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

6 August 2026

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 11th August, 2026.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Matters referred back from the Council/Motions (Pages 1 - 20)

- (a) Notices of Motion - Biannual Update
- (f) Abandoned Bins Protocol and Improvements to Bulky Waste Collections
(Pages 21 - 36)

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Agenda Item 3



Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Notices of Motion Update – August 2026
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales - Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Teresa Gallen – PA, City & Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance allocated to the People and Communities Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that People and Communities Committee: • Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that People and Communities Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and • Agree to the closure of 10 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.5 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in February 2026.
3.2	This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the February 2025 update, and those Motions and Issues which have since arisen.
3.3	Notice of Motion Updates There are currently 55 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remain active on the live database is attached at Appendix 1. Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons: • Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report but will be noted in the live database moving forward. • Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed in to a strategic programme of work. These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process. Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

Ref No: 146 – 30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign

The National Lottery Heritage Funded Nature Town and Cities Project launched this year with our joint grantee Ulster Wildlife. Working in collaboration with communities, citizens, and key environmental stakeholders - it aims to create a blueprint for nature recovery in Belfast; as well as upskilling, informing, and raising awareness on how we can maximize the potential for our parks and open spaces for nature and climate resilience. The project will also build capacity to support local action for urban biodiversity. Other relevant key projects delivering on this NOM include a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year; and development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. Delivery on capital actions are ongoing through the DAERA funded Belfast's "Making Space for Nature" Programme.

An update report on Biodiversity was taken to People & Communities on the 14th April 26 and regularly updates will follow as business as usual, therefore it is recommended this motion is closed.

Ref No: 321 Playful Belfast City Streets

A presentation from A Playful City was received at Committee on the 9th January 2024. Following this officers were to consider how best to progress this Motion and therefore it is requested that this be closed and reopened again when a proposal received.

Ref No: 363 Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces

A biodiversity unit budget now in place to support development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. In addition there is a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year. We recommend closing this issue.

Ref No: 371 Request to invite South Belfast Youth League representative to present at a future meeting

Circumstances have changes from this request, and the issue has been incorporated into the Pitches Strategy, which involved consultations with Football clubs. South Belfast Youth League were engaged with twice during the development of the current draft strategy. We propose to close this issue as their information along with others will be captured in the new consultation to finalise the pitches strategy.

Ref: 424 - Bin Collections Over the Christmas Period

A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members were content with the update and agreed to close the issue.

Ref No: 429 - BCC Animal Welfare Services - Capacity and Emergency Access Arrangements

A report was tabled at SP&R on the 22nd May 26 which advised that the Judicial Review which was lodged in the High Court by Belfast City Council & Fermanagh Omagh District Council on behalf of SOLACE against DAERA, to challenge the Department's decision to cease funding of the Animal Welfare Service, found in favour of the Councils in that there was a breach on the grounds of a procedural legitimate expectation. The Committee agreed to write to the AERA Committee; continue the existing Animal Welfare Service Delivery Model to March 2027 and noted that a review of future Service Delivery Options might be required depending upon the response from the AERA Committee.

This motion is now closed.

Ref: 430 - Family Parking at GLL Leisure Centres

Following the update that was presented to committee in August 25, a further request was made to pilot family parking at 2 leisure centres. Officers have been exploring this and have advised that the allocation of carparking spaces at leisure centres is for accessible spaces, EV charging spaces and standard carparking spaces. Piloting family car parking would have implications for all 16 leisure centres, as some of the new leisure centres car parking demand regularly exceeds capacity. To pilot family car parking, we would need to remove 2 carparking spaces to make 1 family carparking space, this would have a significant impact and further reduce car parking spaces. An example would be for Lisnasharragh car park to increase family car parking by 5 carparking spaces would reduce the current 53 standard carparking spaces to 43 standard carparking spaces and will have serious impact upon current operational carpark capacity which is limited by the site footprint at this centre. Officers would recommend that all future Leisure Transformation centres develop car parking which will maximise family parking and would request to close this motion.

Ref: 468 - Support of Leisure Workers

The dispute between GLL and Trade Unions has been resolved through a labour relations process. This motion is now closed.

Ref: 471 - Proposed Community Consultation on Renaming of Balfour Avenue Playground

Report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 7th Oct 25 outlining the process and principles previously agreed to name or re(name) a parks or leisure facility. Members were content with the update and agreed to close the issue.

Ref: 490 - Bin Collections over the Christmas Period

A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members noted the update and agreed to close the issue.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – P&C Committee

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Ref	Meeting Date	Motion Title	Proposed by	Reporting Officer	Status	Status Update - August 26
15	04/02/19	Recycling in Colin Neighbourhood & Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Collin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre	Cllr Seanna Walsh	David Sales	Ongoing	Council Officers have engaged with LCCC Officers but to date without success. Propose that the Council formally writes to the CEX of LCCC requesting that this issue be presented to LCCC elected members for consideration. Alternatively, members may wish to request similar NoM with party colleagues at LCCC. This now includes no:354
22	01/07/19	Glyphosate-Based Weed killer	Cllr Fiona Ferguson	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Currently concluding benchmarking trials for alternative weed control methods which will feed into the proposed operational protocol. Draft reduction protocol will be finalised and circulated when trial results are appraised. Protocol will then be implemented with close monitoring of herbicide use to appraise effectiveness
30	02/09/19	Rewilding our Wards & Urban Wildflower Meadows	Cllr Matt Garrett	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026 - This now includes NoM 328
76	01/07/20	Littering	Cllr Aine Groogan	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	A litter bin replacement programme is ongoing, with 120 bins replaced up to March 2026. We hope to install another 120 in the 26/27 financial year. Officers have installed 19 post mounted bins within dog fouling hot spots. We have invested further in our SMART bin technology with 26 bins now located in the City Centre and city hall grounds, including recycling bins, which we hope to roll out to our parks, subject to approved budget.

146	07/01/21	30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Recomm end close	The National Lottery Heritage Funded Nature Town and Cities Project launched this year with our joint grantee Ulster Wildlife. Working in collaboration with communities, citizens, and key environmental stakeholders - it aims to create a blueprint for nature recovery in Belfast; as well as upskilling, informing, and raising awareness on how we can maximize the potential for our parks and open spaces for nature and climate resilience. The project will also build capacity to support local action for urban biodiversity. Other relevant key projects delivering on this NOM include a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year; and development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. Delivery on capital actions are ongoing through the DAERA funded Belfast's "Making Space for Nature" Programme. An update report on Biodiversity was taken to People & Communities on the 14 th April 26 and regularly updates will follow as business as usual.
270	23/08/22	Herbicide Reduction Policy	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Currently concluding benchmarking trials for alternative weed control methods which will feed into the proposed operational protocol. Draft reduction protocol will be finalised and circulated when trial results are appraised. Protocol will then be implemented with close monitoring of herbicide use to appraise effectiveness

288	24/11/22	Imagination Library	Cllr Seamas De Faoite	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	Council delivered this project in October 25 where 75 babies were registered within the first 4 days of opening, at which point the available budget had been used up. The available budget was £10,000, there is no recurring budget for this project. Council officers are currently working with Data Protection Unit to develop a waiting list for the project should further funding become available.
321	27/06/23	Playful Belfast City Streets	Cllr Ross McMullin	David Sales	Recommend Close	Alliance members are considering how best to progress this Motion and will update officers in due course. It is proposed this is closed and can be reopened in the future.
328	29/08/23	Urban Wildflower Meadows	Cllr Ronan McLaughlin	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026 - Amalgamate with NoM.30
350	28/11/23	Tiny Urban Forests	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Selection of suitable location to trial planting of an urban forest using the Miyawaki method underway with a view to delivery Autumn tree-planting season. As part of Council's wider Tree Strategy - delivery of community-led tree planting projects also delivered in urban areas with the lowest tree canopy cover as part of new Community Orchard Initiative including at Ardoyne Community Centre grounds and Holy Cross Nursey School. Report entitled Belfast Tree Strategy Update/Notice of Motion - Community Orchards tabled at P&C Committee May 2026.

354	05/12/23	Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Collin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre	Cllr Michael Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Council Officers have engaged with LCCC Officers but to date without success. Propose that the Council formally writes to the CEX of LCCC requesting that this issue be presented to LCCC elected members for consideration. Alternatively members may wish to request similar NoM with party colleagues at LCCC. This motion will now be almalagted with No.15
363	06/02/24	Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Stephen Leonard	Recommend close	Biodiversity unit budget now in place to support development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. In addition a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year. We recommend closing this issue.
368	28/03/23	Graffiti - Development of Memorandums of Understanding	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Update on this due to be taken in September/October committee.
371	12/03/24	Request to invite South Belfast Youth League representative to present at a future meeting	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Jim Girvan	Recommend Close	Circumstances have changes from this request, and the issue has been incorporated into the Pitches Strategy, which involved consultations with Football clubs. South Belfast Youth League were engaged with twice during the development of the current draft strategy. We propose to close this issue as their information along with others will be captured in the new consultation to finalise the pitches strategy.
380	09/04/24	Communication Boards & Communication Boards within Parks	Cllr Sarah Bunting	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Installations are ongoing citywide, circa 40% of the total number now installed. Completion still expected in October 2026. This is now combined and includes No. 414

399	06/08/24	Knockbreda Road Crossing	Cllr Jenna Maghie	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Awaiting feedback from DfI how it could expedite the public consultation process for further applications.
401	10/09/24	Update Report requested on Dog Litter Bins	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Pole mounted mixed waste bins are currently being installed as a trial in each area of the city linking in with areas identified as dog fouling hotspots. Refer to P&C litter bin report October 2025. This will be amalgamated with 443.
414	05/11/24	Communication Boards within Parks	Cllr Sarah Bunting	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Installations are ongoing citywide, circa 40% of the total number now installed. Completion still expected in October 2026. This has been combine with No. 380 and this will be closed.
424	14/01/25	Bin Collections over the Christmas Period	Cllr Micheal Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Report tabled on 10th Feb 26. This is now closed
426	04/02/25	BCC Animal Welfare Services - Capacity and Emergency Access Arrangements	Cllr Nicola Verner	Siobhan Toland	Recommend Close	A report was tabled at SP&R on the 22nd May 26 which advised that the Judicial Review which was lodged in the High Court by Belfast City Council & Fermanagh Omagh District Council on behalf of SOLACE against DAERA, to challenge the Department's decision to cease funding of the Animal Welfare Service, found in favour of the Councils in that there was a breach on the grounds of a procedural legitimate expectation. The Committee agreed to write to the AERA Committee; continue the existing Animal Welfare Service Delivery Model to March 2027 and noted that a review of future Service Delivery Options might be required depending upon the response from the AERA Committee. This motion is now closed.

430	04/02/25	Family Parking at GLL Leisure Centres	Cllr Jenna Maghie	Jim Girvan	Recommend end Close	following the update that was presented to committee in August 25, a further request was made to pilot family parking at 2 leisure centres. Officers have been exploring this and have advised that the allocation of carparking spaces at leisure centres is for accessible spaces, EV charging spaces and standard carparking spaces. Piloting family car parking would have implications for all 16 leisure centres, as some of the new leisure centres car parking demand regularly exceeds capacity. To pilot family car parking, we would need to remove 2 carparking spaces to make 1 family carparking space, this would have a significant impact and further reduce car parking spaces. An example would be for Lisnasharragh car park to increase family car parking by 5 carparking spaces would reduce the current 53 standard carparking spaces to 43 standard carparking spaces and will have serious impact upon current operational carpark capacity which is limited by the site footprint at this centre. Officers would recommend that all future Leisure Transformation centres develop car parking which will maximise family parking and would request to close this motion.
435	04/03/25	FIDO - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle	Cllr Claire Canavan	Stephen Leonard	Recommend end Close	Machinery options appraisal including trial of SCARABS as an addition/alternative to the FIDO service currently ongoing. This will now be amalgamated with no: 443

443	08/04/25	Council Dog Warden Service & Update Report requested on Dog Litter Bins & FIDO - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle	Cllr Ruth Brooks & Cllr Claire Canavan	Siobhan Toland	Ongoing	The NOM remains open until a decision around the growth bid for the enhanced service provision is taken. In now includes No. 435
445	08/04/25	Returning of Black Bins to Properties	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	P&C Committee 5th August 2025 - Requeste to remain open with further updates on the legislation etc
452	22/05/25	Motion to support Endometriosis Patients	Cllr Michael Collins	David Sales	Ongoing	Council Officers spoke with the relevant senior contact within BHSCT in February 2026. Pending the outcome of future decisions by the Dept of Health relating to related services, BHSCT agreed to further consider how they could engage on this issue. Officers are awaiting the outcome which has not as yet been announced.
453	22/05/25	Stranded Dreams report launched by Anaka Women's Collective	Cllr Micky Murray	David Sales	Ongoing	This Council endorses the Stranded Dreams report launched by Anaka Women's Collective on the need for targeted education provision for young refugees and asylum seekers in Northern Ireland and wrote to the Ministers of Economy and Education to outline our support for the recommendations, including a pilot scheme for the Greater Belfast area. The department's have acknowledged the Council's correspondence and officials will consider the report in due course.
458	03/06/25	Antisocial Behaviour in Marrowbone Park	Cllr Claire Canavan	David Sales	Ongoing	Growth proposal submitted for additional Park Warden and MFA resources in Marrowbone

461	07/10/25	Dedicated site for Scramblers	Cllr Paul Doherty	David Sales	Ongoing	Community Safety recently met with Cllr Doherty regarding his motion on a dedicated scrambler site in Belfast. In terms of feasibility etc it would sit better with Physical Programmes / OSS. From a community safety perspective, we can assist with linking in some of the key partners but it would need someone else to lead. Cllr Doherty has asked that the Safer Neighbourhood Officer Team and the Park Warden Teams continue to report all instances of Scrambler use in Parks and Open spaces to help provide an evidence base for the need for this dedicated facility.
462	05/08/25	Lagan Gateway - Pedestrian Crossing	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	David Sales	Ongoing	Officers are still exploring options.
463	05/08/25	Targeted Upgrades to Enhance Park Accessibility	Cllr Ruth Brooks	David Sales	Ongoing	Update report tabled at P&C Committee meeting in May 2026 outlining work to date that is targeted at improving accessibility. Recommendations for the development of an online map, showing playground locations and accessible equipment were included, officers are now working to take this forward.
466	21/08/25	Review Funding Levels for the Summer Scheme Fund	Cllr Fiona McAteer	David Sales	Ongoing	Officers will carry out a review in Autumn 2026 of the operation of Summer Scheme grants and Additional needs Summer scheme. Update to be provided at a member workshop.
468	21/08/25	Support of Leisure Workers	Cllr Michael Collins	David Sales	Recommend close	The dispute between GLL and Trade Unions has been resolved through a labour relations process. This motion is now closed.

469	09/09/25	Alleygate Key Provision	Cllr Claire Canavan	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	The Committee agreed that no charges be made for the cost of replacement keys for a period of one-year (commencing January 2026) and that a further report in this regard be considered at the Committee's meeting in December 2026.
471	09/09/25	Proposed Community Consultation on Renaming of Balfour Avenue playground	Cllr R-M Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Report tabled at P&C Committee on the 7th Oct outlining the process and principles previously agreed to name or re(name) a parks or leisure facility. It is proposed this issue is closed.
481	04/11/25	Leaf Clearance from Roads and Pavements	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Meetings are on going with Dfl.
482	04/11/25	Consultation Process for the Pedestrian Crossing at Knockbreda Road	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Consultation carried out by BCC officers on behalf of Dfl. Officers have had no further updates from Dfl since the consultation completed and the results were returned in May 2025.
483	04/11/25	Request for Deputation - Donegall Pass Community Association	Cllr Tracy Kelly	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	Report tabled 2nd Dec 25 - The Committee noted information provided in relation to recent reports of antisocial activity within the Reverend Robert Bradford Park and agreed that a report be submitted that would examine the feasibility of installing CCTV across all parks and
489	02/12/25	Botanic Gardens - 200th Anniversary in 2028	Cllr Aine Groogan	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Feasibility funding has been secured to procure design consultants to develop an Opportunities Plan for Botanic Gardens in partnership with council officers, elected members, Friends groups, park users and a range of stakeholders. The procurement process is underway.

490	13/01/26	Bin Collections over the Christmas Period	Cllr Rois-Maire Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend close	A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10 th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members noted the update and agreed to close the issue.
496	10/02/26	Irish Football Association - Grounds' Criteria	Cllr Ruth Brooks	David Sales	Ongoing	On 14th April 2026, the Committee agreed to receive, at its meeting on 6th October, a presentation from representatives of the Irish Football Association regarding its review of football grounds' criteria.

508	24/03/26	Pilot Drug and Pill Testing Facilities at Major Events and Festivals held in Belfast	Cllr Micky Murray	David Sales	Ongoing	An update report was presented to SP&R with the following actions noted to progress: To request a formal paper from the Department of Health on what would be required to issue a licence in Northern Ireland; • To request that the Stormont Executive include drug testing in the next update of: Preventing Harm, Empowering Recovery; • That the Council convene a roundtable with relevant stakeholders such as the Department of Health, Public Health Agencies, PSNI, Universities, Promoters and an experienced provider and potential delivery partner, such as the Loop, to which a nominee from each party would be invited to attend; • That the Council identifies a pilot event for 2027 and designs an operational model based on best practice and research and works in partnership with others immediately, so that Belfast is prepared for the moment that licensing was enabled; and • To write to the Prosecution Service and the Attorney General to request that the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is reviewed in relation to a public interest test on the storage, handling and transportation of substances of material for rapid drug testing from sites to a licensee holder to allow the rapid testing to take place and results expedited.
509	14/04/26	Stoma-Friendly Toilets	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Property Services are currently undertaking condition surveys for all BCC properties starting with community centres and as part of this we can assess and record the alterations needed to accessible toilets to make them 'stoma-friendly' and thus allow us to determine an overall cost for the conversions.

510	14/04/26	Pollution Incidents at Cregagh Glen	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Councils in Northern Ireland have no legal powers to investigate, monitor, enforce or prosecute for water pollution as water pollution regulation and enforcement sits entirely with the NIEA. As the Council is a landowner for a segment of the Cregagh Glen river, advice has been sought from Legal Services regarding the organisation's responsibilities and obligations as a land owner.
512	28/04/26	Public Acts of Remembrance Events	Cllr Christine Bower		Ongoing	Officers are still exploring options.
516	12/05/26	Reuse of Parks Plants	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	
511	12/05/26	Playpark at Short Strand	Cllr Rois-Maire Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	
521	26/05/26	Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Tenancy Succession Policy	Cllr Claire Canavan	Nora Largey	Ongoing	Letter sent to The Communities Minister
522	26/05/26	Policy Prohibiting Lock Boxes Associated with Short-term Holiday Lets	Cllr Conor McKay	Kate Bentley	Ongoing	Letter sent to The Executive Office

525	23/06/26	Bulky Waste Collection Response Time	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Stephen Leonard		
526	23/06/26	Refuse Bags - Left on Pavements in the City Centre/Arterial Routes	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	Stephen Leonard		
527	23/06/26	Changing Pavilion at Cherryvale Playing Fields	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	Stephen Leonard		
528	23/06/26	Support for Youth Work Charter	Cllr Nicola Bradley	Jim Girvan		Letter sent to The Communities Minister

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Subject:	Resources and Fleet – Abandoned Bins Protocol and Improvements to Bulky Waste Collections
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director (Operational) CNS
Contact Officer:	Peadar Doyle (Logistics Manager) R&F

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 update committee on the development of an abandoned bins protocol, improvements to the council's domestic bulky waste collection service and plans to consider the issue of bagged waste raised at it's June meeting.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Abandoned Bins Protocol The council currently provides all domestic recycling and food waste containers free of charge to remove barriers to recycling. Black/General Waste Bins Black bins are also provided but incur a charge depending on the size of the bin. Whilst the council does supply most householders' bins, householders can procure them privately online or through established providers such as hardware stores.
3.2	Black general waste bins remain the legal property of residents and cannot simply be removed without their consent or knowledge. All recycling bins and containers provided by the council, remain the property of the council and as such, are straightforward to remove/uplift. The council continues to provide recycling containers free of charge, so residents are never negatively impacted financially if a recycling container needs to be replaced. The opposite is true of general waste containers if they are removed or disappear without warning, householders will incur a cost in the replacement of that container.
3.3	Currently, Waste Management issue "Bring Your Bin Home" (BYBH) letters to areas where multiple containers are left out for periods of time obstructing public pavements, public entry heads, or the street. This function previously sat with Enforcement but was transferred to the Resource Advisor team in 2021. Resource Advisors issue letters containing relevant information, sign posting and collection information specific to their property. This informs residents to remove their bin to their property and when their next scheduled collections are due.
3.4	The issue of abandoned bins is more common in densely populated urban areas and is often associated with entries and communal collection points which can sometimes involve non-domestic premises. While the standard BYBH approach is effective in some areas, persistent hot spots show repeated non-compliance and complaints from residents in areas where abandoned containers are a problem. Some of the abandoned bins encountered are damaged or without a lid, factors that can encourage owners of the bins to abandon them in the first place. It can also cause the bins to attract pests as the waste is more accessible if the bin is damaged.

3.5	A strengthened and more robust response is required to address persistent issues, ensure compliance, and support long term behavioral change and improvements to the environment in those areas is outlined in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 are sample BYBH stage 1 and stage 2 letters issued to households. The stickers required to support the protocol are in development with Corporate Comms and should be in hand and operationally deployable in September 2026. Bulky waste collection service
3.6	Belfast City Council offers a free bulky waste collection service for households, facilitating residents to dispose of unwanted household items.
3.7	The service is not available for businesses. Residents can book collections up to three months in advance, and the council will confirm the collection date within two working days. Collections run Monday to Friday, excluding bank and public holidays, and reminders are sent via email or text the day before collection to residents who have provided a mobile number or e-mail address. More detail on the service provided and how to access it are included in Appendix 4.
3.8	Bulky Waste collections are managed through the council's Priority Waste team.
3.9	Current bulky waste collection vehicles include: – • 3 x Compact vehicles – disposes of items that can be ‘compacted’ in the back of this vehicle i.e. Sofas, armchairs, mattresses, cabinets etc • 3 x Open vehicles – these vehicles have a tail lift, which aids with the collection of ‘white goods’ i.e. Fridge freezers, washing machines, TVs etc • 1 x HIAB vehicle – this vehicle has a large crane that assists with the collection of bulkier items such as American fridge freezers, pianos, oil tanks etc
3.10	Bulky Waste collections are planned and managed through a route optimization software application called Elogii. The Elogii systems sequence the running order for collections, which has improved efficiency and removed the need for daily manual route planning by the driver. The system also sends out a reminder notification to the resident a day before their scheduled collection. The collections plan in terms of split of vehicles and territories is outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Bulky Waste Collection plan

Vehicle	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Compact 1	West	West	North & Central	West	North
HIAB	West	N/A	North	East, South & Central	N/A
Open 1	West	North	North	East	South & Central
Open 2	North	East & South	South	West	Central
Compact 2	East	South	North	East	North
Compact 3	*SR's	East	*SR's	*SR's	East

- 3.11 Reports of longer lead times for bulky services in East Belfast were raised with officers earlier this year. On reviewing these officers identified that the response time in the East was significantly higher than in other areas of the city. Additional bulky waste slots were added in June 2026 to improve performance in the East. East Belfast is one of the more densely populated quadrants of the city and as such, demand is higher, so this adjustment should serve to better meet that demand and reduce lead times. Lead times before implementing this change are highlighted in Table 2 and lead times after the additional capacity was added in June 2026 are shown in Table 3.

Table 2 – lead times before changes were made

Pre Additional Capacity						
Average Lead Time - 12/01/26 to 10/06/26 (prior to additional capacity)						
Area	Comp1	Comp2	Hiab1	Open1	Open2	Area Avg
Central	5.04		5.67		4.91	5.21
East		17.82	18.85	4.65	5.79	11.78
North	4.4	4.25	9.29	5.48	6.05	5.89
South		7.96	18.7	3.84	4.37	8.72
West	5.23		6.03	6.57	7.25	6.27
Veh Avg	4.89	10.01	11.71	5.14	5.67	

Table 3 – lead times after changes were made

Post Additional Capacity							
Average Lead Time - 11/06/26 to 05/08/26 (after additional capacity added)							
Area	Comp1	Comp2	Comp3	Hiab1	Open1	Open2	Area Avg
Central	5.53			6.85		5.08	5.82
East		9.41	8.67	5.75	5.03	6.11	6.99
North	4.2	4.14		13.05	4.96	5.87	6.44
South		7.73		8.35	3.33	3.87	5.82
West	4.5			6.5	8.15	8.64	6.95
Veh Avg	4.74	7.09	8.67	8.10	5.37	5.91	

3.12	These steps have improved response times in the east and balanced performance across each of the four quadrants. This has led to a slight increase in collection times in some quadrants of the city. Officers are keeping this under review. The current domestic bulky waste collection service will be decanted to Whitespace and Incab functionality after the introduction of Incab to the council's domestic routes, which will present an opportunity for a broader review of bulky waste service provision and will look to improve even further collection times across the city. This will also feed into the wider Transformation and efficiency review of Waste Services. Collection of bagged waste
3.13	At last month's meeting an issue was raised in advance regarding bagged waste been left out for collection on pavements. Officers will undertake to look at this practice as part of the Transformation and efficiency programme and reports will be brought back to members for their consideration. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.14	None – drawn from existing resources and budgets. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.15	None
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Abandoned Bins Protocol Appendix 2 – BYBH 1 Sample Letter Appendix 3 – BYBH 2 Sample Letter Appendix 4 – Bulky Waste Additional Information.

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Management of Abandoned Waste Containers Protocol

1. Main Purpose

This protocol sets out the council's approach for managing abandoned domestic waste containers left in public streets, adopted entries, and public communal collection points. The objective of the protocol is to respond to residents' needs and prevent obstructions, improve street cleanliness, and ensure a consistent approach to managing the issue is taking across the city.

2. Background

Black bins remain the legal property of residents and cannot be removed without their consent. All recycling bins and containers provided by the council remain the property of the council and as such, are easy to remove/uplift as property of the council.

Currently, Waste Management issues "Bring Your Bin Home" (BYBH) letters to areas where containers are left obstructing public pavements, public entry heads or the street. This function previously sat with Enforcement but was transferred to the Resource Advisor team in 2021.

The issue of abandoned bins is specific to urban areas and is often associated with entries and communal collection points which can sometimes involve non-domestic premises. While the standard BYBH approach is effective in some areas, persistent hot spots show repeated non-compliance and complaints from residents in areas where abandoned containers are a problem.

A strengthened and more robust response is required to address persistent issues, ensure compliance, and support long term behavioral change and improvements to the environment in those areas. The protocol is required to establish that a general waste container is "abandoned" to address the impacts of the abandoned bin.

3. Three-Level Response Framework

On receipt of a request for service via the customer hub the following will occur:

Level 1 Response – Standard Approach (Waste Management)

- Continue issuing BYBH letters in areas where non-compliance occurs infrequently. (Sample letter attached as appendix One)
- Includes all relevant collection information specific to that property/area.
- No additional enforcement actions unless repeat issues are identified.
- Continue to document where these reminders are being issued to inform stages 2 and 3 where applicable.

Level 2 Response – Persistent Non-Compliance (Waste Management/OSS)

- BYBH letter issued as normal by Resource Team – communicating that bins not brought in will be removed. (See appendix Two)
- Dated warning stickers are applied to offending bins at the same time by Resource Advisors.
- The sticker instructs the bin owner to return the container to within their property lines within 7 calendar days from the date the sticker/letter is issued.
- Bins still left in the street/entry after 7 days will be considered abandoned and removed by OSS, including general waste bins.

Level 3 Response – High-Complexity mixed use areas (Waste Management & Enforcement)

- Applies to locations where entries serve both commercial and domestic properties (e.g., lower Lisburn Road, Malone Road, Stranmillis Village).
- Domestic properties receive Level 2 actions.
- Enforcement issues Article 22 notices to non-compliant commercial premises as appropriate by enforcement officers.

4. Removal and Processing of Abandoned Containers

- Offending bins not on property boundaries after 7 days will be removed by OSS.
- Suitable containers will be transported to Duncrue and stored for up to 6 weeks (storage area to be identified).
- During the holding period, bins will be emptied, inspected and cleansed by the contractor. Quality bins will be re-used; damaged or unsuitable containers will be recycled.
- Salvageable general waste bins can be reconditioned (markings removed) and can be sold as “pre-loved” containers at a cost-neutral price of £10 (outlet/mechanism to be determined). Should this approach around re-use not be feasible, alternatives can be explored (e.g. bulk sale/disposal to other waste providers/LAs).
- The pre-loved price covers delivery and supports affordability for residents, particularly those in areas of multiple deprivation.
- Food waste and recycling containers remain fully subsidized by the council.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Reduction of bins left permanently in entries and streets and associated service requests to resolve them.
- Clear staged mechanisms to deter non-compliance.
- Cleaner and safer neighborhoods. Bins are often linked to ASB, especially in densely populated areas.
- Support circular economy principles through reuse of containers.
- Lower financial barriers for residents needing replacement bins – mechanism for issue required.
- Consideration should be given to the impact of the ASB bin replacement process i.e. that this mechanism is not used by residents whose bin has been uplifted due to being considered abandoned. The reporting of ASB will be in “in person” and via telephone/direct contact.

6. Resource Requirements

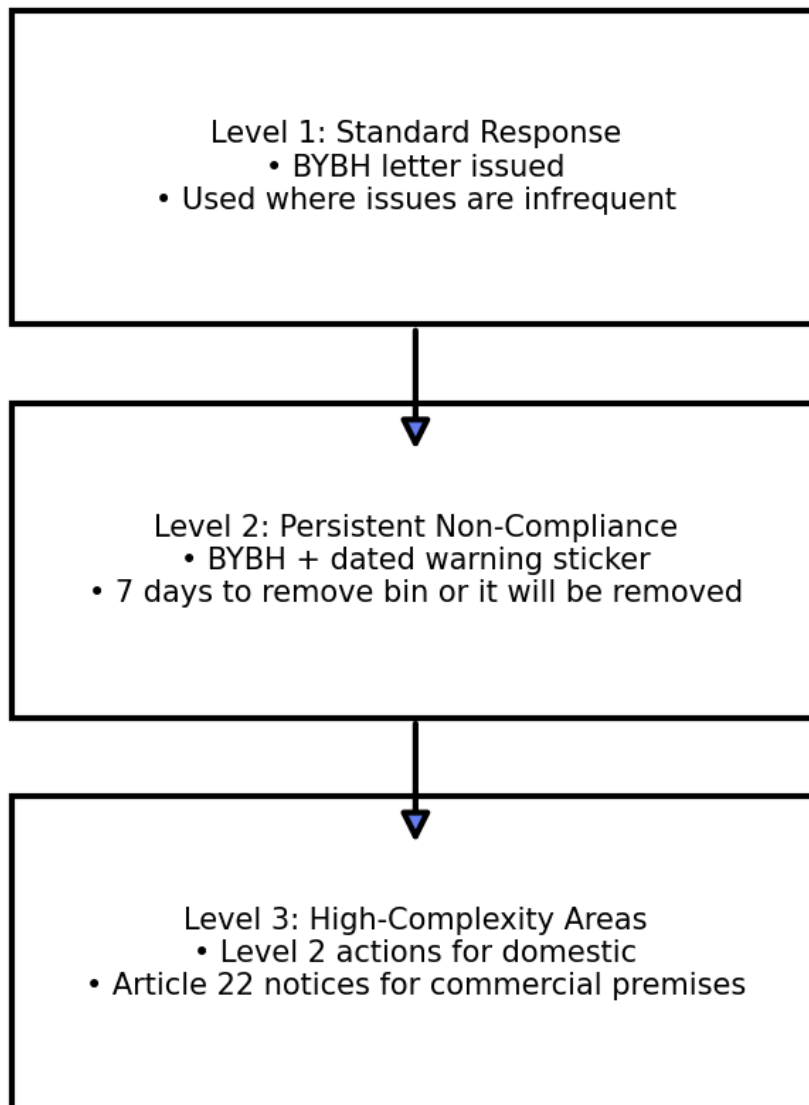
- Dedicated storage capacity at Duncrue for abandoned reuseable bins.
- Staff time across Waste Management, Enforcement, OSS, and Customer Hub.
- FAQs and support for hub and operations.
- Stickers for bins/leaflet for householders.

7. Stakeholders

Leads: Waste Management, OSS

Supporting: Customer Hub, Enforcement, Contractor.

Three-Level Response Flowchart



City & Neighbourhood Services Department

City Service – Resources & Fleet



**Belfast
City Council**

Your reference: BYBH 2

Our reference: Melrose Avenue

Date: As Posted

Dear Resident,

RE: bring your bins home

Following up on our previous letter to residents, all bins and containers must be stored within your property boundary at all times, except on scheduled collection days. Please be advised that any bins left remaining on public land outside of collection days **will be removed**.

Offending bins have been assessed by a member of staff, logged and stickered with the date of the assessment. Should the bin continue to sit out for more than 7 days, we will arrange for our Street Cleansing teams to remove the bin and contents.

In the case of general waste bins, we will retain these for up to 6 weeks, after which the bin will be refurbished and re-used or recycled, depending on its condition. Residents who have had their bin removed will need to purchase a replacement black bin at your own expense.

Your black bin, recycling boxes and food waste bin should always be kept on your property, with the exception of your collection days. Bins should not be left permanently on the street.

Your black bin is collected every two weeks on a **(insert day)**. Your next scheduled black bin collection is **(insert date)**.

Black general waste bin	Recycling boxes and food waste
• Collected from the kerbside every two weeks on a (Day). • Bins should be kept on your property except on your collection day. Bins should not permanently be left on the street. • No food waste please. We will not collect black bins containing food waste. • Please ensure the lid is closed when your black bin is presented.	• Collected from the kerbside every week on a (Day). • Keep containers on your property except on your collection day. • Containers should have lids to prevent spillage. • No broken glass please (operatives sort these materials by hand). • If you need more food waste bags, please tie a bag to the handle of your food waste bin or collect a roll from our Household Recycling Centres.

If you require recycling boxes or a food waste bin, please get in touch. You can order these online www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins or call 0800 032 8100 and they will be delivered to your property, free of charge. General waste bins can also be purchased online or via our Customer Hub team.

Please think about your waste and what you do with it. Recycling is important for Belfast. It saves money, provides local jobs and helps protect our environment and changing climate. Food waste, for example, is processed in Belfast to become compost which is then sold throughout Northern Ireland supporting both local jobs and the economy.

Kind regards,

The Waste Management Team.

Kind Regards,
The Waste Management Team

City & Neighbourhood Services Department

City Service – Resources & Fleet



Belfast
City Council

Your reference: NJ/BM

Our reference: Melrose Avenue

Date: As Posted

Dear Resident, **RE: bring your bins home**

Your property is part of Belfast's urban recycling scheme which enables residents to recycle most of their waste weekly from the kerbside. Every property should have a black bin, and our crews will only collect 1 black bin per property unless you have been approved for additional bins. If you rent your property, your landlord is obliged to provide you with a black bin.

Your black bin, recycling boxes and food waste bin should always be kept on your property, with the exception of your collection days. Bins should not be left permanently on the street.

A number of black bins are continually being left on the pavement, blocking access for pedestrians and other residents in the area. We would ask that residents bring their bins back to their property after collection.

Your black bin is collected every two weeks on a **Thursday**. Your next scheduled black bin collection is **Thursday 30 April 2026**.

Black general waste bin	Recycling boxes and food waste
- Collected from the kerbside every two weeks on a Thursday. - Bins should be kept on your property except on your collection day. Bins should not permanently be left on the street. No food waste please. We will not collect black bins containing food waste. - Please ensure the lid is closed when your black bin is presented.	- Collected from the kerbside every week on a Thursday. - Keep containers on your property except on your collection day. - Containers should have lids to prevent spillage. - No broken glass please (operatives sort these materials by hand). - If you need more food waste bags, please tie a bag to the handle of your food waste bin or collect a roll from our Household Recycling Centres.

If you have questions regarding your bin or recycling collections or to request a free bulky waste collection for large items such as furniture and mattresses, call 02890 270230.

We have a policy of no food waste in black bins, so please recycle your food waste in your food waste bin. Black bins found to contain food waste can be tagged and not collected so it is important to recycle all your food waste. If you require recycling boxes or a food waste bin, please get in touch. You can order these online www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins or call 0800 032 8100 and they will be delivered to your property, free of charge.

Please think about your waste and what you do with it. Recycling is important for Belfast. It saves money, provides local jobs and helps protect our environment and changing climate. Food waste, for example, is processed in Belfast to become compost which is then sold throughout Northern Ireland supporting both local jobs and the economy.

Kind regards,

The Waste Management Team.

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Appendix 4 - Belfast City Council Bulky Waste Service Additional Information

The council collects a variety of household items, including:

Bedroom furniture: bed frames, headboards, wardrobes, bedside cabinets, chest of drawers, mattresses (must be covered to keep dry), sofa beds with metal frames.

Kitchen appliances: fridges, freezers (must be emptied), cookers, hobs, extractor fans, range cookers, washing machines

Living room items: sofas and armchairs (cover to keep dry), chairs, tables (tape glass), carpets (cover to keep dry), display cabinets, bookcases, lino and vinyl floor pieces, mirrors (tape glass), pianos, reclining sofas and armchairs

Other items: mains-powered electrical equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, treadmills), small electrical appliances, TVs (tape glass), oil tanks (empty and cut in half before collection),

Items not collected include bathroom suites, kitchen units, radiators, built-in wardrobes, large amounts of garden waste, gas cylinders, hospital equipment, liquid waste, and windows. These may be taken to recycling centres or civic amenity sites

To ensure collection residents are requested to :

- Only put out items that have been booked.
- Place items by 7am on the day of collection at the location where your general waste bin is collected (front or rear kerbside, or open space with vehicular access).
- Cover absorbent items like mattresses, sofas, and carpets to keep them dry.
- Dismantle and bundle wooden items where possible.
- Remove protruding screws and nails.
- Tape up glass on TVs, mirrors, or cabinets.
- Remove all food and drink from fridges and freezers

Bulky Waste Collection bookings can be made:

- Online via the Belfast City Council website.
- By email: wastecollections@belfastcity.gov.uk
- By phone: 028 9027 0230 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm),

Changes or cancels

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