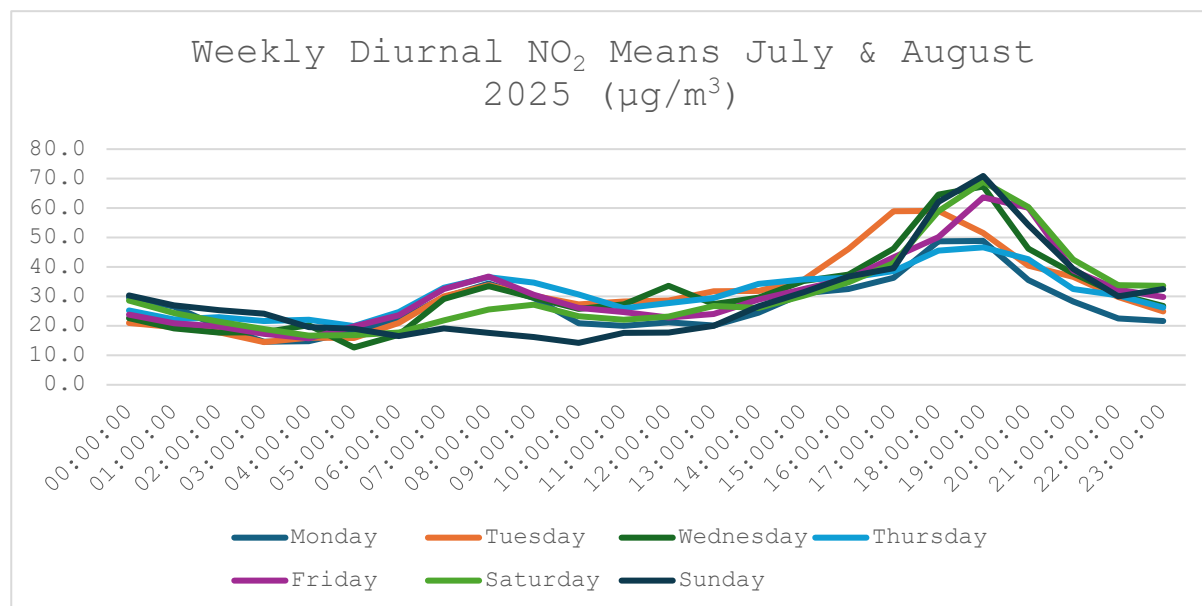
Winter period: December 2024, January and February 2025.



Spring period: March, April, May and June 2025.



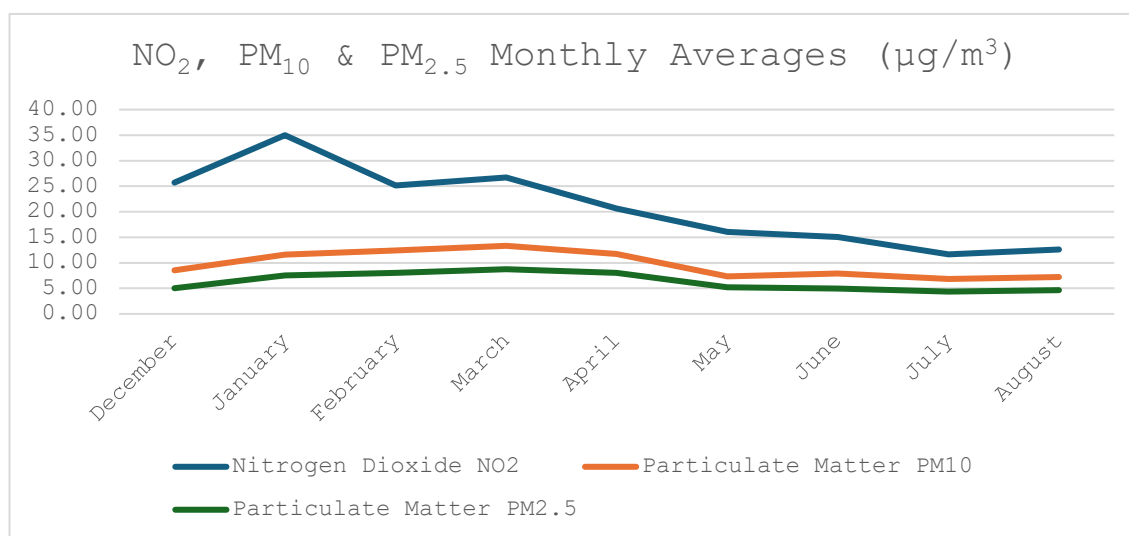
Summer period: July and August 2025.

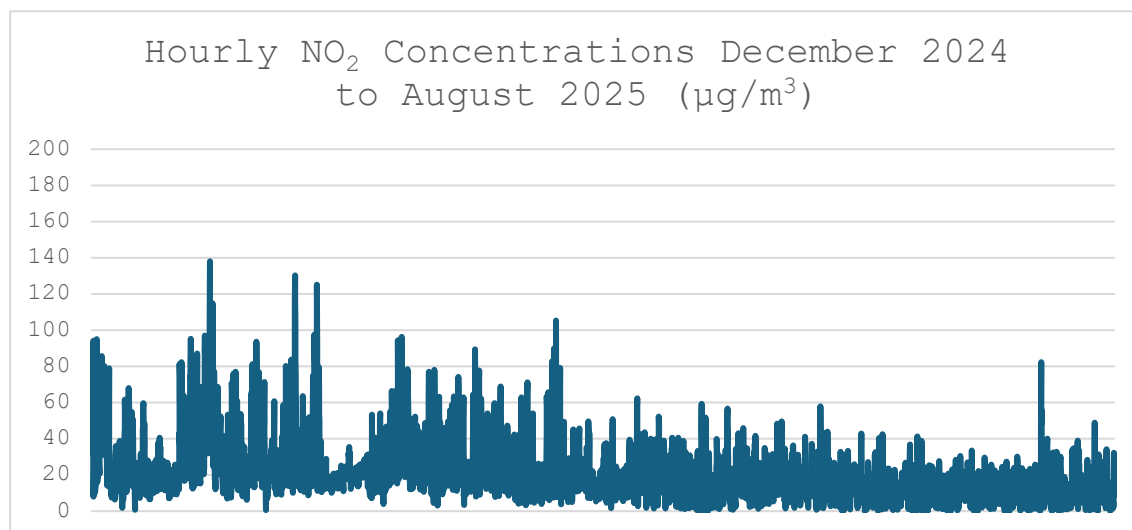


4.6 Strandtown Primary School, North Road.

Monthly Means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 2024 - 2025

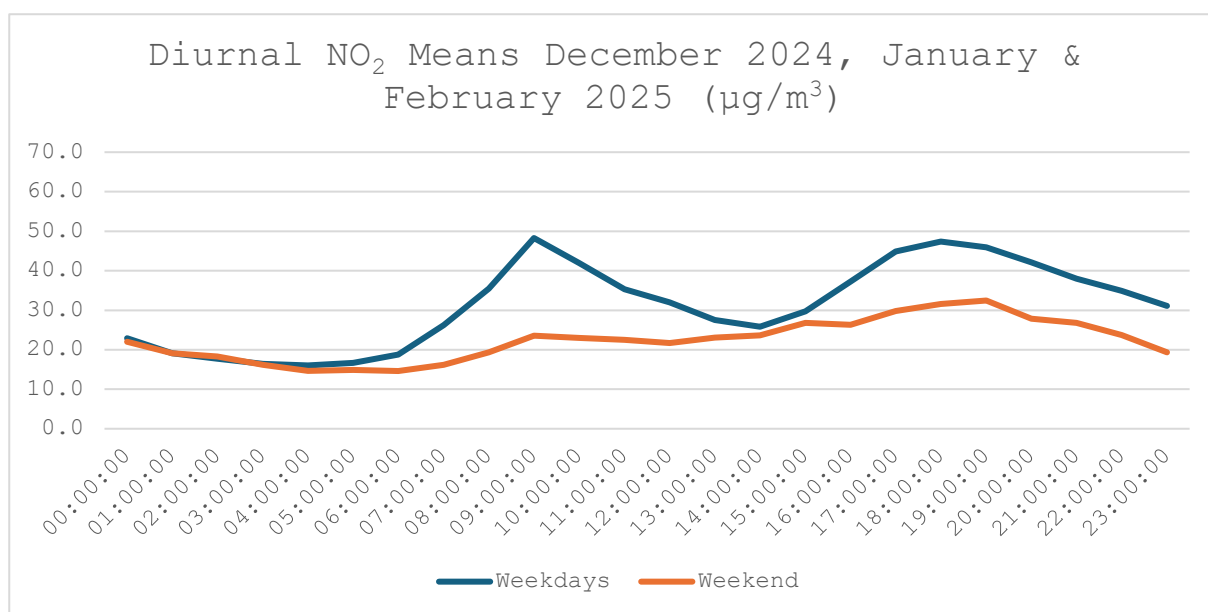
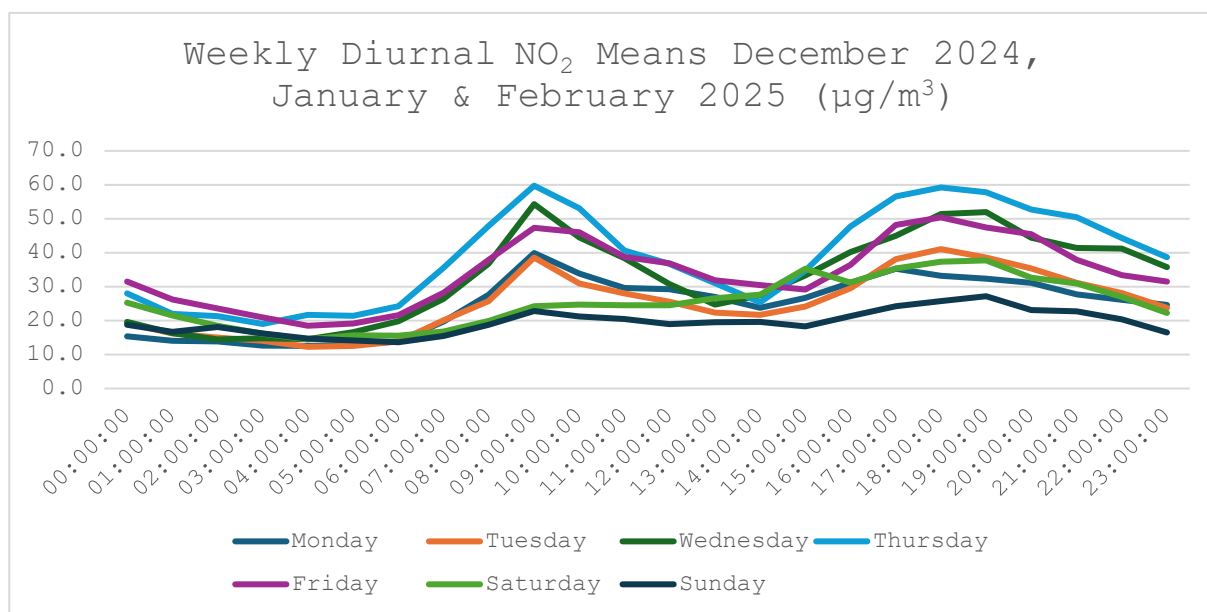
	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
NO₂	25.7	35.0	25.1	26.7	20.6	16.1	15.0	11.7	12.6
PM₁₀	8.5	11.6	12.4	13.3	11.7	7.3	7.9	6.8	7.2
PM_{2.5}	5.1	7.6	8.0	8.8	8.0	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.7



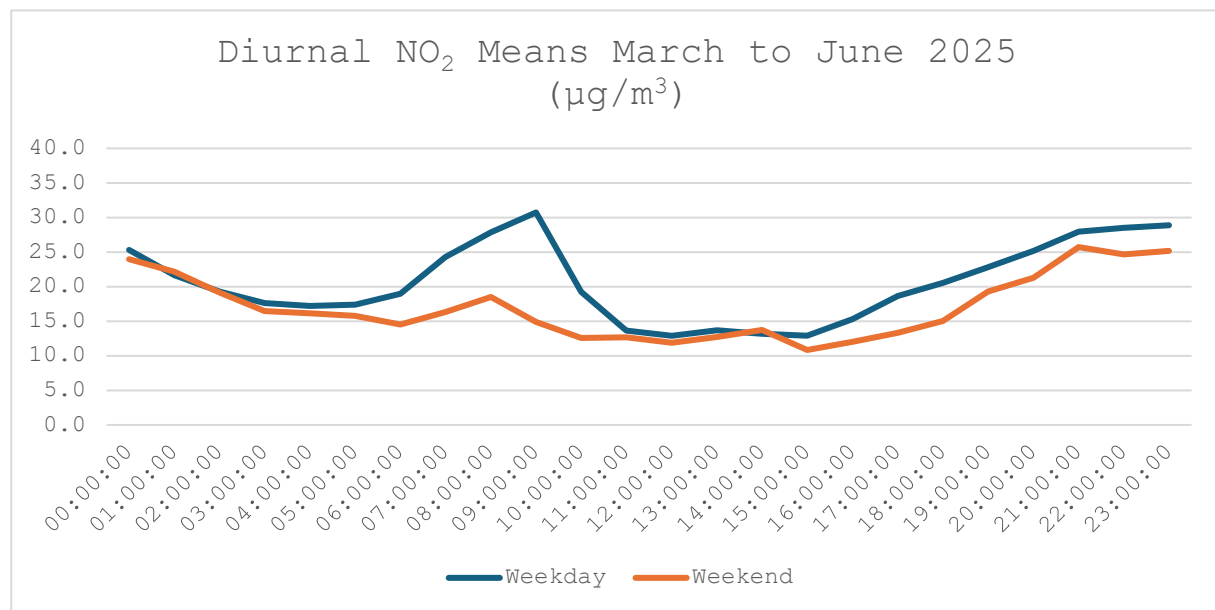
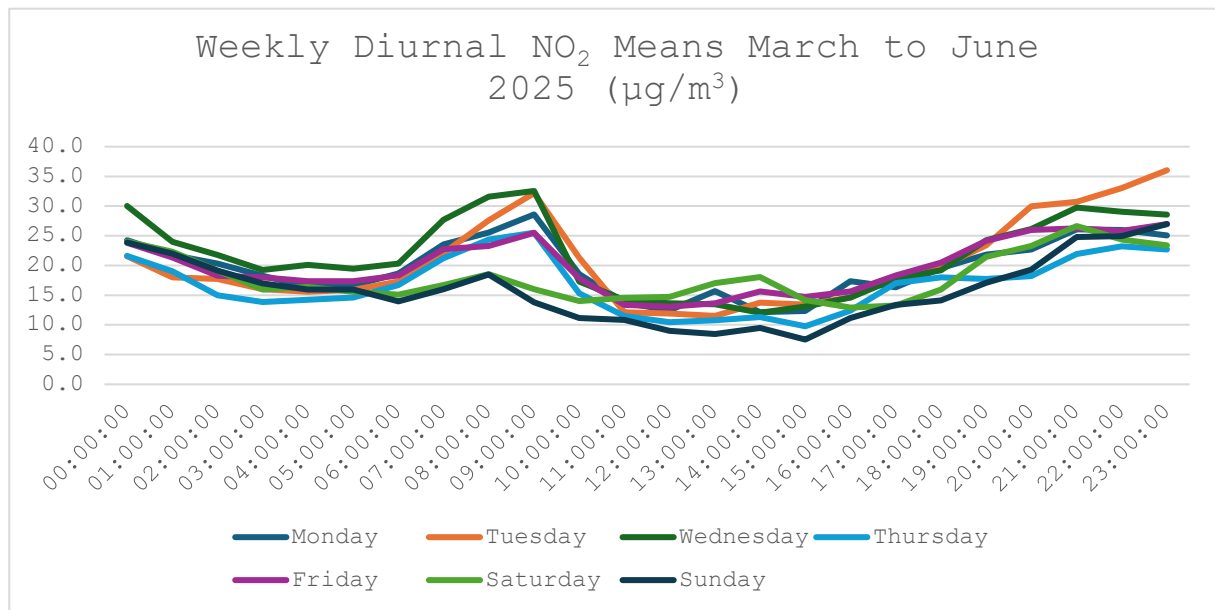


- The maximum nitrogen dioxide 1-hour mean concentration of 138 µg/m³ and occurred at 17:00 on Thursday 9th January 2025.
- The maximum particulate matter (PM₁₀) 24 hour mean concentration of 46 µg/m³ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025
- The maximum particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) 24-hour mean concentration of 29 µg/m³ occurred on Thursday 20th March 2025.

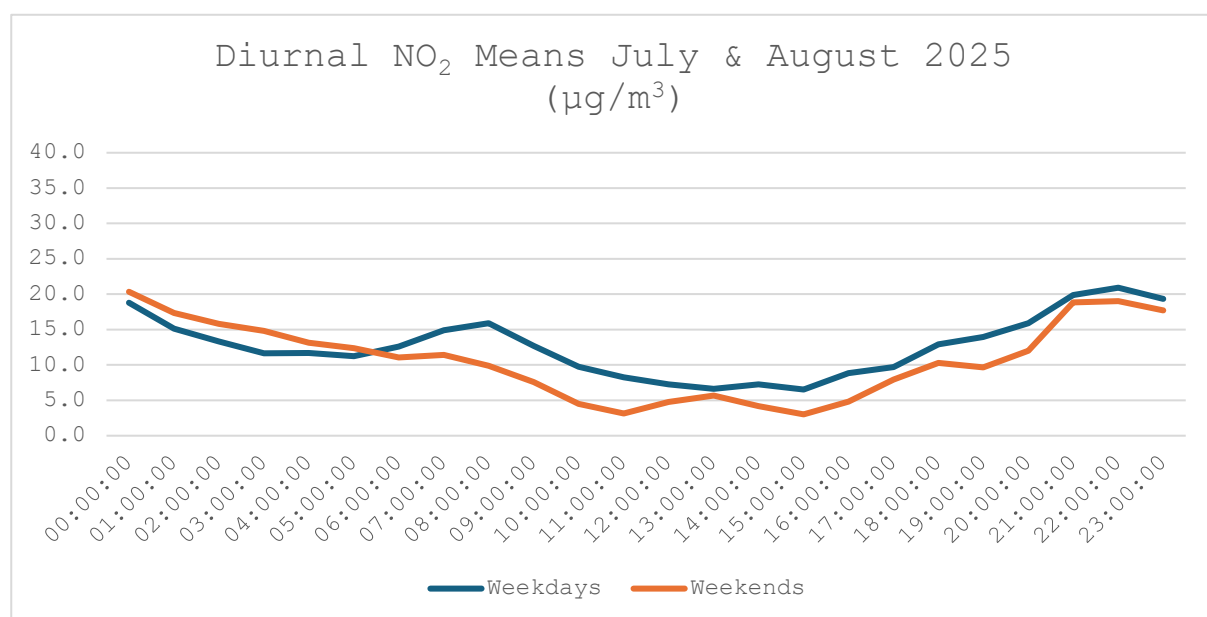
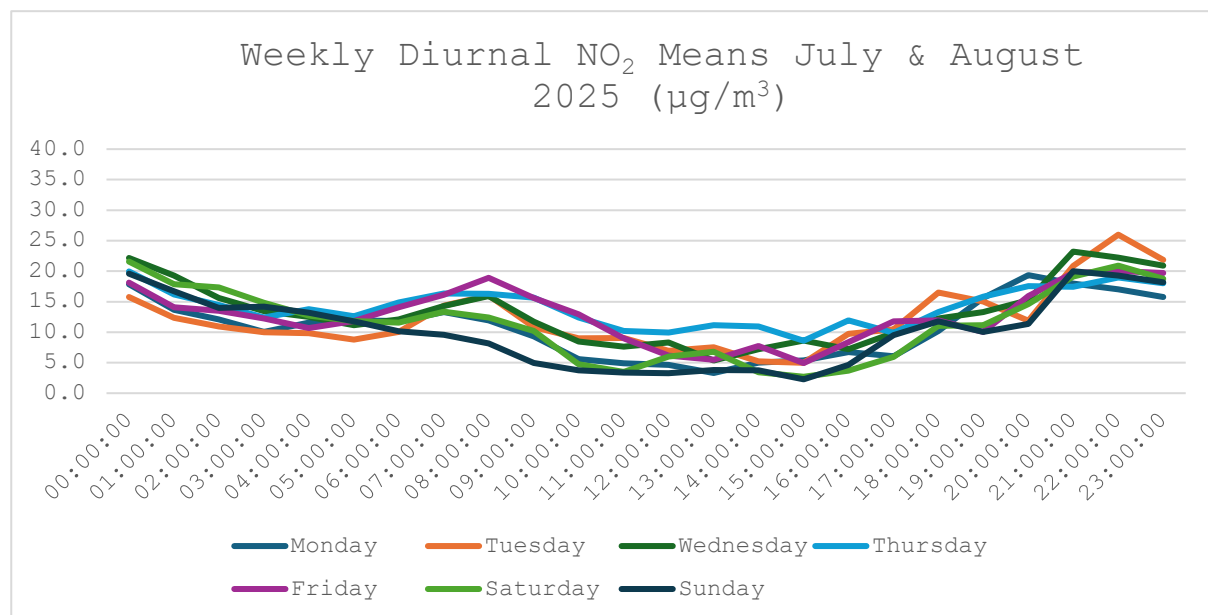
Winter period: 11th December 2024, January and February 2025.



Spring period: March, April, May and June 2025.



Summer period: July and August 2025.





Subject:	Resources and Fleet Waste Update
Date:	4 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene
Contact Officer:	Brendan Murray, Waste Manager (Waste Management) Peadar Doyle, Logistics Manager (Waste Collections)

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	

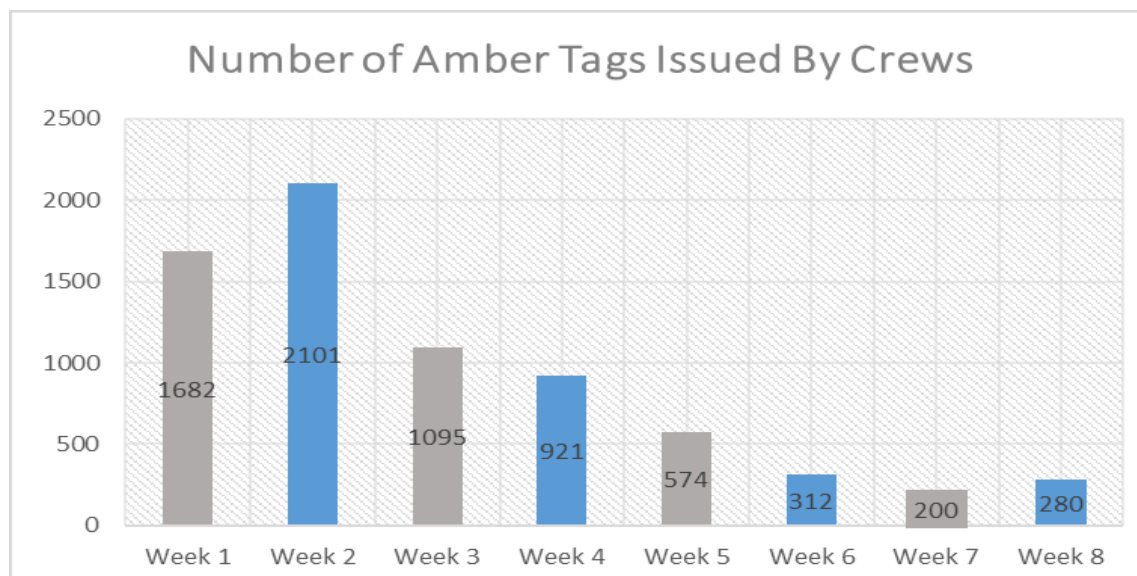
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes ☒ No ☐	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update to members on waste collections, management and performance.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to note the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Waste Performance & Recycling Rates</u>
3.1	The most recent waste statistics published by the NIEA are the April to June 2025 data set. The report is a snapshot of the first quarter of the 25/26 financial year versus the same period for the previous year.
3.2	The overall picture for NI was one of; a decreasing quantity of waste collected (269,429 tonnes collected, down 0.8%), a lower municipal reuse and recycling rate (53.2% down 0.6%) and a significant decrease in the landfill disposal rate, down from 15.8% to 5.5%. This landfill diversion is reflected in an uplift in the energy recovery rate from 30% to 41% for the quarter.
3.3	An examination of the figures for Belfast City Council, indicates the following; • Municipal Waste Arisings - the total tonnage of all types of waste collected by the Council was 41,882, a decrease of approximately 700 tonnes (1.6%) on the same quarter the previous year. • Municipal Waste Recycling Rate – the percentage of all types of waste collected by the Council re-used, recycled or composted, remained unchanged at 41.5%. • Household Waste Recycling Rate– the percentage of household waste only collected by the Council re-used, recycled or composted, remained static at 45%. • Landfill Diversion– the percentage of Council waste sent to landfill was 0.1%. • Energy Recovery - the percentage of Council waste sent for energy recovery remained unchanged at 58%.
3.4	The provisional year end position for 2024/25 shows the Local Authority Collected Municipal Recycling Rate at 38.9%, similar to the previous year (38.8%). The full, validated figures for 2024/25 are due to be published in November.
3.5	As noted within this report and brought to the attention of Members through various consultation responses, there are a number of legislative, strategic and financial drivers which are going to shape future waste management arrangements. The full nature and implications of these policy drivers still remain somewhat unclear and in the absence of sufficient clarity, radical, systemic change aimed at delivering significant improvements in NI environmental targets is unlikely.
3.6	Waste Framework Update At the People & Communities Committee meeting of June 2017, Members approved the Waste Framework document. It provides an overview of options on how waste could be managed within

	the city over the next decade. It was developed to align with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy), designing out waste, improving the quantity and quality of recycling and supporting local jobs.
3.7	The Waste Framework focuses on four themes (i) Collection Arrangements, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Behaviour Change and (iv) Technology. The following sections provide an insight on the work and initiatives currently being undertaken under the four main workstreams. (i) Collection Arrangements <i>Kerbside Glass</i>
3.8	Members will be aware that phase one of the kerbside glass expansion scheme rolled out to 23,000 households in April 2025.
3.9	The analysis on the performance of the scheme has now been updated for the period April – September 2025. Kerbside surveys conducted to date indicate lower than anticipated set-out rates, ranging from 9% -20% for phase one. In terms of tonnage, 312 tonnes of glass was collected from the kerbside which when extrapolated, would result in an annual figure of approximately 625 tonnes and an average yield per household of around 28 kg per annum. This is slightly below the target figure of 31 kg per household.
3.10	In September 2025, members agreed to the phase two expansion plans which identified the next 23,000 households to be included on the scheme. Officers have started the planning stages for phase two and anticipate full roll-out by 31 March 2026.
3.11	Upon completion of phase two of the kerbside glass scheme, the Service intends to conduct a targeted kerbside glass campaign aimed at driving increased tonnage through phase one (23,000 households) and the original purple box area (22,000 households). Further details will be provided to members through future waste update reports. (ii) Infrastructure <i>Recycling Centres - Containers</i>
3.12	Following SP&R approval for capital funding, the Service completed a procurement exercise for a multi-year, container provision contract. Phase 1 of this contract was completed in 2024/25 with the arrival and installation of 40 skips and 6 new compactor units.
3.13	Phase 2 will see the remaining 30 skips and 11 compactor units installed and operational by the end of Q3 25/26. This will deliver an improved health and safety environment at the sites along with improved logistical efficiency from the new compactor units as well as improving the general appearance of the sites.
3.14	<i>Recycling Centres and Pedestrian Access</i> The service has requested colleagues in Property & Projects (P&P) to commission a feasibility study regarding pedestrian access for Palmerston Road and Blackstaff Way recycling centres. The procurement exercise has been completed by P&P for this work and the appointment of the contractor responsible for carrying out the feasibility study is imminent. Further updates will be provided as this project moves through the governance process. <i>Recycling Centres and Repair Works</i>
3.15	Members will be aware that over the course of the last two years, a programme of repairs in relation to the service bays at the recycling centres has been underway, with Alexandra, Ormeau

3.16	and Palmerston all completed. These are essential repairs aimed at maintaining health and safety on site and securing long-term service continuity for site users.
3.17	On 1 October 2025, Blackstaff Way recycling centre closed temporarily in order for these works to be carried out. Members in the DEA were informed and Corporate Communications updated the Council web site and issued social media notifications. Appendix 1 provides information on the site closure notifications. Site staff were also temporarily dispatched to support other sites Blackstaff Recycling centre is scheduled to re-open on 3 November 2025.
3.17	<i>arc21 Residual Waste Project and Interim Residual Waste arrangements</i> Members will be aware that there is a legal challenge in relation to the award of the arc21 contract pertaining to the treatment of the Council’s residual waste by ReGen. The case has been ongoing for over two years and a definitive date has yet to be determined for the hearing.
	(iii) Behaviour Change
3.18	<i>Household Waste Recycling Centres – Policies & Intervention Strategies</i> The Service has approached the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to assist in developing a suite of policies and procedures aimed at addressing the challenges encountered by the recycling centres previously outlined at the members workshop in March 2025.
3.19	Following a procurement exercise conducted and funded by WRAP, external assistance has been commissioned via Circulogic. This company has been briefed on the project and is in the process of compiling a report due for completion in Q3 25/26, following which the Service will present via the usual governance process.
	Bin Safety Campaign
3.20	Updates on the Bin Safety Campaign were provided to Members in August and September. This section builds upon those reports now that the Service has moved into the “red tag phase” - collecting to policy.
3.21	The Project Team incorporating; Waste Management, Waste Collection Operations, OSS, Customer Hub, Enforcement and Corporate Communications continue to meet weekly to share learning, review issues, crew reporting data and complaints to determine areas of the city/zones where additional resources may need to be deployed.
3.22	The weekly review was set up when collecting to policy began so that resources from within the CNS Department could align responses and resources to issues that have come about as a direct result of the campaign. Whilst general communications and outreach proposals will form part of the response, some areas may require a more nuanced approach depending on the specific problems highlighted in those areas.
3.23	On Monday 4 August 2025, the campaign started with amber tagging (bedding in period) for 8 weeks. Collections continued as normal (i.e. overfilled bins and bins with liners were still collected) with amber warning tags placed on bins and reported by crews. Resource Advisor Teams were on the ground raising awareness.
3.24	Whilst the Report it App (RIA) was initially to be used to report and gather data on tag use and areas/rounds where the issues are more pronounced, that approach encountered operational challenges including the fact that many of the containers presented for collection do not have an identifiable address. RIA was used for non-collection instances, but amber tag usage was instead summarised based on crews reporting the number of tags issued.

3.25 For the amber period, graph 1, shows the number of tags issued over the course of the eight weeks. The percentage of collected bins which were tagged during the period was less than 2% overall. Table 1, provides more granular detail on the amber tag metrics.

3.26 Graph 1 – Amber Tags Issued



3.27 Table 1 – Amber Phase Key Metrics

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Number of Amber Tags Issued	3783	2016	1495	480
Percentage of Bins Emptied Tagged	2.34%	1.24%	0.92%	0.30%
WPV Reports	0	0	0	0
Total number of houses posted	23917	31553	43164	58000
Number of Black Bins Ordered	296	276	251	256
Number of Boxes Ordered	1043	827	839	635

3.28 Monday 29 September 2025, saw the commencement of the red tag phase - collecting to policy. Overfilled containers have been tagged, not collected, and instances reported through RIA. Temporary, additional, Special Collection Teams (SCTs), Resource Advisors, OSS staff and Enforcement Officers are now deployed in the targeting of areas that remain persistently non-compliant with policy.

3.29 Additional Resource Advisors have been deployed since Monday 21st July. In terms of direct communications, they covered 1,650 streets, equating to 58,000 households with each household receiving communications regarding the campaign, centred around bin safety and recycling. These temporary Resource Advisors will be maintained throughout the bin safety campaign and also to deal with some business-as-usual issues which have been highlighted during the course of the campaign and outlined below.

3.30 A temporary collections resource has been established in the form of Special Collection Teams (SCT) to support the campaign and deal with cases where the issuing of a red tag has been caused by an operational issues e.g. vehicle breakdown, rather than excess waste presented by the resident. In such instances, a crew will be dispatched to remove excess waste from the bin in order for it to be collected. From 29 Sept – 24 October (two full collection cycles) the SCT was

	Policy & Legislation
3.37	As noted above, there are a number of key legislative, strategic and financial drivers which will not only shape waste management arrangements for the next decade but seek to contribute to a more circular economy and environmental targets. <i>Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR)</i>
3.38	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging is a UK-wide reform of an existing Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging.
3.39	The aim of EPR is to move the full cost of dealing with household packaging waste away from local ratepayers to the packaging producers (applying the 'polluter pays principle'). The goal is to incentivise the use of packaging that uses less material and is easier to recycle.
3.40	The scheme administrator for pEPR, PackUK, is responsible for setting EPR fee rates for household packaging materials, invoicing and collecting fees from obligated producers, and then issuing payments to local authorities to cover household packaging waste management costs.
3.41	PackUK is in the process of invoicing packaging manufacturers and the first payment to local authorities is scheduled for November 2025. The second and third payments will be made to local authorities during January – March 2026. From April 2026, local authorities will receive four quarterly payments.
3.42	This funding will assist the Council in delivering efficient and effective recycling services and contribute to future environmental targets including the NI municipal waste recycling rate target of 65% by 2035. <i>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)</i>
3.43	The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) aims to tackle littering and increase recycling of containers that are within the scope of the scheme. This will be achieved by introducing a redeemable deposit on single use drinks containers, which can then be claimed back when they are taken to a deposit return point for recycling.
3.44	DRS is due to go live on 1 October 2027. The deposit will apply to all single-use drinks containers that: • are made wholly or mainly from aluminium or steel, or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic. • have a capacity of between 150 millilitres and 3 litres. • are likely to be used only once or for a short period of time. Containers with a lid made from other materials are still included.
3.45	UK Deposit Management Organisation (UK DMO) is the not-for-profit, business-led organisation appointed by government in April 2025, to develop and ultimately deliver the scheme.
3.46	This body will create the necessary infrastructure and operational logistics regarding DRS. This covers everything from managing how cans and bottles are collected, sorted and processed, to the financial operations such as collecting and reimbursing deposits, as well as ensuring that recycling rates improve over time. This organisation will also set the deposit rate to be paid by customers purchasing the drinks.

3.47	Retailers will function as return points i.e. the place where people can return their containers and reclaim their deposit. However, the UK, NI and Scottish governments have stated that retailers in urban areas will be exempt from hosting a return point if they have a retail space of less than 100m ² , although they can still apply to be a voluntary return point if they wish to do so.
3.48	Retailers can also apply for an exemption if their business is close to another return point, or it is not possible to host a return point due to the location, layout, size, design or construction of the premises.
3.49	While the aims of DRS are to reduce littering, increase recycling levels overall and improve quality of recyclables, there are a number of potential issues which local authorities should be aware of and consider their impact. • as materials shift from the kerbside collection to the DRS scheme, while total municipal recycling rates may increase, the recycling rates reported by local authorities could decline. • these materials (particularly aluminium) generate income for the Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) and local authorities who have an income sharing model with the MRF. As the tonnage shifts to DRS, this income stream is reduced and the cost per tonne of operating the MRF increases. This could be reflected in increased gate fees for local authorities. • for the in-scope containers which remain in the kerbside schemes, it has yet to be determined how a local authority will be able to redeem these deposits efficiently. • DRS schemes can result in bin scavenging in order to retrieve plastic bottles and cans, creating a litter issue in some areas. <i>Digital Waste Tracking</i>
3.50	Digital waste tracking is intended to enable the tracking of all household, commercial and industrial waste in order to reduce the potential for waste crime and ensure good practice in terms of waste management.
3.51	The project has been delayed on a number of occasions and this has resulted in a revised, phased approach to its delivery. In summary, rather than requesting all parties involved in the collection, transportation, storage and treatment of waste to enter data onto a bespoke, government database, the initial phase will involve only the “waste receiver” who will be able to use API to link their in-house systems to a central, government database. This approach reduces risk due to its phased nature and should also reduce the administrative burden on the sector by enabling the continued use of existing waste management software systems.
3.52	The intention is that by April 2026, secondary legislation will be laid across UK government and devolved governments to mandate the use of the service by permitted and licensed receiving sites by 1 October 2026. This may have implications for the Waste Transfer Station and we await determination by the regulator if this facility will come within the scope of the legislation. Should that be the case, the Service will initiate discussions with its weighbridge software provider and Digital Services to map out the path to compliance.
	<i>NI Waste Strategy</i>
3.53	Discussions with DAERA representatives suggest that public consultation on the NI Waste Strategy is scheduled to be launched before the end of the year.
	<i>Rethinking Our Resources</i>

3.54	The government response and outcome of the DAERA <i>Rethinking Our Resources</i> public consultation exercise is still awaited. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.55	There are no financial implications associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u>
3.56	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1. Blackstaff Way – Temporary Closure Notifications

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Appendix 1 - Notification of Temporary Closure

Blackstaff Way Household Waste Recycling Centre

(a) Social Media



(b) Web Site



Recycling centre locations

Recycling centre	Address
Alexandra Park Avenue	180 Alexandra Park Avenue, BT15 3GJ
Blackstaff Way This recycling centre will be closed for repairs from Wednesday 1 October 2025 to Monday 3 November 2025.	1 Blackstaff Way, BT11 9DT
Ormeau	6 Park Road, BT7 2FX
Palmerston Road	2 - 4 Palmerston Road, BT4 1QA

(c) Site Signage





Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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Subject:	Request for Boucher Road PF for an annual Easter Circus
Date:	Tuesday 04 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces and Streetscene

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 Committee is asked to note that Council has received two requests for the hire Boucher Road Playing Fields to host Circus events over the Easter period in 2026, 2027 & 2028.
1.2	Members should note that these event organisers are looking for the same dates over the next three years.
1.3	John Courtneys "Circus Vegas" has successfully delivered a circus event at the venue during the Easter break for the past number of years and their request was received by the department first.
1.4	Global Routes Limited has successfully delivered different themed circus events at the venue in November for the past number of years and are now seeking permission to return to the site at Easter time visiting the city twice a year.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to John Courtneys "Circus Vegas" for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to satisfactory terms and conditions of use being agreed via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: - The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. - The promoter carrying out appropriate resident & community engagement - The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.
2.2	The fee for the use of Belfast Parks is detailed in the departmental pricing schedule and is subject to change as part of the annual pricing review.
2.3	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.
2.4	In the absence of a structured framework and policy for events; the Parks Events and Outreach team process event requests on a first come basis. Events that have sought multiple year approval will be subject to annual review. The Director of Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene is seeking authority under the scheme of delegation; approval to remove the permission for subsequent years based on officer recommendation if necessary.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	If agreed, the event organiser 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.

3.3	Requests have been received by two event organisers for the same period over the next few years.
3.4	Officers are making a recommendation to members based on the first application received.
3.5	Both organisers have demonstrated due diligence over the past number of years and have a good track record of delivering circus events aimed at families.
3.6	John Courtney's "Circus Vegas" has had residency at Boucher Road over the Easter period for the past number of years and has successfully provided family entertainment during the Easter holidays.
3.7	The circus will occupy the hard standing area only and therefore there is no risk of damage to the grass areas prior to the first concert due to take place in May or June.
3.8	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.9	A site license agreement will be drafted for the event in respect of issues such as damage, health and safety and a bond will be required from organiser to cover the costs of any potential reinstatement works.
3.10	A fee for the use of the site and a further 10% social levy contribution of the overall fee will be collected.
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None

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Subject:	Management of Invasive Species (Himalayan Balsam)
Date:	Tuesday 04 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resource, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Anthony Conway, Transition Support Lead Officer

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

☐

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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

☒

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	At it's September meeting the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would outline the Council's policy, management and removal of invasive plant species, in particular Himalayan Balsam, and how such future work might be enhanced and undertaken in partnership with local communities.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	BCC has an obligation under the "The Invasive Alien Species" (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 in regard to: 1. Prevention, 2. Early detection and rapid eradication of new invasions and 3. Management of invasions that are already widely spread.
3.2	Of a list of species, most prevalent being Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.
3.3	Our current processes within OSS are for our operational teams to log and map all instances of invasive species and record grid references as well as records of control methods and start and end dates of the control programmes. This is recorded and held on our internal IAS monitoring and control sheets
3.4	We currently have a contract in place with an external contractor for the treatment of invasive species. In the case of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed this is through the foliar application of glyphosate to control and eradicate the growth and spread. The contractor provides detailed treatment reports which we hold internally
3.5	In the case of Himalayan Balsam, our appointed contractor will hand pull as this the preferred control method before the plant flowers. We also engage our own OSS staff to mechanically control balsam through strimming and mowing before the flowering period. This is all recorded on the monitoring sheets
3.6	We currently facilitate volunteer hand pulling of Balsam through our area based Outreach teams and we also engage partner organisations such as Belfast Hills Partnership and Lagan Valley Regional Park and Business in the community partners to hand pull balsam on our land.
3.7	The Parks Events and Outreach team currently pilot volunteering opportunities that contribute to the tackling of invasive species. A recent call for volunteers via our City Matters magazine has led to a programme of volunteer Friday's. Amongst other things these sessions have included hand pulling Himalayan Balsam and digging snowberry.
3.8	We propose to widen the scope of our volunteering opportunities and look to increase our opportunities to link in with a wider range of stakeholders and volunteer groups in our citywide parks to proactively tackle this issue. As part of the recent alleyway transformation consultation on Your Say Belfast we sought expressions of interest for volunteers and will look to include those who registered to our city-wide bank of volunteers.
3.9	The current pilot will inform how we expand volunteering opportunities across the city. This will be targeted for the next growing season, starting in April/May 2026. This will greatly supplement our current control programme and will have the tandem result of increasing positive participation and volunteering in our parks at the same time as helping to meet our legislative obligations. Volunteering sessions and planning can be shared when finalised in Spring 2026

3.10	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> No additional costs other than re prioritisation of officer time
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Appendices
4.1	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/159/contents/made

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	4 th November 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

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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

☐

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 Brookhill Avenue, Whitehall Parade, Cricklewood Park, Old Bakers Court, Ashton Avenue and Azalea Gardens.																														
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 border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brookhill Avenue</td><td>Ascaill Chnoc an tSrutháin</td><td>Off Cliftonville Road, BT14</td><td>104</td></tr> <tr> <td>Whitehall Parade</td><td>Paráid an Halla Bháin</td><td>Off Ormeau Road, BT7</td><td>57</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cricklewood Park</td><td>Páirc Cricklewood</td><td>Off Sharman Road, BT9</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr> <td>Old Bakers Court</td><td>Cúirt an tSeabhácúis</td><td>Off Ardenlee Crescent, BT6</td><td>142</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ashton Avenue</td><td>Ascaill Ashton</td><td>Off Ashton Park, BT10</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr> <td>Azalea Gardens</td><td>Gairdíní na nAsáilianna</td><td>Off Almond Drive, BT17</td><td>24</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Brookhill Avenue	Ascaill Chnoc an tSrutháin	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	104	Whitehall Parade	Paráid an Halla Bháin	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	57	Cricklewood Park	Páirc Cricklewood	Off Sharman Road, BT9	120	Old Bakers Court	Cúirt an tSeabhácúis	Off Ardenlee Crescent, BT6	142	Ashton Avenue	Ascaill Ashton	Off Ashton Park, BT10	45	Azalea Gardens	Gairdíní na nAsáilianna	Off Almond Drive, BT17	24
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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	Brookhill Avenue, BT14																														

	• 27 occupiers (25.96%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.96%) had no preference either way.
3.7	Whitehall Parade, BT7 • 26 occupiers (45.61%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 10 occupiers (17.54%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.75%) had no preference either way.
3.8	Cricklewood Park, BT9 • 35 occupiers (29.16%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 15 occupiers (12.5%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (1.66%) had no preference either way.
3.9	Old Bakers Court, BT6 • 23 occupiers (16.19%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 4 occupiers (2.81%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (2.11%) had no preference either way.
3.10	Ashton Avenue, BT10 • 18 occupiers (40%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (4.44%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.11	Azalea Gardens, BT17 • 5 occupiers (20.83%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.12	<u>Assessment against policy</u> 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.
3.13	All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.
3.14	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There is a cost of approximately £2070 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.
3.15	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>

3.16	Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.
3.17	The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for these applications did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried.
4.0	Appendices
	None