

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

26th February 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 March, 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. Presentations**

- (a) Irish Football Foundation Stadia Community Benefits Initiative - Disabled Persons' Participation
- (b) Greenwich Leisure Limited - Service Provision for Persons with Additional Needs

#### **3. Restricted**

- (a) Departmental Finance Update - Quarter 3 (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Social Supermarkets Fund (Pages 9 - 14)

#### **4. Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Notice of Motion Update - Allotment Provision (Pages 15 - 24)
- (b) Request for Memorial Tree/Signage - Ruby Murray Village Green (Pages 25 - 30)

5. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Boxing Strategy - Update (Pages 31 - 46)
- (b) Funding Awards for 2025/26 (Capacity Building & Revenue Grants and Generalist Advice) (Pages 47 - 54)
- (c) Community Support Plan - 25/29 (Including a Review of Community Support Large Grants) (Pages 55 - 82)
- (d) Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service - Request for Funding (Pages 83 - 90)

6. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Community Summer Schemes Charges (Pages 91 - 96)
- (b) Pitch Partnership Agreements (Pages 97 - 102)
- (c) Request for Storage Container - Henry Jones Playing Fields (Pages 103 - 104)
- (d) Requests for Events in Parks (Pages 105 - 108)
- (e) Request to Name the Continuation of an Existing Street (Pages 109 - 110)
- (f) Dual language Street Signs - mechanism for dealing with deferred applications and consideration of Wellington Park Terrace and other deferred applications
- (g) Applications for Dual Language Street Signage - Standard Monthly Applications (Pages 111 - 114)
- (h) Applications for Dual Language Street Signs in Irish - Ormeau Road, Delhi Street, Whitewell Road, Victoria Road, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Burmah Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Sunningdale Gardens, Donegall Road and Belmont Avenue (Pages 115 - 118)
- (i) Applications for Dual Language Street Signs in Irish - Oldpark Road, Donegall Park Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue (Pages 119 - 122)

7. **Issue Raised in Advance by a Member**

- (a) 'FIDO' - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle - (Councillor Canavan to raise)
- (b) Memorial at Former Workhouse Burial Site - Donegall Road (Councillor McKeown to raise)



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

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<b>Subject:</b>	Allotments Overview Report - Belfast City Council
<b>Date:</b>	4th March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Maria McAleer, Performance and Improvement Officer CNS

#### 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	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<b>Purpose of Report</b> Members will recall discussions on allotments, allotment provision and the management of them at meetings of the People & Communities committee meetings in March 2024 and in

	September 2022. This report provides an update on the issues and concerns raised by members.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In September 2022 the Committee agreed that a review be undertaken of all Council managed allotment facilities, including investigating the levels of upkeep of individual plots, the ongoing management and maintenance of the sites and length of waiting lists at the various sites with a comprehensive report to be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
3.2	At its March 2024 meeting this committee approved the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Probation Board of Northern Ireland (PBNI) to provide a maintenance support service for allotment users at the Annadale Allotments and agreed to see if it would be possible to extend this arrangement with the PBNI to other Council Allotments subject to the success of the PBNI MOU At Annadale Allotments.
3.3	<p>Further discussion ensued regarding the number of abandoned allotments at Annadale and the long waiting list of people looking for allotments. Several of the Members highlighted the need for the Council to have better control and management of plots that were not being maintained or had been abandoned. The Committee requested that a comprehensive report be submitted to a future meeting of this committee</p> <p><b>Relevant Legislation and Alignment to Council Strategies</b></p>
3.4	Belfast City Council has a long history of allotment provision dating back to 1916. The Allotments Act (Northern Ireland) in 1932 supported communities and local authorities at that time. The National Allotment Association UK <a href="https://www.thenas.org.uk/">https://www.thenas.org.uk/</a> advises that historically allotments are seen as simply spaces for individuals to enjoy, studies increasingly show the green value of allotment sites. Allotments are rich in biodiversity, creating greenspaces for wildlife and pollinators. Allotments have community, health and wellbeing and environmental benefits. These individual and community benefits of allotments provision align to The Belfast Agenda, The Belfast Open Spaces Strategy and Belfast Resilience Strategy.
3.5	<p>Allotments provided by Belfast City Council are subject to Allotments Act (Northern Ireland) 1932 further details available via weblink below  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1932/17/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1932/17/contents</a></p> <p><b>Council Allotment Provision – Citywide</b></p>
3.6	Currently Council provides a total of 281 allotment plots at the following 7 locations detailed at <b>Appendix A of this report:</b>

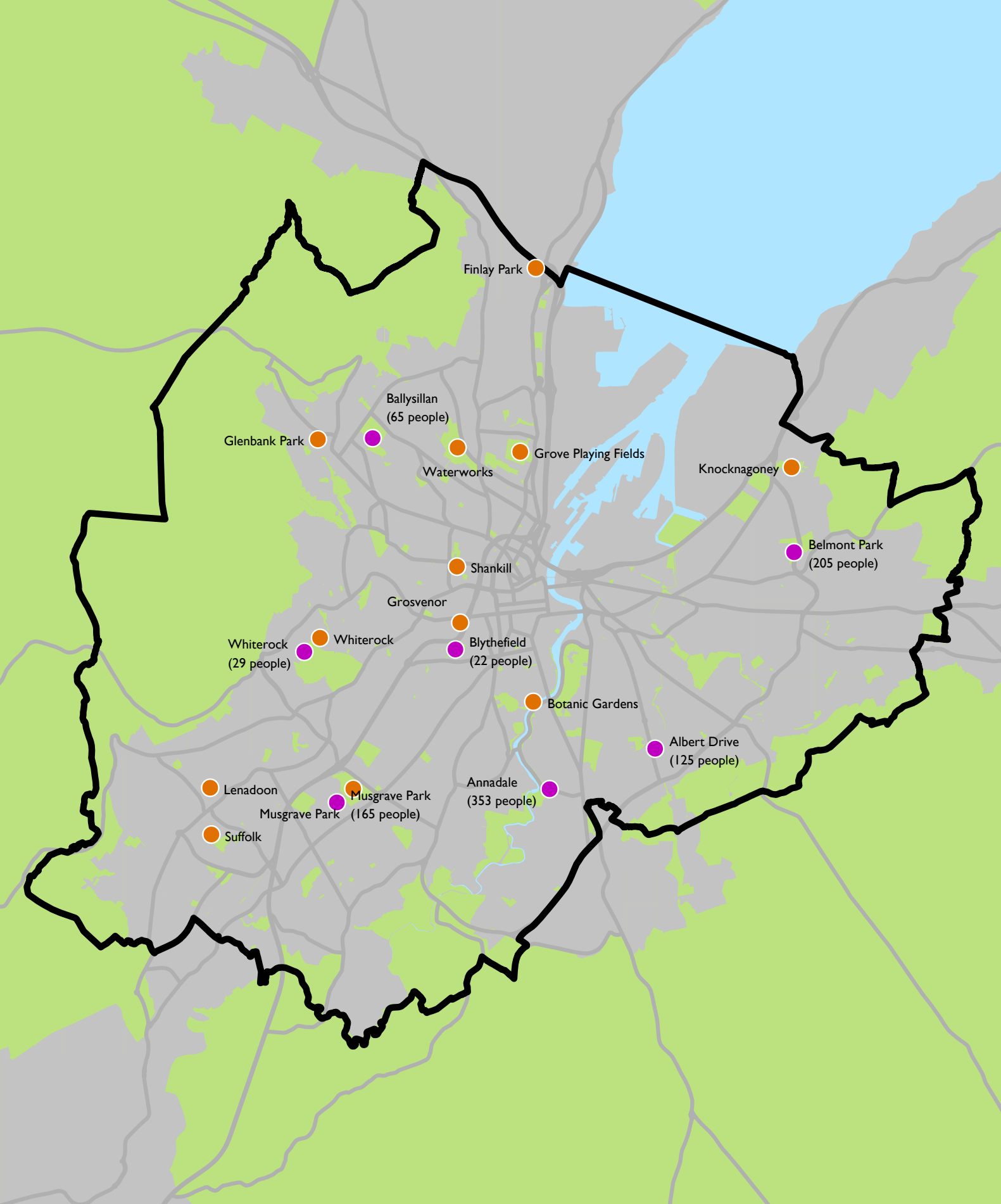


	<b>Albert Drive</b> , Albert Drive, Castlereagh, BT6	8 Plots
	<b>Ballysillan</b> , Deerpark Road, BT14	57 Plots
	<b>Annadale</b> , Annadale Embankment, BT9	87 Plots
	<b>Belmont</b> Cairnburn Road, BT4	60 Plots
	<b>Blythefield</b> , Blythe Street, BT12	22 Plots
	<b>Musgrave</b> , Stockmans Lane, BT9	25 Plots
	<b>White Rock</b> , Whiterock Road BT12	22 Plots
3.7	<b>Allotment waiting list</b>	
	With regards to the <b>281 plots</b> , Council offer in the city it currently has <b>964 people</b> on the waiting list for allotments in total which breaks down per site as follows:	
	<b>Albert Drive</b> , Albert Drive, Castlereagh, BT6	125 People
	<b>Ballysillan</b> , Deerpark Road, BT14	65 People
	<b>Annadale</b> , Annadale Embankment, BT9	353 People
	<b>Belmont</b> Cairnburn Road, BT4	205 People
	<b>Blythefield</b> , Blythe Street, BT12	22 People
	<b>Musgrave</b> , Stockmans Lane, BT9	165 People
	<b>White Rock</b> , Whiterock Road BT12	29 People
3.7	The Association for Public Services Excellence APSE Local Authority State of the Market Survey 2024 advised that 29% of respondents had waiting lists of more than 1,000 people. With 73% of respondents having reduced the size of standard plots to create smaller plots. Only 26% of respondents provided up to 500 a total number of plots with the remainder exceeding this level of provision. 53% of respondents plan to increase the number of allotments.	
3.8	<b>Waiting List Management Options</b>	
	<p>The current Belfast City Council waiting list is evidence of a high demand for allotments. It is anticipated that if remains open and the current allocation arrangements remain in place the waiting list will continue to grow. Officers have considered several potential options to improve management of the waiting list, and these are set out at as an Action Plan in Appendix B of this report. In summary they include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirmation that those on waiting list still require an allotment.</li> <li>- Advising them of the opportunities to use access other growing opportunities E.G Council and other Community Gardens.</li> <li>- Asking allotments plot holders to confirm they wish to retain the allotment tenancy agreement.</li> <li>- Asking those holding an allotment under tenancy agreement do they wish to reduce the size of allotment in the interests of reducing waiting list and increasing participation in growing.</li> <li>- A survey of plot holders every two years</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration and review of the criterion used to determine eligibility for and allocation of allotment spaces</li> </ul> <p>Members should note that these measures are being considered by legal services.</p> <p><b>Review allotment provision</b></p>
3.9	<p>Belfast City Council has allocated an average of 22 plots per year since 2014 based on current provision and availability of vacant plots. However, results and actions from the most recent OSS allotment sites visit reveal that 40 plots are vacant currently and will be allocated to those on the waiting lists. Currently no available budget within CNS for increasing the number of allotments operated by council. CNS is currently preparing a bid into the Council's Capital Budget for a feasibility study to be completed into the possibility of increasing allotments provision and other community growing opportunities. It would also consider the existing infrastructure at each site.</p> <p><b>Allotments Allocation Process by Belfast City Council</b></p>
3.10	<p>The process of awarding plots to members of the public is done through completing an application form. A customer's position is dictated by when they submitted their application meaning it is a first come first serve basis. Furthermore, when a plot becomes available, Outdoor Leisure OSS allocate this to the next person on the waiting list.</p> <p><b>Allotments Management – Abandoned/Unmanaged Plots</b></p>
3.11	<p>At a site review meeting the level of warning that is issued to the plot holders is laid out as follows. A Stage 1 warning is issued to a plot holder the first time their plot is deemed not up to standards. The plot holder is then given 14 days to inform council of the reason the plot is at this standard. If we do not hear from them in 14 days, we then issue a Stage 2 warning and after a further 14 days of no communication a Termination letter is issued. A Stage 2 warning will also be issued to a plot holder if in a future review their plot is still deemed poor standard, and they have already received a stage 1 warning we then escalate this to a Stage 2 and after 14 days of no communication a termination letter is issued. The termination stage of the process can be issued after inspecting a plot for a third time and it still not being deemed up to standard. We will then issue the plot holder a termination letter and give them a period of 14 days to remove any belongings on the plot.</p> <p><b>Engagement with allotment committees and facilitation of access to council community gardens</b></p>
3.12	<p>Not every council allotment has a committee. However, some do, and Council Officers from OSS, CNS engage with both plot holders and allotment committees and through annual inspections and meetings as required. OSS management advise that usage of council community gardens is varied managed with programming and growing opportunities at directly managed council community gardens supported based on demand via the Outreach team within OSS, CNS. Like allotments community gardens have the potential to foster social connections and support environmental sustainability.</p>

	<p><b>Facilitation of Access to Community Growing Opportunities</b></p>												
3.13	<p>Council with support from external funders over the last 20 years supported several community gardens and more recently key projects such as the Upsurge project in Botanic. A map detailing these can be found attached to this report. Furthermore, Council recently granted permission for community growing opportunities or upgrades to existing provision at the following locations.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>St Johns Church, Ormeau Road</td><td>New polytunnel on existing allotments</td></tr> <tr> <td>Glenriver Lands, Cloona Park</td><td>Allotments and associated adult support building.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ballysillan Playing Fields</td><td>Environmental improvements to allotments</td></tr> <tr> <td>Highfield Community Centre</td><td>(Gardens and poly tunnels etc)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Botanic Gardens</td><td>(Upsurge Research project)</td></tr> <tr> <td>The Lockhouse, River Terrace</td><td>(Men's shed and planters etc)</td></tr> </table>	St Johns Church, Ormeau Road	New polytunnel on existing allotments	Glenriver Lands, Cloona Park	Allotments and associated adult support building.	Ballysillan Playing Fields	Environmental improvements to allotments	Highfield Community Centre	(Gardens and poly tunnels etc)	Botanic Gardens	(Upsurge Research project)	The Lockhouse, River Terrace	(Men's shed and planters etc)
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The Lockhouse, River Terrace	(Men's shed and planters etc)												
3.14	<p>Other similar planning applications have been submitted to council and are under consideration at present. The Belfast Agenda Action Plan 2024-2028 includes an ambitious stretch goal to work towards achieving a standard of 1250 square metres of community growing space per 1,000 households by 2035.</p>												
3.15	<p>In addition, following presentation of a Notice of Motion to Strategic Policy and Resources on 28 November 2023 Council notes the pressures upon food security caused by many issues, including the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of the pandemic and climate change. It is, therefore, vital that the Council plays its part to ensure that our citizens have access to enough fresh food for day-to-day living. The Council, therefore, agreed to adopt a right to grow on Council-owned land which is suitable for cultivation. This would probably involve licensing cultivation of suitable land via community groups." Proposer: Councillor Bell Seconder: Councillor Flynn.</p>												
3.16	<p>The Council adopted the proposal and work is underway as part of an update on the Belfast Sustainable Food Strategy, with a view to bring a report back to Climate &amp; Resilience Committee in late Spring . Any future feasibility study of allotment provision will link in with this work.</p>												
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>												
3.17	<p>Allotments prices are reviewed annually in line with council scale of charges. The potential allotment income for 2024/25 is £7,815. Any unpaid fee's owing and debit is managed in line with relevant council procedures. Please note that a full plot per year is currently £50 and a half plot is £26 as per this year's scale of charges. This is subject to change in the next financial year.</p>												
3.18	<p>Operational Asset Management and Maintenance costs are included within existing revenue budgets. There is no provision in the capital budget to increase Council's allotment provision.</p>												

	<b><u>Human Resources</u></b>
3.19	None.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.20	There are no known equality or good relations / rural needs assessment associated with this report at this time. However, any proposed changes will be screened in accordance with councils' equality scheme.
	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix A</b> - Overview Map of Belfast City Council Allotments and Community <b>Appendix B</b> - Outline Action Plan for Allotments Provision



# Belfast City Council owned community gardens and allotments

February 2025

(x) denotes size of waiting list for site.

Area type

- Allotment
- Community Garden

Belfast Local Government District

Parks, open spaces and rural areas

0 4

kilometers

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Allotments Provision Action Plan 2025 /26 Quarterly Monitoring by OSS from April 2025	Action Plan Owner	City and Neighbourhood Services Department
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------------------

	Recommendation <i>All subject to legal advice</i>	Priority S/M/L	Actions
A.	Review allotments waiting list	Short Term Next Three Months	1. Review allotment waiting list and recommend improvements OSS Management with support of Performance and Improvement Unit
B.	Review and improve where appropriate the general rules associated with councils' allotments.	Short Term Next Three Months	2. Review allotment tenancy agreements to identify any required improvements. 3. A biennial (every two years) survey of allotment holders to enhance levels of engagement and support continual improvement. 4. Increase frequency of management inspections of allotments to six monthly 5. Deliver an allotment maintenance course for holders
C.	Identification of additional areas to potentially increase provision of allotments	Medium to Long Term Next Six Months to 12 Months	6. Prepare a bid into the Council's Capital programme for feasibility study into Allotment provision across the city. 7. Work with the Climate team to assess of extent of usage of council community gardens and addressing any barriers to usage.
D.	Allotment sizes / charges	As required	8. Review size of allotment plots provided with a view to assessing need for increased range of provision and associated charges.
E.	Reset of waiting list / rationalistic approach to waiting list management given continuing high demand.	Short Term Next Three Months	9. Subject to legal advice Council to correspond with existing allotment holders and those on waiting list regarding feasible measures to be taken to reduce the waiting list.
F.	Legislation and scope to support to priority applicants for example special circumstances/currently no access to a garden.	Short Term Next Three Months	10. Advise what additional support council can provide with the confines of current legislation. 11. If appropriate implement that support via staff teams and communication to relevant applicants

## Appendix B

G.	Equality Screening	As required	12. Complete an equality screening exercise including a rural needs impact assessment to identify any equality considerations.
H.	Facilities i.e. Toilets etc. and Capital Programme	Medium to Long Term  Next 6 to 12 Months	13. Feasibility study to consider and also look at potential of availing of external funding to support development of facilities.
I.	Proposed collaborative work within existing resources between Committees / Associations and Council support which could be provided.	Medium to Long Term	14. Meet with allotment associations representatives and identify if appropriate any capacity building support they need from council and partners.
		Next Six to 12 Months	15. Collaborate with Open Spaces and Street Scene and Climate Team to encourage more use of council community gardens





Subject:	Ruby Murray Memorial Park Signage & Memorial Tree Installation
Date:	04 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard , Operational Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer Open Space & Streetscene

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide members with draft design options for new signage at Ruby Murray Memorial Park
1.2	This report is also provided by way of follow up to the item raised at People and Communities committee in Feb 25 relating to the installation of a memorial tree at Ruby Murray Memorial Park.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	For members to consider the contents of the report, approve options for Ruby Murray Park signage, and consider whether they want to approve the request for the installation of a memorial tree within the Ruby Murray Village Green.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Background and Context</b>  <b><u>New Park Signage Options</u></b>  3.1 In February 2024 the People and Communities committee advised that the signage erected at the Ruby Murray Village Green was very small and, at the request of Councillor T. Kelly, agreed to erect larger signage at the Green and that the new signage would include some information on Ruby Murray. Officers have engaged with our design contractors who have provided the design options for consideration and approval by members. These can be found in Appendix 1.  3.2 <b><u>Proposed Memorial Tree Installation</u></b>  In addition to new upgraded signage, in February 2025 the committee agreed in principle to the installation of a memorial tree at the Ruby Murray Village Green to recognise the community development and good relations impact had by Mr Trevor Greer. Belfast City Council currently has no policy position on the planting of memorial trees to commemorate individuals. However the practice within City & Neighbourhood Services has been to not grant permission for memorial trees. The following bullet points include details of previous decisions and other issues relating to the installation and maintenance costs of memorial trees, memorial benches etc within parks and open spaces and the naming of assets in line with naming guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2019, the People and Communities committee agreed a positive policy position for future tree planting requests within Parks and Open Spaces, which marked significant occasions and events, and subsequently a number of events and occasions have been marked in this way.</li> <li>• Bereavement Services confirmed position since 2017 via committee decision is not to allow/sell memorial trees at Roselawn/BCC cemeteries. This is due to the resource intensive long term maintenance requirements (13.5k+ trees at Roselawn); unauthorised installations at trees (small fences and memorials, flowers, scarfs etc); and use of non-native species.</li> <li>• In parks and open spaces no new memorial trees have been agreed by OSS for Parks/Open spaces management in recent years. The only formal option available to public (besides naming of assets within parks/open-spaces) is the purchase and installation of memorial benches and (where appropriate) - naming of assets in line with naming guidelines.</li> </ul> 3.3 <b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b> The costs for signage design and installation are included within OSS 24/25 revenue estimates.  3.4 The costs for purchase, installation and maintenance of a memorial tree would be met from within existing estimates.  <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b> 3.5 There are no good relations or rural needs impacts associated with this report.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Signage options for Ruby Murray Village Green

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# Ruby Murray Village Green

**Ruby Murray (1935-1996)**

Belfast's "Songbird of the 1950s," Ruby Murray captivated the British Isles with her unique, husky voice and charming personality. Rising to fame as a teenager, she achieved an astounding five simultaneous Top Twenty hits in 1955, a record that still stands today. Her music brought joy to millions and remains a beloved part of our cultural heritage.

## Play fair

Everyone can do their bit to make this park a happy and safe environment.

Dogs on leads

No dog fouling

No litter

No graffiti

No smoking

No alcohol

No bikes, mopeds, quad bikes

No ball games

No BBQs

**It is an offence to:**

- deface or damage anything or write graffiti
- drink alcohol or use drugs
- play loud music and disturb others
- use a motorbike, quad or other unauthorised vehicle.

Bye-laws apply. Visit [belfastcity.gov.uk/parks](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/parks)

**Opening hours**

**7.30am -**

## Get in touch

We regularly inspect this park to make sure it is safe and clean. Please report any safety concerns, damage or other incidents to:

**028 9032 0202**

**In an emergency call 999**

**Your location coordinates are**

**X 54.58756 Y -5.95342**

**Belfast City Council**

**Emergency Belfast**

For more info, please scan our QR code

# Ruby Murray Village Green

## Ruby Murray (1935-1996)

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**028 9032 0202**

**In an emergency call 999**

**Your location coordinates are**

**X 54.58756 Y -5.95342**

Belfast City Council



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2025-2026
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an update on progress on implementation of the 2024/2025 Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 December 2024 (Quarter 3).</li> <li>• To seek committee approval to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and delivery of the related programme for a final year from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026. Future funding arrangements will be determined following adoption of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for Belfast, action plan and funding arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the progress to date of the strategy annual work plan for the current year 2024/25 (appendix 1).</li> <li>To approve the attached action plan (appendix 2)</li> <li>To extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and funding for delivery of the related work programme from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council developed a Belfast Boxing Strategy 2012 – 2022 with partners. The January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed 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. Council has continued to offer financial support through People and Communities committee on an annual basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The IABA provided SP&amp;R 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.</p>
3.3	<p>Pending the development of the Councils Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy this Committee agreed on 12 March 2024 to extend the current strategy and related work programme until 31 March 2025.</p>
3.4	<p>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 24/25 Up to the end of Quarter 3 is attached (Appendix 1).</p> <p><b><u>Monitoring</u></b></p>
3.5	<p>Following this decision to extend the Strategy and Work programme , the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has continued to meet quarterly with the next meeting taking place via MS Team on Tuesday 25<sup>h</sup> February 2025. The Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers in attendance chairs the Steering Group with IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials in attendance</p>
3.6	<p>Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan.</p>



3.7	The IABA confirmed that the programme is on schedule to deliver all Key Performance Indicators set for the 2024-2025 programme and that they will do so within budget
3.8	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.
3.9	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 24/25
3.10	<b><u>Strategy and Programme Extension</u></b> Pending the development of the Councils Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy this Committee agreed on 12 March 2024 to extend the current strategy and related work programme until 31 March 2025.
3.11	The IABA are now asking the Council to extend the current strategy and the related level of annual support (£200,000) for a further 12 month period and in support of the request the IABA has developed a new 12 month programme relation to the period 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 (Appendix 2)
3.12	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b> A total of £200,000 is available within the current financial year to support the current Action Plan. It is likely that the full budget will be expended.
3.13	A total of £200,000 is also available within budget for 2025-2026 to cover the proposed Action Plan.
3.14	<b><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> 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 24/25 programme with particular focus on the events, club based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1: IABA 2024-2025 Performance Report to end of Quarter 3 Appendix 2: IABA 2025- 2026 work plan and budget for 25-26.

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## Boxing Strategy KPI Report 24-25 Year to end Q3

### 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)	94	0	94
1.2	To Run competitive opportunities for Belfast talent squads (2/3)	2	14	16
1.3	Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership	2	4	6
1.5	Number of boxers obtaining support for sport funding or outside funding	2	6	8
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 per year with 10 newly trained officials	4	13	17
3.2	To run 1 Referee and Judging Course per year with 20 newly trained officials	0	0	0
3.3	Delivery of a minimum of 2 Committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance	6	18	24

### 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	9	29	38
4.3	50 new people accessing online resources	28	14	42
4.4	Increase the number of female coaches	9		9
4.5	To work with mental health training providers to design a toolkit for every club and to deliver training and webinars. To encourage clubs to appoint a Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion. 10 Clubs to be involved (number of clubs involved)			0
4.6	5 clubs trained on inclusive boxing module			44

### To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast

5.1	160 participants at come and try it event	77	98	175
5.2	1600 pupils taking part in non contact boxing sessions	502	738	1240
5.3	160 participants at Belfast Day of Boxing	44	177	221
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			13
5.5	50 new members in Belfast clubs	14	87	101
5.6	15 clubs receiving for support for sport grants			3
5.7	180 participants in holiday camps	61	199	260

### 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	61	199	260

### Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast

7.1	Deliver 8 local events			4
7.2	Deliver 2 international events			1
7.3	150 male competitors		48	48
7.4	50 female competitors	12		12
7.5	50 visiting competitors	0	11	11
7.6	150 Belfast competitors	11	26	37
7.7	5 visiting officials	0	3	3
7.8	15 Belfast officials	0	8	8

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# Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

## SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC CHALLENGES, AIMS AND KPIS

Strategic Challenge	Pathways	Coach Education	Club Development and Grassroots	Governance
Strategic Aims	1.0 To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast. 2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast 3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast. 7.0 Events Schedule and Numbers.	4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast	5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast	6.0 To promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast boxing clubs.
KPI'S	1.1 – Run talent squads in Belfast (1 male, 1 female) 1.2 – To run competitive opportunities for Belfast Talent Squads 1.3 - Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership 1.4 – Number of boxers obtaining support for sport funding or outside funding 1.5 Promote individual talents boxers' grants 2.1 – To run volunteer education event for clubs, aiming for 40 participants (could include recognition of volunteers) 3.1 – To run 1 scoring/event official course per year with 10 newly trained officials 3.2 – To run 1 referee and judging course per year with 20 newly trained officials 3.3 – Delivery of minimum of 2 committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance 7.1 – 6 Local Events per year 7.2 – 2 International Events per year 7.3 – 200 male competitors 7.4 – 80 Female competitors 7.5 – 50 visiting competitors 7.6 – 200 Belfast competitors 7.7 - 10 visiting officials 7.8 – 15 Belfast officials	4.1 -5 coaches to receive talented coach bespoke training and mentoring. 4.2 -20 new coaches to be trained each year. 4.3 - 50 people accessing online coaching area to be updated on a regular basis. 4.4 - Increase the number of female coaches across the city 4.5 - All clubs to receive personalized toolkit with 10 of clubs to be trained up and appoint a mental health champion – 15 clubs to be involved 4.6- 15 participants to receive disability/inclusive awareness training	5.1 - 200 participants at come and try it event/day of boxing events 5.2- 2000 pupils to take part in non-contact boxing 5.4.1 – 2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant 5.4.2 - 30 clubs obtaining membership growth/ equipment/ individual athlete grants. 5.5 - 50 new members to boxing within Belfast. 5.6 – 6 clubs receiving for support for sport grants 5.7 – 200 participants in holiday camps	6.1 – 5 clubs per season attaining IABA Governance Framework Workshop.
Budgets	£19,000- Pathways & £42,000- Events	£11,500	£21,000	£1,000
Salaries				£105,500
Total				£200,000

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

### STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 1: PATHWAYS- FROM GRASSROOTS- TALENT-ELITE (BOXERS, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS)

1.0 Aim				
1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.				
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
<p>1.1 To provide talent squads within Belfast at a range of age groups, linking into the IABA performance pathway and talent ID Testing.</p>	<p>To run talent ID Testing to select boxers for the following talent squads.</p> <p>Boy 1,2&amp; 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts &amp; Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&amp; 3(11-14)</p> <p>Also, to link in with UHP camps in which Belfast Boxers will be part of also.</p>	<p>IABA Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will train all talented coaches taking the talent squad training sessions in the assessment and talent ID process.</p> <p>All Squads will also be tested in line with similar tests carried out for senior elite athletes within the Ulster High Performance System, this way exposing young boxers to HP System and fitness and training tests from a younger age.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2&amp; 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts &amp; Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&amp; 3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – Assistant High-Performance Coach</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches for testing process and venue hire. Costs related to Talent camps coaching, accommodation/ Travel.</p>
<p>1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups.</p> <p>Boy 1,2&amp; 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts &amp; Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&amp; 3(11-14)</p>	<p>1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups.</p> <p>Boy 1,2&amp; 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts &amp; Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&amp; 3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA High Performance Coach will oversee the design of the programme. In addition to his staff time, we will also ensure that the IABA Assistant High-Performance Coach takes some sessions for the talented coaches who will deliver the squad training. The Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will mentor the coaches taking the talent squad training sessions.</p> <p>All Squads will also be brought up to the High-Performance Unit in UUJ to take part in a session with the High-Performance Coach.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2&amp; 3 (11-14) x Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&amp; 3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – High Performance Coach and Assistant High-Performance Coach</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches. Venue Hire and appropriate equipment, refreshments for coaches involved.</p>

# Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

<b>1.0 Aim</b>				
<b>1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent. - continued</b>				
Action	KPI	Action	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
1.3 To provide an end competition for the talent squads to compete against other county teams	To run competitions/competitive opportunities for the young boxers to display their talent and to demonstrate their progression since being on the talent squad programme. These will be inter county match ups against other County's which we expect 5-10 Belfast Boxers Per event.	The CAB representatives will arrange a county competition within a Belfast venue and will provide referee/judges and table officials. Belfast City Council employees to book the mayor and the chair of the people and communities committee to attend the event and present medals and a short speech.  BCC Marketing staff to provide PR support to gather local press and media coverage and interest.	Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)  Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)	CAB Volunteer time to organise, run and administer the county competition/competitive opp's. Belfast City Council Funds requested for Venue Hire, officials' fees, and purchase of medals for participants- approximately.
1.4 Free Gym Membership for Elite Performers	Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining free membership per year. 3 per year	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group. GLL Foundation scheme.  The steering group will be responsible for distributing and communicating widely the scheme and its criteria. IABA staff can help boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote Free Gym membership through GLL Scheme to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast. - No cost aside from staff time
1.5 Promote individual talents boxers' grants	6 Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining grant aid per year. (Mary peters trust, GLL foundation, HP Athlete Support Scheme).	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group.  IABA Performance Pathways committee will be responsible to distribute and communicate widely the scheme and its criteria to all boxers within the HP Unit. IABA staff can help assist boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote grant aid schemes to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast No cost aside from staff time

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

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2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
<p>2.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led volunteer education event made for boxing clubs in Belfast. This may include volunteer recognition or special</p>	<p>1 event to be delivered per year- targeting 40 participants from the 32 clubs across the city delivered by March 2023.</p>	<p>IABA to provide expertise of Club Development Officer within Ulster, Operations Manager and IABA Health and Safety Officer and Child Protection Officer to deliver a volunteer education and training event within Belfast.</p> <p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the organisation each year.</p> <p>Topics and workshops to be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and safety of club facilities</li> <li>• Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop</li> <li>• New IABA Policies and procedures</li> <li>• Good Relations Training and update</li> <li>• Fundraising, Grant aid and sponsorship</li> <li>• Affiliation procedures</li> <li>• Volunteer committee roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Committee Skills</li> <li>• Examples and workshops providing examples of best practice</li> </ul> <p>Community outreach programmes such as: boxing for fitness, mental health and well-being programmes, rehabilitation programmes for offenders.</p>	<p>All 32 Belfast based clubs' representatives to attend.</p> <p>New Clubs under development.</p> <p>Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – Club Dev, Operations Manager, H&amp;S Officer and CP Officer and Workforce Officer</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds could be used for this if based in Belfast, however this could possibly be funding from other sources outside of Belfast. But we would like flexibility to host in BCC and to help cover BCC club costs if required.</p> <p>Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.</p>



## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

		BCC- to provide Girdwood Venue through GLL. If this is not possible, we would seek to hire a Belfast Hotel venue		
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3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.				
Aim				
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
3.1 Officials to receive training in line with world standards and systems.	1 scoring/event official course per year- 10 newly trained officials per year. 10% will be females.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year	New aspiring referees/judges aged 18+	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
3.2 To deliver grassroots refereeing, judging		CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also	Current Clubs without referee/judges  New Clubs under development	

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

<p>qualifications and table officials.</p> <p>3.3 to Train committee members on best practice.</p>	<p>Delivery of 1 referee &amp; judging course- 20 new referees by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. 10% will be females.</p> <p>Delivery of committee courses/training throughout the year to improve club governance.</p>	<p>identify clubs who may not have qualified referees and judges within their clubs.</p> <p>UBC will also provide Referee Tutors to run the Level 1 and Level 2 referee and judging qualifications</p>	<p>Clubs looking to run club events and tournaments.</p> <p>Link in some of the aspects of the club mark scheme to help clubs improve governance.</p>	<p>officials and for new computerised scoring system.</p>
<b>Aim</b>	<b>7.0 Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>KPI</b>	<b>Partners, Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Resource/Budget/eligible cost</b>
<p>7.1 – Local Events per year</p> <p>7.2 – International Events per year</p> <p>7.3 – male competitors</p> <p>7.4 – female competitors</p> <p>7.5 – visiting competitors</p> <p>7.6 – Belfast competitors</p> <p>7.7 – visiting officials</p> <p>7.8 – Belfast officials</p>	<p>To deliver the number of events, competitors, and official opportunities in the events plan.</p> <p>6 Local Events per year</p> <p>2 International Events per year</p> <p>200 male competitors</p> <p>80 Female competitors</p> <p>50 visiting competitors</p> <p>200 Belfast competitors</p> <p>10 visiting officials</p> <p>15 Belfast officials</p>	<p>Through the CAB and Boxing Development Officer liaising together venues across the city will be used to host events &amp; competitive opportunities for both boxers and officials across the city as well as inviting in a range of competition from across the County, Province, Continent</p>	<p>All Belfast Based clubs, boxers, and officials.</p>	<p>BCC funds will be used to host the events and consume the costs agreed in the events plan.</p>

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

### STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 2: COACH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
4.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led Coach education programme for talented coaches within Belfast	To work with 5 coaches per year delivering a bespoke education programme by 31 <sup>st</sup> March each year	IABA to provide expertise of Assistant HPC within Ulster and the performance pathways committee to help identify talented coaches within Belfast to take part in the programme.  IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year.	Identified Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches, actively coaching in Belfast, identified by the Ulster HP Coach as potentially talented coaches with ability to progress to national and international coaching.	IABA Staff time and committee members time -HP Coach Ulster, performance pathways committee and Workforce Officer Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
4.2 To Support the delivery of grassroots boxing qualifications- i.e. Fundamentals or Level 1 IABA Qualification.	20 new coaches by 31 <sup>st</sup> March each year.10% will be female.	IABA Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the programme each year  CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may be either under or over capacity regards coaching-members ratios.  CAB will also provide Coaching Tutors to run the Level 1 qualifications.	New aspiring coaches aged 18 +  Current Clubs who's carrying capacity is exceeding their number of qualified coaches.  Clubs looking to set up new sections to their clubs, e.g. female section, over 50's health and well-being etc.	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
4.3 To update online Coaching / volunteer resources and inform clubs of updates.	Area to be updated on a regular basis with up to 50 new participants accessing the online resources area per year target by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will liaise with the other development officers, HP coaches and CAB to provide a range of online learning opportunities to clubs / volunteers.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	This has now been launched and we will continue to update the online learning areas & social media pages with constant updates and learning ops.
4.4 To increase the number of female coaches in Belfast	To ensure that all coaching courses that are ran throughout the city have female representation. 10% of course ran will have new female coaches.	IABA will utilise the strategy to help increase the number of female coaches in Belfast. Our Workforce Development Officer will work closely with the Belfast Development officer on assuring designated spots on course for females.	Parents of female boxers, female boxers themselves, youth and school groups, Women's groups etc- all in a bid to actively target females to become coaches.	BCC Funds and IABA Funds- no additional funds required.

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

4.5 To work alongside mental health providers to generate a boxing specific tool kit and train clubs up in mental health and wellbeing awareness	We will work with TAMHI and other providers to design a toolkit for every club and run training and webinars with each club where we will encourage clubs to appoint a mental health champion. 10-15 clubs involved.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will organise with each club the training / webinar sessions that will be delivered by professionals to each individual club.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	Belfast City Council Funds requested for design of toolkit and to bring in providers to deliver training and workshops with clubs.
4.6- disability and inclusivity awareness training to be provided to clubs.	To have 20 participants from our clubs attend inclusive training module. This is to help put disability and inclusive physical activity into all our clubs.	IABA will provide the Workforce Development officer who will work with the Boxing Development Officer to set a date for training and to engage with clubs.  Now incorporated within the IABA Fundamentals coaching course in partnership with CARA.	Coaches, Committee, Parents and Boxers.	Belfast City Council Funds Requested for room hire, refreshments and tutor costs.

### STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 3: Club Support and Grassroots Development

5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast				
Aim	KPI's	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
5.1 To hold come and try it events in collaboration with BCC sports development initiatives	200 pupils. 15% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA to organise and arrange schools come and try it events in conjunction with CAB.  2 Community Based coaches to run the event. IABA Development Officer to arrange. BCC to fund and promote event as BCC Event, BCC Media and PR Team to help get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	2X Community Based Boxing Coach-salary cost  Venue Hire, additional coaches to deal with capacity and marketing and advertising info and hire o ring etc if necessary
5.2 Continue to run non-contact boxing sessions in schools	2000 15% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Development officer to organise and arrange non-contact sessions within schools 2 Community Based coaches to run sessions. BCC to fund and promote schools' sessions. BCC Media and PR Team to help do a media launch for schools' sessions and get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	2X Community Based Boxing Coach- £23,000(salaries)  Equipment to be purchased for new coach to conduct the duties of the role.

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

<p>5.4 Provide start up and or membership growth funding to allow for the development of new clubs or growing club membership across the city.</p> <p>5.4.1 – New clubs grants</p> <p>5.4.2 – Equipment grants / individual athlete grants</p> <p>5.4.3 – Membership Development Grants</p>	<p>Monitor the growth of membership across Belfast. 2 new clubs.</p> <p>2 New clubs grants, 4 Equipment grants</p> <p>25 Membership Development Grants</p>	<p>BCC to provide grant aid for seeding grants and equipment grants through the sports development team if possible.</p> <p>The Steering Group committee could help to administer and manage the process if the sports development team cannot administer this process. The levels of funding are minimal with only 2 seeding grants available per year and 4 equipment grants. (should there be new clubs).</p> <p><i>Where we have no new clubs, we could look at giving individual athlete awards to specified talent. This could also be utilized where all membership growth grants are not expended.</i></p> <p>The committee can devise the application process and scheme if required.</p>	<p>New Boxing Clubs within Belfast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeding Grants for newly developed clubs or junior sections of senior clubs.</li> <li>Equipment Grants for clubs who can demonstrate the need for equipment for new clubs or existing clubs who have grown or need replacement equipment.</li> <li>Or Membership Development Grants</li> </ul> <p>All at a cost of £500 per club to run come and try it event/holiday camps in a bid to increase membership of their clubs.</p> <p>Up to 32 clubs a year x £500. = £16,000 approx.</p>
<b>Aim 5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast - CONTINUED</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>KPI's</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Resource/Budget/eligible cost</b>
5.5 New members	50 new members within clubs. 10% will be females	To feed new members thorough the school's programme and membership growth programmes into the club environment. Link directly in with the clubs.	Targeting underrepresented groups within the sport	<i>Using initiatives listed above.</i>
5.6 Promote the Belfast City Council Community Support Funding	Encourage 6 clubs to apply per year	IABA Staff to work with clubs to work up applications for Support for sport schemes.	32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast	N/a No programme costs, only staff time.
5.7 Boxing Holiday Camps	200 participants per year. 15% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	<p>IABA Staff to arrange and organise Easter and Summer Holiday Camps for Boxing. CAB to provide coaches to aid Community Coaches.</p> <p>To run a number of holiday/ membership growth programmes during holiday periods (Summer, Halloween or mid-term) Total of 200 participants with a specific emphasis on female inclusion.</p>	32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast, target local schools also.	<i>2X Community Based Boxing Coach- salary</i> Programme Costs- Venue Hire, Coaching Wages for additional coaches, marketing materials to facilitate bookings onto camps.

## Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

		IABA will administer the booking process.		
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### STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 4: GOVERNANCE

6.0 To promote, improve, and sustain good governance standards within Belfast Clubs				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
6.1 To work with Belfast based clubs to achieve the IABA Good Governance Framework	8 clubs to attend workshops or 1 to 1s with the IABA Club development officer.	IABA Development Officer to work with clubs to achieve this and will work 1 to 1 with clubs to put governance framework and structures in place in order to be more attractive to funders.	All Belfast based clubs	IABA Club Development Officer Staff Time BCC Funds club attendance fee, workshop costs to include venue hire, refreshments.
6.2 To deliver a good relations and EDI Programmes to clubs throughout the city.	8 clubs to attend 1 or both Programmes/ workshops when set up.	IABA Operations Manager to provide facilitators for Good Relations & Equality, diversity and inclusion training that will be rolled out to all clubs across the city.		IABA Staff Tie- Operations Manager over oversees Good Relations and Equality issues and programmes.  Costs- tutor, venue hire and hospitality and any administration costs.



<b>Subject:</b>	Funding Awards for 2025/26 (Capacity Building & Revenue Grants and Generalist Advice)
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision Cormac McCann, Lead Officer, Community Provision

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Call-in

Yes

☒

No

☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise members that the Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer for 2025/26 has not yet been received by Council from DfC.</li> <li>Seek members approval to issue Letters of Offer for 2025/26 for Capacity Building &amp; Revenue Grants and Generalist Advice in the absence of a Letter of Offer from DfC.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the contents of the report and</li> <li>Grant approval for officers to progress funding agreements for the Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Building grants and Generalist Advice for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. 50% payments will be issued in advance upon the return of required paperwork with a second payment made pending return of satisfactory interim monitoring report covering 1 April to 30 September 2025 and available budget.</li> <li>Note that Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP. Members will note that a separate paper on the Social Supermarket Fund which is 100% funded through the CSP has been brought to committee this evening. A further report on other 100% funded elements will be provided when the CSP Letter of Offer has been received.</li> <li>Approve the 2024 – 25 doubling of financial allocations for the Revenue of Community Buildings grants to the organisations listed in Appendix 2 for the 2025 – 2026 financial year.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) provides an annual grant to Council through its Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer. This funding provides an element of the budget towards Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building grants as well as Generalist Advice.</p> <p>The CSP also provides 100% funding for other elements of activity such as Social Supermarkets and Welfare Reform Mitigations.</p>
3.2	<p>Council has yet to receive a CSP Letter of Offer for 2025/26 and therefore does not have the total budget available to provide the full grant allocation. Any reduction in the DfC allocation will impact on the overall level of the grant budget and potentially awards to the grant recipients. The CSP Letter of Offer is generally received in March - June each year, although members may recall that in 2024/25, DfC funding was released on a gradual basis and the full allocation was not provided until July 2024.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p><u>Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Buildings Grants</u></p> <p>Members may be aware that in March 2023, Council agreed to provide multi-annual funding covering 3 years 2023-2026 for the Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building</p>



grants. Although the grants are multiannual, Funding Agreements are made on an annual basis.

As part of the rate setting process, Council approved an additional budget envelope of £1.5 million for the 2025 – 2026 financial year, with this funding to double the financial allocation to groups in receipt of the Revenue for Community Buildings grant.

Officers are seeking approval to make payments covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The total cost of the grants allocation for 2025/26 is £4,847,382.39

- Capacity Building £1,872,358.29
- Revenue for Community Buildings £ 2,975,024.10

3.4

The list of organisations that receive funding is outlined in appendices 1 and 2. Members will note that awards in 24/25 included an uplift which DfC provided in their Letter of Offer, officials have advised that we should plan on the same budget for 25/26. This amount provided an additional £629 for each Revenue for Community Buildings grant recipient.

3.5

Council's contribution to Capacity & Revenue Grant Programmes is 66% of the overall budget thus we can guarantee the first 50% payment.

3.6

Generalist Advice Funding

Members will be aware that Council provides funding for generalist advice provision to 5 Advice Consortia covering: Central, East, North, South and West Belfast. The funding is allocated to the consortia using a funding model based on population and multiple deprivation indicators (2015). The list of advice organisations and consortium funding allocation is contained in Appendix 3.

3.7

Council's contribution to Generalist Advice is 37% of the total allocation. Members are asked to consider if they are content to approve the issue of Letters of Offer and 50% payment.

3.8

A further report will be presented to committee when we receive the Community Support Programme Letter of Offer from DfC. Members are asked to note that Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP.

3.9

Financial and Resource Implications

Members may wish to note that last year the allocation was as below. The council budget is the same for capacity and advice as 24/25; The council budget for revenue increased for 25/26.

Grant	CSP funding DfC	24/25 BCC Contribution	25/26 BCC Contribution	Total
Capacity	£ 463,075.29	£1,409,283	£1,409,283.00	£ 1,872,358.29
Revenue	£ 353,052.05	£1,134,469	£2,621,990.05	£ 2,975,024.10
Advice	£ 667,959.58	£391,729	£391,729.00	£ 1,059,688.58
Total	£ 1,484,086.92	£2,935,481	£4,423,002.05	£ 5,907,070.97

Members will note that Council has the available budget to make a 50% payment to recipients of all three elements (Capacity, Revenue and Advice), however, should there be a reduction in DfC funding this would impact on the overall budget available to cover costs.

3.10	<p>Based on legal advice, Funding Agreements for 2025/26 Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Buildings Grants and Generalist Advice will contain a condition that the second payment may vary due to the level of funding received from DfC.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Any reduction in the available budget has the potential to impact on service delivery which may have equality, good relations or rural needs implications for Belfast City Council.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 – Capacity Building Grant Allocation 2025/26</p> <p>Appendix 2- Revenue for Community Building Grant Allocation 2025/26</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Advice Funding Allocation 2025/26</p>

## Appendix 1

### Capacity Grant Allocations 2025/26 (Based on 2024/25)

	Organisation	Grant Allocation
1.	Boys & Girls Clubs	£ 49,876.00
2.	Engage With Age	£ 31,143.00
3.	Cara-Friend	£ 50,629.00
4.	Charter NI	£ 45,138.00
5.	Roden Street Community Development Group	£ 50,629.00
6.	Southcity Resource And Development Centre.	£ 50,629.00
7.	The West Belfast Partnership Board	£ 50,229.00
8.	Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens	£ 49,099.00
9.	Conradh Na Gaeilge	£ 50,629.00
10.	Short Strand Community Forum	£ 50,629.00
11.	Women's Resource And Development Agency	£ 50,629.00
12.	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	£ 50,629.00
13.	Falls Community Council	£ 50,629.00
14.	Falls Partnership Initiative	£ 40,629.00
15.	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£ 42,375.64
16.	Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£ 36,026.54
17.	The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre	£ 29,629.00
18.	Fóram na nÓg	£ 44,583.72
19.	Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	£ 50,629.00
20.	Upper Springfield Resource Centre	£ 38,561.76
21.	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	£ 45,818.34
22.	Volunteer Now	£ 48,820.28
23.	Ashton Community Trust	£ 50,629.00
24.	Market Development Association	£ 31,729.00
25.	Training for Women Network	£ 46,444.00
26.	East Belfast Community Development Agency	£ 50,629.00
27.	Whiterock Children's Centre/Whiterock Creche Association	£ 21,379.00
28.	Belfast Interface Project. (BIP)	£ 50,420.00
29.	Horn Of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland (HAPANI)	£ 50,629.00
30.	University Of Atypical For Arts And Disability	£ 50,629.00
31.	Small Steps	£ 50,464.59
32.	lenadoon community forum	£ 34,077.00
33.	Sailortown Regeneration Group	£ 50,629.00
34.	All Nations Ministries	£ 48,931.00
35.	Northern Ireland Youth Forum	£ 20,529.00
36.	Ardoyne Youth Enterprises	£ 22,541.00
37.	Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	£ 47,275.00
38.	GREATER SHANKILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	£ 50,629.00
39.	St James Forum	£ 46,629.00
40.	South Belfast Partnership Board	£ 32,088.42
41.	Taughmonagh Community Forum Ltd	£ 50,029.00
42.	Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP)	£ 10,329.00
43.	TechDesk CIC	£ 48,129.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,872,358.29</b>

## Appendix 2

### Revenue for Community Buildings Grant Allocations 2025/26 (based on doubling 2024/25)

	Organisation	24/25 Allocation	25/26 Allocation
1.	Newstart Education Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
2.	Ardmonagh Family & Community Group	£13,629.00	£27,258.00
3.	Lagmore Community Forum	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
4.	Holy Trinity Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
5.	Cancer Lifeline	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
6.	Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
7.	Mornington Community Project	£15,064.00	£30,128.00
8.	Ionad Uíbh Eachach	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
9.	Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
10.	FORTHSPRING INTER COMMUNITY GROUP	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
11.	An Droichead	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
12.	Divis Joint Development Committee	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
13.	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
14.	Feile An Phobail	£18,629.00	£37,258.00
15.	Hannahstown Community Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
16.	Chinese Welfare Association NI	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
17.	EastSide Partnership	£19,509.00	£39,018.00
18.	Footprints Womens Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
19.	Falls Women's Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
20.	Solas	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
21.	Suicide Awareness & Support Group	£20,235.00	£40,470.00
22.	Spectrum Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
23.	Brassneck Youth	£16,343.00	£32,686.00
24.	Belfast South Community Resources	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
25.	Manor Street Cliftonville Community Group	£13,629.00	£27,258.00
26.	NBWISP (North Belfast Womens' Initiative & Support Project)	£15,841.00	£31,682.00
27.	Oasis Caring In Action Ltd	£19,129.00	£38,258.00
28.	Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
29.	BLACKIE RIVER COMMUNITY GROUPS	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
30.	Grace Women's Development Limited	£16,805.96	£33,611.92
31.	Windsor Women's Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
32.	Glór na Móna	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
33.	Lagan Village Youth And Community Group	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
34.	Shankill Women's Centre	£13,629.00	£27,258.00
35.	Ballymac Friendship Trust	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
36.	City Life Projects	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
37.	SCOIL NA FUISEOIGE	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
38.	Upper Springfield Development Trust: Newhill Youth & Community Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
39.	TAR ISTEACH	£19,956.00	£39,912.00
40.	Belvoir Community Hub	£20,629.00	£41,258.00

41.	MOUNT EAGLES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	£16,179.00	£32,358.00
42.	The Vine Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
43.	Wandsworth Community Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
44.	PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
45.	Arts For All	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
46.	GEMS Northern Ireland Limited	£19,129.00	£38,258.00
47.	Greenway Women's Group	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
48.	Tar Anall	£11,579.00	£23,158.00
49.	Kids Together Belfast	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
50.	St Comgalls	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
51.	Benview community Centre	£20,623.00	£41,246.00
52.	Willowfield Parish Community Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
53.	Walkway Community Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
54.	Belfast Activity Centre	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
55.	WOMEN'STEC	£9,629.00	£19,258.00
56.	Conway Youth Centre	£11,529.00	£23,058.00
57.	The Parent Rooms	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
58.	Bloomfield Community Association	£17,996.61	£35,993.22
59.	Glenbank Community Association	£14,129.00	£28,258.00
60.	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£16,829.00	£33,658.00
61.	Greater Turf Lodge Residents' Association	£6,892.84	£13,785.68
62.	Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
63.	Falls Residents Associations	£8,355.60	£16,711.20
64.	Lower Oldpark Community Association	£15,274.21	£30,548.42
65.	York Road Civil Defence Management Committee	£17,929.00	£35,858.00
66.	Ardoyne Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
67.	Marrowbone Community Association	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
68.	African And Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (Acsoni)	£15,729.00	£31,458.00
69.	Annadale & Haywood Resident Association	£14,075.40	£28,150.80
70.	Concerned Residents Of Upper Ardoyne (CRUA)	£6,479.00	£12,958.00
71.	Cumann Chluain Árd	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
72.	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£20,537.43	£41,074.86
73.	Raidió Fáilte Teo	£20,495.00	£40,990.00
74.	Ballysillan Community Forum	£16,929.00	£33,858.00
75.	MIDLAND SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION	£13,029.00	£26,058.00
76.	Small Wonders Childcare	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
77.	GLENCAIRN RESIDENTS GROUP	£7,629.00	£15,258.00
78.	LIGONIEL FAMILY CENTRE	£8,709.00	£17,418.00
79.	Glencolin Residents Association	£6,748.00	£13,496.00
80.	Indian Community Centre (Belfast) Ltd	£20,629.00	£41,258.00
81.	Greater Village Regeneration Trust - TREE Project	£18,609.00	£37,218.00
82.	TAGIT T/A Tullycarnet Boxing Club	£3,629.00	£7,258.00
83.	Lower Shankill Community Association	£3,629.00	£7,258.00
84.	Sunningdale Community Cente	£3,629.00	£7,258.00
85.	Tackling Awareness Of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI)	£3,629.00	£7,258.00
86.	Springfield Charitable Association Ltd	£3,629.00	£7,258.00

87.	Whiterock Westrock Residents Association	£3,629.00	£7,258.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,487,521.05</b>	<b>£2,975,042.10</b>

### Appendix 3

#### Advice Funding Allocation 2025/26 (Based on 2024/25)

Consortium	Members	Allocation
Central	<b>Advice Space (Central)</b>	£ 65,741.91
	Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC)	£ 28,175.10
	<b>TOTAL Central</b>	<b>£ 93,917.01</b>
East	Advice Space (East)	£ 76,570.60
	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	£ 76,570.59
	<b>TOTAL East</b>	<b>£ 153,141.19</b>
North	<b>The Vine Centre</b>	£ 106,672.36
	Ardoyne Association	£ 39,344.29
	Ballysillan Community Forum	£ 19,564.24
	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£ 8,509.84
	Tar Isteach	£ 25,103.02
	Advice Space (North)	£ 75,045.01
	<b>TOTAL North</b>	<b>£ 274,238.73</b>
South	<b>Ballynafeigh Com Dev. Association (BCDA)</b>	£ 87,820.56
	Southcity Resource & Development Centre	£ 65,783.84
	Advice Space	£ 9,630.89
	<b>TOTAL South</b>	<b>£ 163,235.29</b>
West	<b>Falls Community Council (FCC)</b>	£ 54,838.60
	Advice Space – Andersonstown	£ 58,502.70
	Advice Space – Shankill	£ 52,627.85
	Advice Space - Springfield	£ 37,073.08
	Neighbourhood Dev Assoc (NDA)	£ 49,011.51
	Springfield Charitable Assoc (SCA)	£ 67,217.81
	Upper Springfield Dev Trust (USDT)	£ 55,884.81
	<b>TOTAL West</b>	<b>£ 375,156.36</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1,059,688.58</b>

Organisations highlighted are the lead partners in each consortia area



<b>Subject:</b>	Community Support Plan (CSP) 25/29 including a Review of Community Support Large Grants
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

**1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

1.1	<p>To update members that we will continue to implement the business as usual aspects of the draft Community Support Plan, including Council direct delivery and ongoing allocation of funding programmes which are not being reviewed as part of this work.</p> <p>This report will also outline the requirement to start to develop the processes for the new funding programme (replacing the capacity and revenue funding) which is being reviewed as part of this work and the risk that we may not be able to deliver on a new funding programme by April 2026.</p>
2.0	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the contents of the report.</li> <li>Note the business as usual and improvement aspects of the draft community support plan (Appendix i) will proceed, this will include funding programmes that are not under review. Note that our continuous improvement actions in the plan have been informed by our engagement processes.</li> <li>Due to the tight timeframe for developing a new funding programme to replace the current Community Development Large Grants (Capacity and Revenue), advise they are content that the proposal for one funding programme as outlined in the draft CSP will replace the current capacity and revenue programme; and agree that officers start to develop the processes for a new programme for 26/27.</li> <li>Consider the options for future budget allocation and maximum limits for the Community Support Large Grants Programme and recommend an option that will be included in the draft Community Support Plan. If this is an option that exceeds the current budget of £3.3 million recommend that this is considered by SP&amp;R, given the implications for 26/27 rate setting.</li> <li>Note that the draft CSP plan, including the funding approach, is undergoing an equality and rural needs screening which will form part of our consultation approach. It is expected that once we agree a final Community Support Plan, we may have to undertake a formal consultation in Spring/Summer 2025. In keeping with our policy around screening and consultation, this work has already begun.</li> <li>Agree that following completion of the required screening/consultation exercise, a paper will be brought to committee in summer 2025 outlining feedback and seeking agreement on the final Community Support Plan. Officers will deliver on this plan in 25/26 but the plan is subject to change based on any feedback that may be received from formal consultation.</li> <li>Agree that a final detailed update on the Funding Programme is brought back to members in advance of going to open call in late Summer 2025.</li> </ol>
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In January 2024, the People and Communities committee agreed to the following – “That officers produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/29) and at the same time, undertake a review of current community support large grants schemes”. Members will know that the community support large grants schemes form part of our overall funding package that is included in the Community Support Plan.</p>
3.2	<p>Further updates have been brought to members at P&amp;C Committee which detailed progress to develop the CSP. At December committee, officers brought in a draft Community Support Plan (Appendix i) seeking members approval to proceed with implementing the plan. This included</p>



	<p>priorities for Council Delivery and options on a new funding model. At the December meeting, committee agreed to defer consideration of the Community Support Plan to enable further examination and discussion to be undertaken between political parties and officers, particularly in respect of the viability of the funding model with a view that the matter be considered also within the wider rate-setting process for 2025/26. For all of this, members should be aware that while we will deliver on what is contained within the draft plan including areas of improvement, this is subject to change following any formal consultation that we have to undertake.</p>												
3.3	<p><b>Ongoing Community Support Provision</b></p> <p>While the above action is being progressed, officers are seeking approval from members to start to progress work that is contained within the new draft Community Support Plan on the basis that it is business as usual (and improvement) work that is already being delivered by our staff and within our community centres and independent community centres. The new plan outlines work on 2 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How the Council will directly support the local community/voluntary sector and the communities that it serves</b> through our community support, assets, people and programming.</li> <li>• <b>How our funding will support community activity</b></li> </ul>												
3.4	<p><b>Council Direct Delivery</b></p> <p>The related work that we wish to continue and improve on includes the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading networking / co-ordination &amp; partnership development in local communities to create active, engaged and resilient communities.</li> <li>• Supporting volunteering by creating new and better opportunities for people to give their time and make a difference to their communities and the issues they care about.</li> <li>• Providing access to mentoring / training and ongoing support for community organisations</li> <li>• Improving current systems and processes - eg developing an electronic booking system for Community Centres</li> <li>• Delivery and co-ordination of activity programmes including reviewing the current programmes within council facilities across the city to ensure that they meet identified need.</li> <li>• Ensuring all BCC facilities meet quality standards</li> <li>• Supporting organisations that receive funding and facilitating networking amongst groups</li> </ul>												
3.5	<p><b>CSP Funding</b></p> <p>While we are undertaking a review of the large community development grants (Capacity &amp; Revenue), members should note that there are three funding programmes that are not currently being reviewed (see table below). To continue to provide funding support we will continue to deliver these funding programmes and bring updates to members. Members will note that there is a separate paper for this committee meeting in relation to the 25/26 CSP Letter of Offer from DfC and programmes funded through that resource.</p> <p><b>Current Funding included in the Community Support Plan</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th><th>No. Groups Currently Funded</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Under Review</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Capacity Building (up to £50k)</td><td>43</td></tr> <tr> <td>Revenue for Community Buildings (up to £20k)</td><td>87</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Not Under Review</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Summer Schemes</td><td>98</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Grant	No. Groups Currently Funded	<b>Under Review</b>		Capacity Building (up to £50k)	43	Revenue for Community Buildings (up to £20k)	87	<b>Not Under Review</b>		Summer Schemes	98
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	Advice Services	14										
	Social Supermarkets	21										
	<b>Funding Under Review</b>											
3.6	<p>We are reviewing a significant part of our funding offering, our large, multi-annual capacity and revenue grants which currently provide £3.3million to 130 groups across the city. Feedback received from our engagement on funding priorities suggested a need to include the following when developing the new funding approach;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding levels for revenue related costs should increase</li><li>• Funding should be available for both core revenue/running costs and activity/programmes</li><li>• Applications should be assessed against the impact that they make to overall outcomes</li><li>• Application requirements should be proportionate &amp; timely</li><li>• Funding levels to include small grants</li></ul> <p>Members should note that there are significant tight timeframes around the development of a new scheme and application process. Members area asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agree that from April 2026 the capacity and revenue programme will be replaced by one Community Support large Grant that will support delivery on outcomes as outlined in the draft CSP.</li><li>• Agree that officers start to draft the application, assessment, monitoring, training and other relevant processes that will be required to put in place a new funding programme and which will allow Council to be ready to go to open call as early as possible.</li></ul> <p>Members will recall that consideration of the draft CSP was deferred at December 24 committee to allow further consideration of the available finance for community support grants. Members will also know that as part of growth bids an additional non recurrent budget of £1.5 million has been agreed for 25/26 to enhance Revenue grants.</p>											
3.7	<p>Options in Appendix 1 are provided for the current budget of £3.3million and for an additional £1.5million which would create a budget of £4.8million. If this funding was made recurrent from 26/27, it would require agreement through the 26/27 rate setting exercise. Given the financial implications and the additional impact on the rates for 26/27, this would necessitate consideration at SP&amp;R.</p> <p>The timeline outlined below is based on final approval dates by council following committee consideration the previous month. Members should note that there is no scope for delay in the current timescale.</p> <table><tr><th>Action</th><th>Completion Date</th></tr><tr><td>Final approval to proceed with the Funding model in the Community Support Plan</td><td>March 25</td></tr><tr><td>Equality &amp; Rural Needs Screening and Consultation</td><td>April to July 25</td></tr><tr><td>Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening &amp; feedback from consultation</td><td>August 25</td></tr><tr><td>Final systems and processes agreed by members for funding programme</td><td>October 25</td></tr></table>		Action	Completion Date	Final approval to proceed with the Funding model in the Community Support Plan	March 25	Equality & Rural Needs Screening and Consultation	April to July 25	Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening & feedback from consultation	August 25	Final systems and processes agreed by members for funding programme	October 25
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Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening & feedback from consultation	August 25											
Final systems and processes agreed by members for funding programme	October 25											

	<b>New funding programme open – 8 weeks application period</b>	<b>November 25</b>
	<b>Deadline for applications</b>	<b>December 25</b>
	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Mid Feb 26</b>
	<b>Committee approval of awards</b>	<b>March 26</b>
	<b>Notification to applicants of funding allocation</b>	<b>May 26</b>
3.8	<p><u>Further Engagement with Stakeholders</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that there is significant interest in this work, particularly the funding element and it is important that we continue to engage with stakeholders on the development and implementation of the CSP. If members agree to the recommendations in this paper officers will consider the best way to engage with stakeholders, which may include information sessions with stakeholders in March/April, further details will be provided when available.</p> <p>Given the potential impacts on existing grant holders of any change to the funding programme, officers will also engage with those organisations to provide information. Officers will continue to engage with organisations to provide support in preparing project ideas and will offer support to potential applicants when the new programme opens. Further detail on the programme of support will be provided in the paper to committee prior to the Scheme opening.</p>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>	
4.1	<p>Staff and financial resources to complete this work will be taken from existing budgets. The council element is included in existing budgets and the DfC contribution comes from the Community Support Programme LoO.</p> <p>The CSP LoO provides a one-year commitment from DfC for funding on an annual basis, although the CSP has been in place across all councils for a number of years Members may wish to note that in 24/25 DfC is providing £831,192 toward the Capacity and Revenue grants. Council increased its financial allocation in March 2023 by almost £1.4 million per annum providing an annual commitment of £2,446,918. In 2025/26 financial year, members agreed a non-recurrent budget of £1.5 million for Revenue grants. This combined amount provides the overall budget of £4,778,110 for the 2025/26 year.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>	
5.1	<p>Given the significant impact which any changes to the large grant funding programme will have on the VCSE sector and communities across the city, an equality screening exercise and rural impact assessment are being undertaken on any resulting change in policy/programme. Any potential additional equality considerations have been factored into the timeline.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
6.1	<p>Appendix i – Community Support Grants Options</p> <p>Appendix II - Draft Community Support Plan</p>	

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## Community Support Plan - Options for new funding programme 2026-2029

### Option 1

Status Quo, which retains Capacity and Revenue Programmes in their current format. This option is not recommended given that feedback received highlighted the need for change to meet the needs of the sector and communities.

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards	Actual no of awards
Capacity	£1.85m	50,000	3	36	43
Revenue	£1.45m	20,000	3	72	87
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£3.3m</b>			<b>116</b>	<b>130</b>

### Option 2 – with £3.3 million budget

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£40,000**) and
- 2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£2,500**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards	Potential no of awards based on trend in current applications (ie: not all applicants apply for maximum award)
Large	£3.2m	40,000	3	80	90
Small	£0.1m	2,500	1	40	45
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£3.3m</b>			<b>120</b>	<b>135</b>

### Option 3 – with 4.8 million budget

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£50,000**) and
- 2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£5,000**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards	Potential no of awards based on trend in current applications (ie: not all applicants apply for maximum award)
Large	£4.6m	50,000	3	92	104
Small	£0.2m	5,000	1	40	45
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£4.8m</b>			<b>132</b>	<b>149</b>

#### Option 4 – with 4.8 million budget

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£45,000**) and  
2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£2,500**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards	Potential no of awards based on trend in current applications (ie not all applicants apply for maximum award)
Large	£4.6m	45,000	3	102	116
Small	£0.2m	2,500	1	80	90
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£4.8m</b>			<b>131</b>	<b>135</b>

#### Option 5 – with 4.8 million budget

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£40,000**) and  
2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£2,500**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards	Potential no of awards based on trend in current applications (ie: not all applicants apply for maximum award)
Large	£4.6m	40,000	3	115	130
Small	£0.2m	2,500	1	80	90
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£4.8m</b>			<b>195</b>	<b>220</b>



Belfast

# Community Support Plan

2025 - 2029



**Belfast**  
City Council



# Belfast

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# Introduction

The Council's Community Support Plan outlines how we seek to support a better engaged and more resourceful community. We do this through our resources and community facilities and the support we provide to community and voluntary organisations that provide relevant services. It also provides priorities for some Council investment including funding and is used to access funding from the Department for Communities through its Community Support programme which provides central government support to all council areas.

## Background

In 2024 Belfast City Council elected members agreed that officers would engage and consult with stakeholders to review existing approaches and to inform the development of a new Community Support Plan (CSP). Through the CSP, Council makes a significant investment to support local communities and it was identified that, given the changes in the external environment since the last Plan, the impacts of Covid 19 and the current pressures that our local communities are facing, this was an opportune time to engage with the sector and local communities to develop a new Community Support Plan.

In addition, a number of other key policies have had reviews completed, or were underway at the time of engagement, which further emphasised the need to develop a new plan. These included;

- Belfast City Council - Belfast Agenda (the community plan for Belfast), Corporate Plan and Peace Plus Local Action Plan.
- Department for Communities – Support for Community Voluntary Sector Infrastructure, People and Place Review (Neighbourhood Renewal) and Review of Advice Provision.

As part of this review, it was also decided Council would review some of the key funding that is included in this plan, namely, the Community Development Large Grants which had an allocation of £3.3 million to over 130 community organisations in 2023.

One of the overarching reasons to develop a new plan was that Council needs to review and articulate its position in terms of its community support priorities and service provision, including funding priorities and approaches and how these will inform resource allocation.

The implementation of the plan will help:

- To improve what we do within our wider Community Services offering
- To better articulate who we are, what we do and how we engage better with our community
- To engage and support those communities most at need
- To outline how funding is allocated

We want to support our community & voluntary sector to be well structured, skilled and have the necessary resources to deliver on priorities for better engaged and more resourceful communities.

It is important to note that the Community Support Plan **does not** include everything we deliver and fund in local communities. This plan outlines how Council will direct the funding, assets, people and programming that we deliver through **our Community Support Teams & Neighbourhood Integration and Assets & Programming Portfolios** within our City & Neighbourhood Services Department.

Proposals are based on the current resources that we have available within these teams, both human and financial. These are subject to change depending on annual budgets being agreed by Council and DfC.

This Community Support Plan will outline:

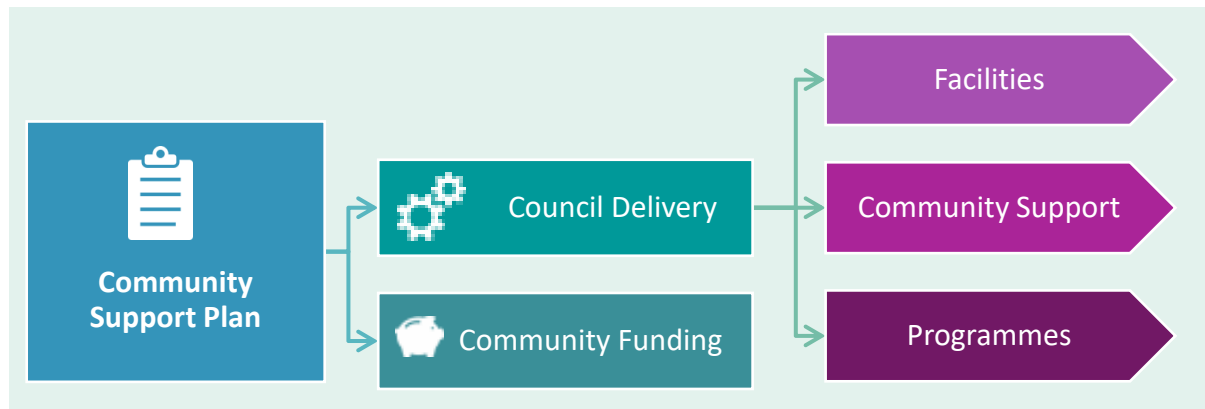
- Outcomes and priorities for Community Support that will drive the delivery of activity from 2025-2029.
- How priorities will be supported through Council delivery and outline the resources required to deliver on these priorities.
- How priorities will be supported through a funding / investment programme 2026-2029.

Using the resources we have available, our focus will be on supporting local communities and we acknowledge that there are structural inequalities such as gender, race, age and disability which we need to address.

## What's included in the Community Support Plan

The Community Support Plan (CSP) covers

1. Council community service delivery; and
2. Funding made available by Council to community and voluntary sector organisations across the city.



## Our Supports

The community support opportunities included within the Community Support Plan is significant. It is therefore important that our new plan is fit for purpose and meets the expectations of our local community. In general, it includes the current community facilities that we manage and maintain, programmes that we deliver, various grant programmes that we allocate and support that our Community Services staff provide.

Council Community Services activities are delivered in three key areas:

### Facilities

- We manage and maintain 27 high quality, multi-purpose, accessible facilities in local neighbourhoods which are used to deliver activities that cater for a range of uses. We also support service delivery via 8 independently managed community centres.

### Programming

- We deliver programmes in council community centres and other venues that meet the needs of residents, improve quality of community life and measure their success.

### Community Support




- We provide a range of support to enable local communities to identify their needs, plan and take action on local priorities. This includes delivery of relevant grant programmes to fund community activities and services.

The current resources we have to deliver our community support are:

### 1. Council owned Community Centres

- Provision of 27 Community Centres that are managed by council staff
- Provision of support to 8 independently managed centres

### 2. Funding – In 2024/25 this included:

 Grant	 Annual Award	 Number of Groups Supported
Capacity Building	£1.85 million	43
Revenue for Community Buildings	£1.43 million	87
Advice Services	£1.46 million	14
Summer Scheme	£0.2 million	98
Social Supermarkets	£0.78 million	21

### 3. People

We have staff in full and part time roles, supporting the local community, developing programmes and running our facilities. There are 3 teams as listed below:

**Area Support Unit** – 39 staff which includes 14 Community Development Officers and 23 assistant Community Development Officers who deliver a wide range of programmes and activities to meet the needs of CYP, older people, residents, and local community groups. They also provide support and advice to the VCSE organisations across the city including representation on geographical and thematic partnerships. The CDOs also manage the summer scheme small grants programme.

**Community Facilities Unit** – 111 staff including 9 Community Development Officers and facilities supervisors who directly manage and maintain 27 community centres across the city as well as providing support to 8 voluntary managed community centres. The community centres provide affordable high-quality facilities to the VCSE organisations. (see Annex 1 for centre locations)

**Community Support Unit** – 10 staff including 6 Community Development Officers provide developmental support and training for VCSE organisations across the city. They also manage delivery of relevant funding including Advice and Social Supermarket programmes. This team supports the Belfast City Youth Council and Digital Inclusion through access to devices, training and support.





# Strategic context

In order to maximise our support to our local community and voluntary sector organisations and the communities they serve, we must align with other key strategies and action plans across the Council and those regional strategies that are of importance. We must also ensure that, as key funders of the Community Support Plan, we align with the outcomes that are agreed by DfC as part of their Community Support Programme and other relevant DfC strategies.

Strategy development is ongoing at the time of this review, however the Belfast Community Support Plan recognises these issues and will seek to address them through Council service delivery and community support funding. This Community Support Plan has been developed to ensure that it aligns to key Belfast and regional strategies including the draft Programme for Government.

## The Belfast Agenda

Our Community Support Plan seeks to support the achievement of the Belfast Agenda, our Community Plan for the City.

The Belfast Agenda sets out our vision for Belfast in 2025 as:

**Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent.**

**A great place to live and work for everyone.**

To make this happen we have identified 5 key themes that through the Community Support Plan, we will actively strive to deliver against the 5 themes in the Belfast Agenda

Our Outcomes:  
The five things people want by 2035.  
Belfast will be a city:

1. Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
2. That is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all
3. That is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
4. Where everyone experiences good health and well being
5. Where everyone fulfils their potential



### Theme 1: Our services

Delivering responsive and value for money services.

### Theme 2: Our organisation

Ensuring the correct foundations are in place and we continue to be a fit-for-purpose organisation.

### Theme 3: Our people and communities

Making life better for all our residents.

### Theme 4: Our economy

Creating inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity.

### Theme 5: Our place

Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city.

### Theme 6: Our planet

Creating a sustainable and nature-positive city.

### Theme 7: Compassionate city

Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city- leaving no one behind.

## Department for Communities

### Draft Framework for Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support (2023)

This framework was developed following extensive regional consultation and engagement. It identified the need for infrastructure support across four headline areas:

- Leadership and Advocacy
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Capacity building (practical skills and resilience)
- Volunteering

The vision for investment support for the sector is for: *“A confident, independent and collaborative sector which empowers and sustains local action*

*and volunteering; a sector that represents the diversity of our communities and supports the delivery of inclusive and accessible services and programme for government outcomes through partnership, innovation and challenge”*

The Belfast Community Support Plan will seek to embed these core values and headline priorities for support in local community development activity to assist in the realisation of this vision. It will also incorporate the Fair Funding Principles in future investment/funding approaches.

### People and Place review - A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal

This review has been progressed using a co-design approach engaging communities, including representatives from the Belfast City Council area, in identifying key needs and new actions for future programme delivery. A range of issues, challenges and opportunities have been identified. These include:

- A need for simplification of neighbourhood renewal funding and governance arrangements
- Opportunities for increased participation by local communities in needs identification and programme delivery
- An understanding that poverty exists even in perceived affluent areas
- A need to support more running costs, core staff costs and activity costs
- An opportunity exists to be more flexible and adaptive thereby meeting need and encouraging innovation
- Need for increased longevity of funding provision via multi-annual funding
- Need to support capacity development, education and training in the VCS sector and thereby improve its sustainability and resilience
- Opportunities to develop more effective collaboration and partnership delivery including links to community planning at local level
- Need to focus on outcomes when measuring impacts of investments made

The development of the Community Support Plan has also reflected on other funding mechanisms which are available to support community activities. The plan proposed seeks to complement

these other resources and to plug remaining funding gaps for the Community and Voluntary sector. An overview of the funding resources considered is included in Annex 2.



# Development of a community support plan

Belfast City Council agreed that, as part of the development of the Community Support Plan, a co-design process should be followed to involve and empower local community groups and residents to self-determine what should be included in the Council's new Community Support Plan. To do this, since June 2024, Council have undertaken to develop a new Community Support Plan (and review of part of the funding that is included in the plan) via a 3-stage process:

- Stage 1 – Understanding and identifying the key issues across the city through local consultation and stakeholder engagement and desktop research.
- Stage 2 – Agree the outcomes and priorities to be included in the new Community Support Plan.
- Stage 3 – Agreement on the new plan and implementation.

## Engagement - Methodology

It was agreed the Stage 1 engagement process would comprise of online and public meetings, as well as strategic review, as follows:

- Public meetings across the city
- Meetings with key stakeholders where appropriate
- An online e-survey
- Desktop research

To deliver on this a series of public meetings took place across the city in June 24.

The purpose of these sessions was to:

- advise residents, community partners and wider stakeholders of the opportunities under the development of a new Community Support Plan

- to allow stakeholders to shape the priorities for the plan and
- improve how we allocate funding to our local community partners.

A total of 9 public sessions were facilitated as part of this pre-engagement with a total of 122 in attendance

An online e-survey was also agreed and circulated widely by Council across existing networks. In total, 94 people completed the e-survey. See Annex 3 and 4 for further details on Stage 1 engagement.

## Need and demand for community support - What you told us:

Through the different consultation and engagement approaches used in the first stage of developing this CSP, we sought the views of participants on the following areas:

1. What the current key priorities are facing communities.
2. What support for communities, Council should provide directly via Council staff and facilities.
3. What type of community support / activities Council should fund so they can be delivered via community / voluntary based organisations.

4. How Council should provide investment to support delivery of Community Support Plan priorities.
5. What outcomes and measures of success should Council apply to ensure funding achieves positive change within and for our communities.
6. What the barriers are to effective community support.

*“Development of a community support infrastructure means Council directly supporting the community infrastructure to do it for themselves.”*



We consolidated your feedback on the above into the following two key areas:

## Supports and services Council should Deliver

In general, throughout the engagement process stakeholders acknowledged they value the support that Council provides and were positive about how Council officers were helpful to residents and local communities. They did outline ways in which Council service delivery and funding, can be improved.

The key issues and areas for improvement that were highlighted, are summarised below:

- Communities welcome the provision of Council owned and operated community centres / community spaces. These offer a low cost, safe and accessible space for community activities and service delivery.
- It was suggested that access to facilities could be enhanced through increased promotion of centre facilities and services / activities; increased consistency of services delivered and ensuring that local facilities deliver activity that meets the needs of user communities.
- There was feedback that provision of facilities is not always consistent across the city and that some facilities need modernisation.
- Council playing a lead role in facilitating / stimulating networking and collaboration between community organisations at local level.
- Proactively encouraging and facilitating collaboration between Council community centres and wider stakeholders to ensure community support and programming is delivered in a co-ordinated way that adds value and reduces duplication.
- Provision of appropriate training / coaching / mentoring for community organisations, ensuring non-duplication with what is already being delivered.
- Supporting volunteer development, including additional volunteer capacity and increased volunteer skills.

*“Council should provide assistance to grass roots voluntary, community organisations.”*

## Supports and services that should be delivered via community / voluntary based organisations through council funding

- Communities need ongoing support from Council to deliver community services and activities. Suggested priorities for Council funding included:
- Providing ongoing and increased funding for core running costs of community operated facilities.
- Funding for core costs of running a community or voluntary organisation not linked to the provision of buildings / community facilities.
- Funding for capacity building activities to addresses identified gaps / deficits
- Grant programmes should offer an opportunity for consortia / collaborative bids for programme / service delivery.
- Grant programmes should offer a variety of funding scales from small short-term grants for community activities to multi-annual grants for programme / service delivery.
- The maximum grant available for community facility revenue costs should be increased recognising increased utilities and running costs experienced by community organisations.

*“Core costs and staff costs are an ongoing major concern within the community sector and there are not enough funding pots to ensure ongoing access to programmes that people are now dependent on.”*

*“More cohesive and cross cutting linkages between directly managed facilities and the voluntary-community delivery partners. Many community organisations have the skills, knowledge and structure to deliver a number of community support themes.”*

# Our Plan to support you 2025 - 2029

## Our Vision

Vibrant, inclusive communities where everyone has opportunities for involvement and development.

## Our guiding principles

We will be guided by the following principles when supporting communities through our facilities, our staff activities and the funding we make available:

- We are **accountable** for the services and supports we deliver and will act with integrity and professionalism.
- **Promoting, equity, diversity and inclusion** – we will promote and support equality of access and participation in community services through our support for community and voluntary sector organisations.
- **Outcomes focused** – we will use our facilities, staff and funding opportunities to deliver Community Support outcomes agreed by Council.
- **Involving communities** – we will empower communities to be involved in the design, development and delivery of activities.
- **Needs driven** – we will endeavour to target those most in need and align with our inclusive growth framework.
- **Adding value** – we will add value to what is already in existence and will work with relevant partners to achieve this.
- **Promoting collaboration** – we will promote collaboration and joint working, breaking down barriers between communities.
- **Ensuring flexibility** - We will be flexible and responsive to changing community needs and priorities.

## Our proposed priorities

One of the key messages from engagement and consultation was that the Belfast City Council Community Support Plan should move to an Outcomes Approach. This means that all of our support, either through funding or direct service delivery, should focus on contributing to overarching strategic outcomes.

For the purposes of this plan, we are using the outcomes that have been agreed as part of the Belfast Agenda and included in its refreshed action plan which is outlined in Table 1. We believe that the Belfast Agenda outcomes align with other relevant strategies such as the DFC Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework. The Priorities that we have identified for the Community Support Plan will enable delivery that supports the achievement of the overall outcomes.

## Priorities

Based on your feedback and our knowledge of wider issues which are impacting community services and activities, we have identified the following priorities for the new Community Support Plan:

1. **Creating active, engaged and resilient communities**
2. **Ensuring access to quality community facilities**
3. **Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration**





## Cross cutting themes

Improving health and wellbeing and reducing the negative impacts of poverty in Belfast are considered fundamental to our work and as such, will represent cross cutting themes for the Community Support Plan.

We will seek to ensure that through the delivery of Council services and allocation of our external funding, we make a positive contribution to tackling both of these issues.

We will seek to:

- Contribute to an increase in the wellbeing experienced by local residents and community members. By wellbeing we mean: both the physical and mental health experienced by individuals, their families and the wider community.
- Contribute to tackling poverty through community support services through proactive measures / activity which seek to positively change the life experiences of local communities and their residents.

## How we will measure success

Our aspiration is that all activity contained in the Community Support Plan, both direct council delivery and activity delivered through Council funding will contribute to the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda and priority areas highlighted above.

In order to ensure achievement of these ambitions, we will focus on our priorities which are explained in more detail below. Council programmes and funding programmes will use relevant measures of success from the framework included in the tables below.

### 1. Evidence of more active, engaged and resilient communities

- By active we mean: residents are active and participate in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.
- By engaged we mean: residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and benefiting from the supports provided.
- By resilient we mean: local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have the skills and access to sustainable human and financial resources that support delivery of effective community support.

### 2. Ensuring access to quality community facilities

- By access we mean: communities will have access to community buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.
- By quality we mean: facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community.

### 3. Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration

- By joined up we mean: statutory and community and voluntary sector organisations collaborate and work together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.
- By partnership we mean: creation and implementation of formal joint working relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.

## Table 1 Outcomes and Success Measures

The table below outlines how we will define and measure delivery against these outcomes.

Belfast Agenda Theme 1.Our people and communities, making life better for our people and communities		
Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
Where everyone fulfils their potential.  Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.  That is welcoming, safe, fair, and inclusive for all.	<b>Active Communities</b> - residents are active and participate in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.	% people within the community who feel that they have access to participation in a wide range of Voluntary Community Social Enterprise activities.  % people within the community who feel that they have access to participation in a wide range of Council delivered activities  Number of individuals participating in community activities.  % who have been involved in previous 12 months
	<b>Engaged communities</b> - residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and benefiting from the supports provided.	Number of active volunteers within projects  Number of individuals accessing community support services  Participant satisfaction levels by service
	<b>Resilient communities</b> – local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have the skills and access to sustainable human and financial resources that support delivery of effective community support.	% of VCSE organisations that feel that they have sufficient skills within their staff and volunteer to operate effectively for the next 12 months  % of VCSE organisations that feel that they have sufficient resources to operate effectively for the next 12 months  Number of VCSE staff/ volunteers achieving accredited qualifications  Number of VCSE organisations receiving support from BCC Community Services staff to develop leadership / community development and governance skills  Amount of income that is drawn from other sources
Belfast Agenda Theme 2.Our Place, creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city.		
Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
That is a welcoming, safe, fair, and inclusive for all.	<b>Access:</b> communities will have access to community buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.	Number of community, voluntary and social enterprise facilities used for the delivery of community services  Participant numbers using community facilities  % reporting awareness of community facilities and services on offer
	<b>Quality:</b> facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community.	% reporting that community facilities are welcoming, accessible, high quality and safe.  % of people reporting that they are satisfied with facilities’ provision
Belfast Agenda Theme 3.Our Place, creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city.		
Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
Where everyone fulfils their potential.  Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.  That is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all.	<b>Joined up:</b> statutory and community and voluntary sector organisations collaborate and work together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.	Number of joint services and activity programmes delivered via partnership arrangements.
	<b>Partnership:</b> creation and implementation of formal joint working relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.	Number of formal partnerships established  Number of joint services and activity programmes delivered via formal partnership arrangements.

# Our implementation plan

## How we will implement our community support

To achieve our Vision, we will:

- Develop operational action plans under key priorities, ensuring Council community facilities and staff resources are targeted towards realising our identified priorities.
- We will refresh and update our funding programmes to reflect current and projected future community support needs.
- We will seek to actively develop enhanced connections and collaboration between communities, Council supports and wider agencies, thereby maximising the impacts of our work. We will prioritise our work to meet community needs and add value to other programmes and support services, rather than duplicating existing provision.
- We will retain flexibility in our approach so that emerging community needs and priorities can be addressed through the delivery of Council services and our funding programmes.

## Our Council service delivery priorities

Council recognises that public services are under increasing pressure from increasing community need, changing demographics and social patterns and increased pressure on budgets available. The Council will therefore undertake to work more effectively in partnership with the local community and the community and voluntary sector in meeting these challenges. In the delivery of community development activity, the Council will strive to better meet the community needs captured during this review to focus its priorities on:

- Leading networking / co-ordination & partnership development in local communities
- Supporting volunteering by creating new and better opportunities for people to give their time and make a difference to their communities and the issues they care about.
- Providing access to mentoring / training for community organisations
- Reviewing the current provision of council facilities across the city to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet identified need.
- Delivery and co-ordination of activity programmes.

## Our funding plan

Our funding programmes will change to ensure they are better able to meet current and future community needs. From 2026 we will offer funding through the following approach.

	Funding Scale	Key Features
1	Large Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value (tbc by members) per annum.</li><li>• Multi-annual funding – up to a 3 year programme.</li><li>• Eligible costs will include core running /staffing and programming costs for activity that meets agreed outcomes.</li></ul>
2	Small Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value up to (tbc by members) per annum</li><li>• Delivered within 1 year period.</li><li>• Annual application.</li></ul>
3	Social Supermarkets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value up to £50k</li><li>• Delivered within 1 year period.</li><li>• Annual open call application</li><li>• Subject to Department for Communities annual funding</li></ul>
4	Advice	Services which provide free, independent, accessible advice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This funding supports 5 area based advice consortia to deliver advice services across the city.</li></ul>
5	Summer Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value up to £2,500</li><li>• Delivered during school summer holiday period</li><li>• Annual application</li></ul>

## Aligning Council and funded services

Throughout the consultation process and development of the Community Support Plan it has been clear Council service delivery and funded community service delivery should align and strive to meet the same overall priorities and objectives. The table below illustrates how this will be achieved:

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
<b>Active, engaged and resilient communities</b>		
<b>Active Communities:</b> residents are active and involved in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.	<p>BCC will develop and deliver a broad programme of activities in our facilities that meets local needs and caters to a diverse range of people.</p> <p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to co-ordinate programmes/activities in communities and foster collaboration.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver complementary programmes and avoid duplication.</p> <p>BCC will manage relevant grant programmes and report on outcomes achieved on an annual basis.</p> <p>BCC will support organisations to make applications to deliver projects for local communities both to council and other funders.</p>	<p>Small grant programme will support activities that will contribute to Active Communities priority.</p> <p>Funded activity could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Programme of activities</li> <li>■ Community events</li> <li>■ Costs for recruiting, involving, managing and supporting volunteers for related activity</li> </ul>
<b>Engaged communities:</b> residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and benefiting from the supports provided	<p>BCC will provide a range of support and advice to current and new community organisations and will take a needs based approach to working in communities.</p> <p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to foster collaboration to ensure that resources are used effectively to meet local needs and priorities.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that work delivered through the Community Support Plan aligns with other programmes delivered by council including Good Relations, Community Safety, Leisure Development, Health Development and other relevant services.</p>	<p>Grant programme to support VCSE organisations to deliver projects that meet local needs within neighbourhood facilities.</p> <p>Funded activity could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Staff costs for development/project worker</li> <li>■ Costs to facilitate community involvement such as core running costs, venue hire, facilitation, volunteer expenses.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient communities:</b> local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have access to resources that support delivery of effective community support.	<p>BCC will provide a range of support and advice to current and new community organisations to develop their skills and support sustainability.</p> <p>Council will support organisations that receive financial support from council funding programmes through individual and networking meetings to address issues and identify areas for collaboration. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Advice</li> <li>■ Social Supermarkets</li> <li>■ Community Support Grants</li> <li>■ Independently Managed Community Centres</li> </ul>	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that directly meet identified community need. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Advice Services – community based services across the city that can provide free, independent advice on a range of issues.</li> <li>■ Social Supermarkets – projects that provide food support to the most vulnerable alongside other wraparound services.</li> <li>■ Community Support Grants - support VCSE organisations to meet local need, develop their skills and support sustainability.</li> </ul>

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
<b>Access to quality community facilities</b>		
<p><b>Access:</b> communities will have access to community buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.</p>	<p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to co-ordinate programmes/activities in communities and foster collaboration.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver complementary programmes and avoid duplication.</p> <p>Develop a programme of work to increase the number of programmes and activities that are delivered in BCC facilities through direct service provision and by local organisations.</p> <p>Increase the number of Council programmes across wider council teams that are delivered in our facilities.</p> <p>Implement a new electronic booking system for council owned community centres.</p> <p>Council will provide training and ongoing support to VCSE organisations funded through Community Support to ensure that they are aware of good practice in terms of facility management and application of appropriate policies/requirements.</p>	<p>Support community managed facilities through grant aid (Community Support) and service agreements.</p>
<p><b>Quality:</b> facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community. their respective geographical / sectoral communities.</p>	<p>Council will ensure that all BCC community centres meet agreed quality standards.</p> <p>Council will provide training and ongoing support to VCSE organisations funded through Community Support to ensure that they are aware of good practice in terms of facility management and application of appropriate policies/requirements and will provide training where appropriate.</p>	<p>Support community managed facilities through grant aid (Community Support) and service agreements.</p>
<b>3. Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration</b>		
<p><b>Joined up:</b> community and voluntary sector organisations collaborating and working together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.</p>	<p>BCC will lead on collaboration in local areas, working with the community to coordinate voluntary groups and networks that provide support to the community.</p>	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that take a collaborative approach to directly meeting identified community need.</p>
<p><b>Partnership:</b> creation and implementation of formal joint working relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.</p>	<p>Develop a plan for the creation and development of formal working relationships in local communities to improve delivery of services.</p> <p>Council will support organisations that receive financial support from council funding programmes through quarterly individual and networking meetings to address issues and identify areas for collaboration. This will include, advice, social supermarkets, community Support and independently managed community centres.</p>	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that directly meet identified community need. This can include costs for partnership development and delivery.</p>

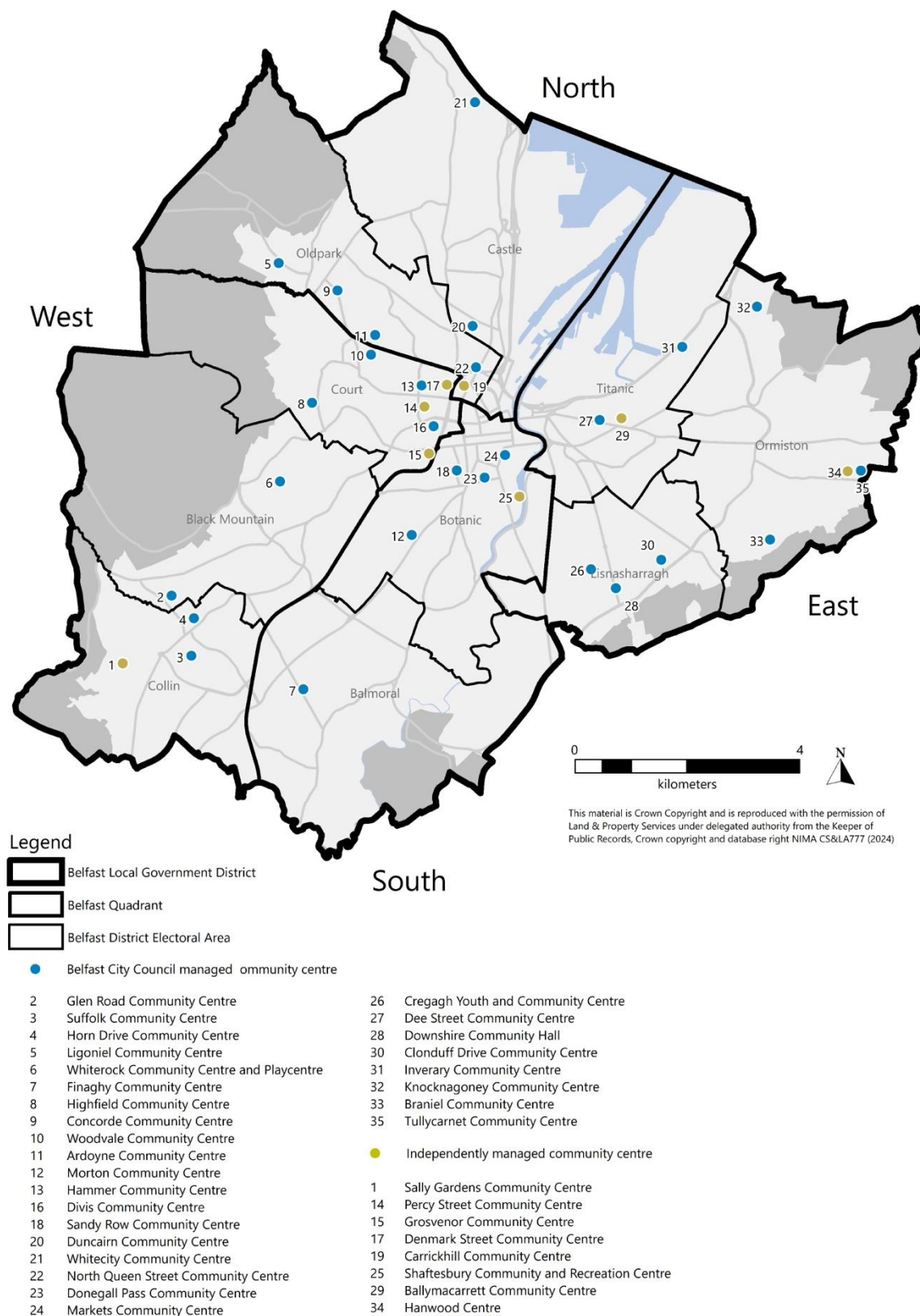


## How we will continue to include you

Our Community Support Plan has been developed based on feedback from communities for communities. Your involvement is important to us and as we move forwards through Plan implementation we will:

- Continue to engage with community representatives gaining regular updates on key issues and needs impacting local community services.
- Seek your feedback on the effectiveness of Council community service delivery, including community facilities and targeting of wider community support resources.
- Engage with grant recipients to gain an understanding of how funded projects are delivering against their proposed impacts and outcomes.
- Seek your feedback on how funding programmes are enabling and effecting desired community change.
- Where and when we decide there is a need and / or benefit in making further changes to our grant programmes and service delivery we will communicate these proposals to communities that may be affected.

## Annex 1: Community Centre Locations



## Annex 2: Research - Funding Sources Considered

Funding Source	Fund	Value
National Lottery Community Fund	Awards for All	£300 to £20,000
National Lottery Community Fund	Sustainable Community Buildings	Up to £50,000
National Lottery Community Fund	The UK Fund (including Empowering Young People)	£500,000 - £5 million
National Lottery Community Fund	Dormant Accounts Fund NI	Variable
PEACEPLUS Programme	Empowering Communities Cross Community Change Maker Fund	Up to €100,000
Community Relations Council	Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme	Up to £10,000
Community Foundation for NI	Variable – currently small grants linked to renewable energy providers.	Variable
Belfast City Council	Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund	Variable
Belfast City Council	Multi-annual Cultural Grants	Variable
Department for Communities	Community Cohesion Fund Small Pockets Deprivation Fund NIHE Enterprise Plus	Variable

## Annex 3: Community Support Plan – Overview of Engagement sessions and Public Survey

Date	Time	Venue	Attendance
Wednesday 5 June	2.00 – 4.00	City Hall	18
Tuesday 11 June	10.00 – 12.00	Girdwood	20
Tuesday 11 June	2.00 – 4.00	Cregagh CC	12
Wednesday 12 June	10.00 – 12.00	Olympia	6
Friday 14 June	10.00 – 12.00	Horn Drive CC	19
Friday 14 June	2.00 – 4.00	Hammer CC	6
Tuesday 18 June (Sec 75)	2.00 – 4.00	City Hall	24
Wednesday 19 June	7.00 – 9.00	Olympia	3
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30 – 8.00	On-line / virtual	14
<b>Survey</b>			<b>94</b>
<b>Total Participants</b>			<b>216</b>



## Annex 4: Community Support Plan – Public Survey Questions

94 responses were received to the following questions:

1. Which of the following community support priorities do you think are the most important?
2. Which of the following community support services do you believe council should provide directly?
3. Looking at the list of community support activities, please indicate which activities, if any, that you think council should provide funding for i.e. so that community and voluntary organisations can deliver support?
4. Do you have any other comments about community support priorities in your area?
5. What time frame should funding be offered over?
6. What type of outcomes or measures of success should council consider to ensure funding achieves positive change within and for our communities?
7. If there are other types of funding opportunities not listed, that you think should be available via our Community Support Plan, please tell us.
8. Have you any other comments you would like to make about the priorities for supporting or funding community services in Belfast?

**Contact us:**

Department/ Team  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS



xxx@belfastcity.gov.uk



028 9050 xxx



www.belfastcity.gov.uk



**Belfast**  
City Council



**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service

<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise members of correspondence received from the Belfast Advice Group on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Appendix 1.</li> <li>• To update on the recent successful growth bid for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service and generalist advice.</li> <li>• To seek approval to issue funding of up to £242,000 to Ligoniel Improvement Association to deliver the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service in 25/26.</li> <li>• To seek approval to prepare a report with options for future delivery of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service.</li> <li>• To seek approval to allocate the additional £20,000 provided to generalist advice funding as part of 25/26 growth bids using the agreed allocation model across all advice organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the correspondence received from the Belfast Advice Group.</li> <li>• To update on the recent successful growth bid for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service and generalist advice.</li> <li>• To approve that funding of up to £242,000 is made available to Ligoniel Improvement Association to deliver the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service in 25/26.</li> <li>• To approve that officers prepare a report with options for future delivery of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service.</li> <li>• To approve that officers allocate the additional £20,000 provided to generalist advice funding as part of 25/26 growth bids using the agreed allocation model across all advice organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that Council provides significant funding for advice services through the Community Support Programme (funded by Department for Communities - DfC) and through direct council funding.</p>
3.2	<p>Support is currently provided through funding agreements to five area consortiums to deliver generalist advice services across all geographies within the city. In November 2012, these groupings came together to establish the Belfast Advice Group (BAG) to develop specialist advice services. BAG submitted a proposal to Belfast City Council to support the Citywide Tribunal Service (BCTS) and that service has been delivered by Ligoniel Improvement Association and supported primarily through Belfast City Council funding on an annual basis since 2012.</p>
3.3	<p>As previously reported, this funding has been provided through in year awards drawn from underspends. A growth bid to provide £270,000 for the service was successful and a recurring budget to that value is now available on an annual basis.</p>

3.4	<p>Council received correspondence from the Belfast Advice Group on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 which requests funding for the Citywide Tribunal Service of £242,000 for 25/26. A copy of the letter is provided in Appendix 1. Members should note that this is a reduction in the requested funding for 23/24 and 24/25. Members are asked to approve that officers will complete required due diligence and issue funding up to £242,000 to the BCTS for 25/26.</p> <p>Until now, the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service has been funded through annual funding agreements with Ligoniel Improvemnet Association. Given that an ongoing resource has now been made available, members are asked to approve that officers explore potential options for the future delivery of the service, which would be put in place for delivery from April 26 and provide a report on these later in the year.</p>
3.5	<p>Members will be aware that council completed a Review of Belfast City Council funded Advice Services in December 2023. This review made recommendations in relation to the delivery of advice services which included the recommendation that financial support for the BCTS should be included as part of an overall advice funding budget. Members are asked to approve that officers consider this recommendation in the report on future delivery options. Members also approved a £20,000 uplift to generalist advice funding as part of the growth bid. This increase will be applied using the agreed allocation model across all advice organisations.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>DfC usually provides an element of funding for appeals through the Community Support Programme funding that is received by council on an annual basis. Historically, this has been directed to BCTS. Officers anticipate that this funding will be in the region of £73,000, although no Letter of Offer has yet been received by BCC to confirm this. Any allocation from DfC will be used before council budgets.</p>
3.7	<p>Members should note that although correspondence relating to BCTS was received from the Belfast Advice Group Belfast City Council's funding agreement is with Ligoniel Improvement Association and the governance of the service is through that organisation.</p>
3.8	<p>When a financial award is made to BCTS, Ligoniel Improvement Association completes a project document that outlines the costs required and outputs that will be delivered by the project on an annual basis. Performance and financial monitoring is then completed to ensure that activity was delivered in line with the funding agreement.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council's agreement for the provision of this service will seek to ensure that the service is provided on an equal basis to all communities across the city, including section 75 groups and areas of rural need.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Correspondence from G Tubritt on behalf of Belfast Advice Group</p>

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Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

283 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3GG

General Enquiries Tel: 028 9049 1161

Email: [recpetion@bcda.net](mailto:recpetion@bcda.net)



[www.bcda.net](http://www.bcda.net)



Ballynafeigh Community Development Association



Ballynafeighcda283

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Mr. David Sales,

Director, Neighbourhood Services,

Belfast City Council

**Subject:** Urgent Request for 2025/26 Funding for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service

Dear Mr. Sales,

I am writing to request funding for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (BCTS). While we appreciate the complexities surrounding resourcing of the service and the uncertainties regarding DfC funding, we must express our concern regarding the future of BCTS funding.

It is particularly difficult to find ourselves in a position where, once again, we are forced to seek urgent funding just three months before the end of the current project. This is despite previous discussions indicating that funding for BCTS would become part of the Council's recurring funding arrangements, reflecting its critical importance to the residents of Belfast and its alignment with the Council's anti-poverty strategy.

We would respectfully ask that the council consider financially supporting the service taking the following points into consideration;

### **Supporting Belfast Residents**

The BCTS provides an irreplaceable safety net for Belfast's most vulnerable residents:

- The service ensures individuals facing complex tribunal processes can access the benefits and support they are entitled to, which is often the difference between financial stability and destitution.
- With increasing demand due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the need for this service has never been greater.

## **Supporting Advice Providers**

The BCTS underpins the work of generalist advice providers across Belfast. Should the service close, the implications for generalist advice services would be profound:

**Increased Caseloads:** Generalist advice services would face a dramatic increase in demand for tribunal representation, a specialised area that many advisors are not trained or resourced to manage.

**Resource Diversion:** Advisors would need to divert time and resources from preventative advice and early intervention work to support tribunal cases, leaving other vital services under-resourced and residents waiting longer for help.

**Loss of Specialist Expertise:** BCTS staff possess unique expertise in tribunal representation, which is essential for navigating complex legal and procedural requirements. The absence of this service would leave advice providers without a critical resource, resulting in reduced success rates for clients and potentially exacerbating poverty levels.

**Community Impact:** Vulnerable residents, including those with disabilities, mental health issues, and chronic illnesses, would be disproportionately affected, as they often rely on BCTS to secure vital financial support.

## **Alignment with Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy**

The BCTS directly contributes to the goals outlined in Belfast City Council's anti-poverty strategy:

- It addresses income inequality and ensures vulnerable residents can access the financial support they are legally entitled to.
- The service actively prevents poverty-related issues, such as homelessness and food insecurity, by reducing financial distress for those it supports.

## **Impact of Redundancy on Ligoniel Improvement Association**

The lack of funding for 2025/26 will have devastating consequences for Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIA) and its staff:

- The cessation of BCTS would result in immediate redundancies for highly skilled staff who have dedicated their expertise to tribunal representation.
- The Council's refusal to permit LIA to include redundancy arrangements in the management fees, coupled with the expectation that these costs would come from organisational reserves, has placed us in a precarious financial position.
- At this time, it is not clear whether LIA will have sufficient reserves to cover redundancy costs, leaving both the organisation and its staff in significant uncertainty.
- This approach not only risks seriously destabilising LIA but also undermines our ability to deliver critical community services in the future.



## **Our Request for 2025/26 Funding**

To ensure the continued delivery of this critical service, we respectfully request that Belfast City Council allocate £242,000 for the 2025/26 financial year. This funding is essential to:

- Maintain the current levels of service delivery, ensuring residents and advice providers continue to receive the support they rely on.
- Prevent redundancies and retain the expertise required to effectively manage complex tribunal cases.
- Reinforce the Council's anti-poverty strategy by delivering tangible outcomes that reduce poverty and improve financial stability for Belfast residents.

We urge the Council to reconsider its decision not to fund the BCTS, particularly in light of the findings and commitments outlined in the William's report on advice services. Additionally, we are committed to resolving any issues related to the 2022/23 funding to ensure this does not impede future funding arrangements.

We are more than willing to provide further information or meet with relevant stakeholders to discuss this urgent matter. The continued support of the Council is essential to maintaining a lifeline for Belfast's most vulnerable residents, and we hope to work collaboratively to secure the future of the BCTS.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue.

Yours Faithfully



**Gerry Tubritt**

Chairperson  
Belfast Advice Group  
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association  
283 Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 3GG  
Telephone: 02890491161  
Email: gerry.tubritt@bcda.net





<b>Subject:</b>	Community Summer Schemes Charges
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cormac Mc Cann, Lead Officer Community Provision

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide Committee with information on the pricing of summer schemes and seek approval for reinstatement of fees for community centres.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are requested to consider the re-introduction summer scheme fee's and agree one of the five options presented within the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b>
3.2	<p>People and Communities committee of 4 February 2025 considered a report on Community Centre summer schemes. Within the report officers recommended re-instatement of charging in the amount of £1 per hour of attendance.</p> <p>Members agreed that a report would be brought to this committee providing further information on summer scheme charging to assist decision making.</p>
3.3	<p>Members are advised that City and Neighbourhood Services Departmental financial estimates include an allowance for community centre summer schemes. The 2024/2025 budget estimate contained an income target of £15,000 and an expenditure budget of £130,497. In the 2019/2020 financial year, the last year in which fees were charged, the total income amount was £15,232 comprised of registration fee of £4 and levies of £1.70 per trip. No income has been raised into the Community Centre Summer Scheme code since that financial year. Without the opportunity to support the budget through income generation, officers will be required to consider reducing summer scheme expenditure.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Benchmarking</u></p> <p>Summer schemes are provided through community, voluntary, sporting, leisure, education and private operators. The diversity of provision ranges from general schemes on site, through general schemes including trips, to specialist schemes with a focus on sports, arts, gaming etc. With charging models equally varied. For the purpose of this report, which deals specifically with Belfast City Council community centre summer schemes, officers undertook a benchmarking exercise with other councils on community weekly charges, with comparators detailed in appendix 1.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Charging options</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No cost for participation</li> <li>2. £1 registration fee</li> <li>3. £2 registration fee i.e. £1 per week.</li> <li>4. £10 registration fee i.e. £5 per week</li> <li>5. £1 per hour, with concession charge of £0.50 per hour for each additional family member</li> <li>6. £1 per hour</li> </ol>
3.6	<p><u>Income generation</u></p> <p>The table below provides a summary of projected income for each charging option if applied to the 2024 registration data.</p>

	<table><tr><th>Option</th><th>Projected Income</th></tr><tr><td>1. No cost</td><td>£0</td></tr><tr><td>2. £1 registration</td><td>£841</td></tr><tr><td>3. £2 registration</td><td>£1,628</td></tr><tr><td>4. £10 registration</td><td>£8,410</td></tr><tr><td>5. £1 per hour, £0.50 per additional child</td><td>£24,394</td></tr><tr><td>6. £1 per hour</td><td>£26,540</td></tr></table>	Option	Projected Income	1. No cost	£0	2. £1 registration	£841	3. £2 registration	£1,628	4. £10 registration	£8,410	5. £1 per hour, £0.50 per additional child	£24,394	6. £1 per hour	£26,540
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4. £10 registration	£8,410														
5. £1 per hour, £0.50 per additional child	£24,394														
6. £1 per hour	£26,540														
3.7	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The reintroduction of charges for community centre summer schemes will support the achievement of agreed income targets and protect service delivery.</p>														
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The community centre summer schemes are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, primarily children, and children from ethnic minority backgrounds and children with additional needs.</p>														
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>														
4.1	<p>Appendix 1. Councils' community summer scheme charging – benchmarking table</p>														

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**Councils' summer scheme charging – benchmarking table**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>Type of scheme</b>	<b>Hours per day</b>	<b>Weekly cost per child</b>	<b>Concession</b>	<b>Hourly cost per child</b>
Belfast (pre-Covid)	<b>*Community Centres</b> <i>play, games, sports, activity workshops, arts &amp; crafts, trips, visits</i>	2	£4 registration and £1.50 for each trip Avg. weekly income £2.70	3 <sup>rd</sup> and subsequent children free	£0.27
Fermanagh & Omagh	<b>Multi-Sports Summer Camp</b> <b>Asst locations</b> <i>Play, games, sports, arts &amp; craft, workshops</i>	3	£10	2 <sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children £8	£0.67
Ards & North Down	<b>Asst Locations</b> <i>Play, games, workshops, trips</i>	5	£23	2 <sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children £11.50	£0.92
Newry, Mourne & Down	<b>Leisure Centre</b> (Be Active Summer programme) <i>multi-sports</i>	2	£10.90	none	£1.09
Lisburn & Castlereagh	<b>Leisure Centres &amp; Activity Centres</b> <i>Sports Camp games, sports</i>	5	£45	none	£1.80
Mid & East Antrim	<b>Leisure Centre</b> <i>games, sports, swimming</i>	5	£55	None	£2.20
	<b>Asst locations</b> 1 day sport & activity camps	2	£4.40 per day	None	£2.20
Derry & Strabane	<b>Asst Locations Summer Camps</b> <i>games, sports</i>	4	£30	None	£1.50
Antrim & Newtownabbey	<b>Leisure Centre</b> <i>sport, games, play, swimming, art &amp; crafts</i>	5	£31.50		£1.26
Causeway Coast & Glens	<b>Community Summer Schemes</b> <i>sport, games, art &amp; craft</i>	4	£37.50		£1.88
Mid Ulster	<b>Leisure Centre and asst locations</b> <i>sports</i>	5	Cost varies across schemes as follows.		£1.37
					£1.90

**Councils' summer scheme charging – benchmarking table**

			LC's - £27.30 per week, per week		£1.90
			2 activity day camp - £19 per child		
			3 day activity camp £28.50 per child		
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	<b>Leisure Centre and asst venues</b> <i>art &amp; crafts, multi- sports, dance</i>	5	£45	£29	£1.80





<b>Subject:</b>	Pitch Partner Agreements Update
<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paddy McGrattan, Leisure Development Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																
1.1	This purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of Pitch Partner Agreements for 1 April 2024 – 31 December 2024 and to recommend extension of partner agreements from 1 April 2025 through until 31 March 2026 or earlier if new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Belfast City Council Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.																
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites up to the end of Quarter 3 (31 December 2024).																
2.2	That partner agreements are extended until 31 March 2026 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Belfast City Council Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.																
2.3	That an additional amount of up to £2,000 per month is allocated to Rosario FC to support the costs of operating the site until the community asset transfer process is completed at that site.																
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																
3.1	<p><b>Legal Agreements</b></p> <p>Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements in 2015 at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The Agreements were for a period of 5 years with an option to extend for up to a further two years based on satisfactory performance. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the original dates.</p>																
3.2	<p><b>Agreement Extension</b></p> <p>On 12 March 2024 People and Communities Committee agreed to extend existing Pitch Partner Agreements until 31 March 2025.</p>																
3.3	<p><b>Partner Agreement Sites</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th><th>Partner</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dixon Playing Fields</td><td>Sirocco Works FC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park</td><td>East Belfast FC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Woodlands Playing Fields</td><td>Co. Antrim Board GAA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Loughside Playing Fields</td><td>Loughside FC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Shore Road Playing Fields</td><td>Grove United FC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Orangefield Playing Fields</td><td>Bloomfield FC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ulidia Playing Fields</td><td>Rosario FC</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Partner	Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC	Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC	Woodlands Playing Fields	Co. Antrim Board GAA	Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC	Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC	Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC	Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC
Location	Partner																
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Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC																
Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC																
3.4	<p>Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance have been completed at all sites. The reporting documents were amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines.</p> <p>All partners are compliant on these matters.</p>																

3.5	<p><b>Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans</b></p> <p>Funding of up to £20,000 per annum has been available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.</p>														
3.6	<p><b>Additional payment to Rosario FC</b></p> <p>Rosario FC which holds the Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields, following the conversion of one pitch from grass to floodlit 3G, submitted a request for additional funding in the amount of £2,000 per month to support their additional costs of operating the site over the extended opening hours. This payment will terminate when the Community Asset Transfer is completed.</p>														
3.7	<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>Quarterly monitoring meetings with our delivery partners continue to take place. These meetings include updates on site management and bookings, health and safety, finance and their sports development plan. Action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved and improvements identified where required.</p>														
3.8	<p><b>Sports Development Impact</b></p> <p>In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the partner agreement sites. Programme delivery continues to bring positive achievements across the sites and demonstrate the diversity of use with nearly 7,000 uses by members of different sports.</p> <p>Over the course of the first three quarters of the year significant targets have been surpassed including; providing nearly 10,000 participant opportunities for females, 800 for people with disabilities, 7,800 for older people and over 9,000 for ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The clubs collectively worked with 2800 young people at risk, nearly 600 volunteers and provided over 10,500 health and well-being opportunities in socially deprived areas.</p> <p>The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarters 1 to 3. (April-December 2024) Full table attached in Appendix 1.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>A. Participation type</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>1. Members of different codes (see a below)</td><td>6930</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. People with a Disability</td><td>832</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. People from a minority ethnic background</td><td>9241</td></tr> <tr> <td>4. Females</td><td>9920</td></tr> <tr> <td>5. Older people</td><td>7858</td></tr> <tr> <td>6. Schools / youth organisations</td><td>165</td></tr> </table> <p>(a) Different codes relates to other sports making use of the facilities at Orangefield Playing Fields (Rugby and Cycling) and Dixon Playing Fields (Tag Rugby)</p>	<b>A. Participation type</b>		1. Members of different codes (see a below)	6930	2. People with a Disability	832	3. People from a minority ethnic background	9241	4. Females	9920	5. Older people	7858	6. Schools / youth organisations	165
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6. Schools / youth organisations	165														
3.9	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites. An amount of £24,000 is available within the revenue estimates to support the additional costs of Rosario FC operating the 3G pitch at the site.</p>														

	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b> None.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 – Table 2

## Appendix 1

Table 2 Partnership Agreement Usage figures

<b>A. Participation type</b> 1. Members of different codes 2. People with a Disability 3. People from a minority ethnic background 4. Females 5. Older people 6. Schools / youth organisations	6930 832 9241 9920 7858 165
<b>B. Participation usage</b> Number of full pitch/adult matches on site Number of full pitch/adult match participations Number of small sided/youth matches on site Number of youth match participations Number of training sessions held on site Number of training session participants Number of other bookings / activities on site Number of other bookings/activity participants on site	574 21994 1550 59250 2797 26910 315 9163
<b>C. Partnership working</b> 1. Working with Belfast City Council 2. Sport's Governing Bodies 3. Other teams / groups in your sport 4. Other teams / groups in different sports 5. Community / voluntary groups	48 103 158 26 46
<b>D. Social value</b> 1. Young people at risk 2. Encourage participation of under- represented groups 3. Promote positive cross community relations 4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities 5. Promote Volunteering skills 6. Develop skills that will improve employability	2852 10957 362 10533 594 484

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<b>Subject:</b>	Request for shipping container at Henry Jones Playing Fields
<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Colin Willetts, OSS Area Manager (East)

## 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
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5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of a request which has been received from East Belfast GAA for the installation of a shipping container to act as a storage facility at Henry Jones Playing Fields.</p> <p>In the absence of an agreed policy, it is considered appropriate that such requests are brought to Committee for decision.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Committee consider and approve the request from East Belfast GAA to install a shipping container at Henry Jones Playing Fields.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	East Belfast GAA are a cross-community club established in 2020 who currently field a range of teams across camogie, hurling, ladies', men's and youth gaelic football and currently train at Henry Jones Playing Fields.
3.2	Officers recently received a request from East Belfast GAA seeking permission for the installation of a shipping container to serve as an equipment storage facility. East Belfast GAA will purchase and install the container at their own cost and will be responsible for the upkeep of the container going forward. Management do not foresee any operational issues with this request.
3.3	In the absence of an agreed policy on the use of shipping containers on Council facilities and in keeping with similar requests in recent years, permission for the installation of the container is sought at Committee level.
3.4	Members should note that a draft shipping containers policy is currently moving through the necessary approval stages and it is anticipated that this will be brought to Committee for approval in the coming months.
3.5	Committee are asked to consider and approve this request.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 4th March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request to hold an event at Victoria Park from the Mae Murray Foundation - Move A Mile for Mae Murray.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City &amp; Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><b><u>Mae Murray Foundation – Move A Mile For Mae Murray – Victoria Park Pavillion</u></b></p>
3.2	Belfast City Council has received a request from Mae Murray Foundation a charity dedicated to promoting social inclusion for individuals of all abilities. Our mission is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, has equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of life, from recreational activities to social gatherings.
3.3	To celebrate their 10th year anniversary, they would like to host a "Move a Mile for Mae Murray" event at Victoria Park. This event will feature a course with different sensory stations designed to engage participants in a fun, interactive way. The sensory stations will be placed away from the general public's path to ensure smooth movement for all attendees.
3.4	The purpose of the event is to fundraise ongoing projects that support social inclusion for people with disabilities. Participants are invited to join the event at no cost, but they are encouraged to raise funds for the Mae Murray Foundation to help continue their important work.
3.5	To ensure the event is accessible for all, they will be hiring a changing places toilet, which will provide a dignified toileting facility for individuals with more complex needs. This is a crucial part of making sure that the event is truly inclusive.
3.6	The foundation looks forward to celebrating with the community and raising awareness and funds to continue their mission of social inclusion for all abilities. The event is for their

	members who will be attending as families. It is anticipated that there will be up to 200 people in attendance.
3.7	<p><b>The key dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1pm  <b>Main Event – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2-4pm 2025</b>  De Rig – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 5pm</p>
3.8	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p> <p><b><u>Equality of Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p>
3.9	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposal for naming the continuation of an existing street</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
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1.1	To consider application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city.						
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>						
2.1	Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of an application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city. The Committee may either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant the application, or</li><li>• Refuse the application and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.</li></ul>						
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>						
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.						
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city. The application particulars are in order.						
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Continuation of Existing Street</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Lady Ishbel Boulevard</td><td>Off Ishbel Mews, BT8</td><td>Alskea Ltd</td></tr></table> <p>Alskea Ltd have proposed Lady Ishbel Boulevard for the continuation of an existing street that is being extended to accommodate the development of 20 new dwellings.</p>	Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant	Lady Ishbel Boulevard	Off Ishbel Mews, BT8	Alskea Ltd
Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant					
Lady Ishbel Boulevard	Off Ishbel Mews, BT8	Alskea Ltd					
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.						
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct Equality implications.						
4.0	<b>Appendices</b>						
	None						



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposals for dual language street signs</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

## 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	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for twelve existing streets within the city.																																																		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																																																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at St Agnes Drive, Colinglen Road, Rosemount Gardens, Mount Eagles Crescent, Rinnalea Grove, Trench Park, Lavinia Square, Catherine Street North, Lower Stanfield Street, Upper Stanfield Street, Henrietta Street and Hamilton Street.																																																		
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																																																		
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>																																																		
3.2	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>St Agnes Drive BT11 8GZ</td><td>Céide Naomh Úna</td><td>Off Andersonstown Road, BT11</td><td>67</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colinglen Road BT17 0LR</td><td>Bóthar Ghleann Chollainn</td><td>Off Glen Road, BT17</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rosemount Gardens BT15 5AG</td><td>Gairdíní Chnocán na Rósanna</td><td>Off Antrim Road, BT15</td><td>129</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mount Eagles Crescent BT17 0GL</td><td>Corrán Chnocán na nIolar</td><td>Off Mount Eagles Avenue, BT17</td><td>109</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rinnalea Grove BT11 9DF</td><td>Garrán na Reann Liath</td><td>Off Rinnalea Gardens, BT11</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Trench Park BT11 9FG</td><td>Páirc Trench</td><td>Off Finaghy Road North, BT11</td><td>189</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lavinia Square BT7 2FE</td><td>Cearnóg Lavinia</td><td>Off Ormeau Road, BT7</td><td>176</td></tr> <tr> <td>Catherine Street North BT2 8LR</td><td>Sráid Chaitríona Thuaidh</td><td>Off Hamilton Street, BT2</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lower Stanfield Street BT7 2HB</td><td>Sráid Stanfield Íochtarach</td><td>Off Eliza Street, BT7</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr> <td>Upper Stanfield Street BT7 2DN</td><td>Sráid Stanfield Uachtarach</td><td>Off Lower Stanfield Street, BT7</td><td>128</td></tr> <tr> <td>Henrietta Street</td><td>Sráid Henrietta</td><td>Off Joy Street, BT2</td><td>36</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	St Agnes Drive BT11 8GZ	Céide Naomh Úna	Off Andersonstown Road, BT11	67	Colinglen Road BT17 0LR	Bóthar Ghleann Chollainn	Off Glen Road, BT17	65	Rosemount Gardens BT15 5AG	Gairdíní Chnocán na Rósanna	Off Antrim Road, BT15	129	Mount Eagles Crescent BT17 0GL	Corrán Chnocán na nIolar	Off Mount Eagles Avenue, BT17	109	Rinnalea Grove BT11 9DF	Garrán na Reann Liath	Off Rinnalea Gardens, BT11	26	Trench Park BT11 9FG	Páirc Trench	Off Finaghy Road North, BT11	189	Lavinia Square BT7 2FE	Cearnóg Lavinia	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	176	Catherine Street North BT2 8LR	Sráid Chaitríona Thuaidh	Off Hamilton Street, BT2	17	Lower Stanfield Street BT7 2HB	Sráid Stanfield Íochtarach	Off Eliza Street, BT7	46	Upper Stanfield Street BT7 2DN	Sráid Stanfield Uachtarach	Off Lower Stanfield Street, BT7	128	Henrietta Street	Sráid Henrietta	Off Joy Street, BT2	36
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	BT2 8LW			
	Hamilton Street BT2 8LP	Sráid Hamaltún	Off East Bridge Street, BT2	21
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	<p>St Agnes Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 occupiers (41.79%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (1.49%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>			
3.7	<p>Colinglen Road, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 occupiers (52.30%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>			
3.8	<p>Rosemount Gardens, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 51 occupiers (39.53%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.77%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (1.55%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>			
3.9	<p>Mount Eagles Crescent, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 occupiers (22.01%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>			
3.10	<p>Rinnalea Grove, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 occupiers (26.92%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>			
3.11	<p>Trench Park, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69 occupiers (36.50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 4 occupiers (2.11%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.58%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>			
3.12	<p>Lavinia Square, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 occupiers (19.31%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (1.13%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>			
3.13	<p>Catherine Street North, BT2</p>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 occupiers (29.41%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.14	Lower Stanfield Street, BT7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 occupiers (17.39%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.15	Upper Stanfield Street, BT7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 occupiers (16.40%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.16	Henrietta Street, BT2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 occupiers (27.77%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.17	Hamilton Street, BT2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 occupiers (38.09%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p>
3.18	<p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.19	<p>All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.20	<p>There is a cost of approximately £4530 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.21	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations, and rural needs.</p>
3.22	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>None</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	Applications for dual language street signs with the second language in Irish for Ormeau Road, Delhi Street, Whitewell Road, Victoria Road, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Burmah Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Sunningdale Gardens, Donegall Road and Belmont Avenue
<b>Date:</b>	4th March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="text"/> </div> </div>	

<b>Call-in</b>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider if a street survey of occupiers will be carried out for ten applications for the erection of dual language street signs in Irish within the city where potential adverse impacts have been identified by the initial assessments. Objections have been received from elected members for two of these streets with further representations from the community regarding another street.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>1. Members are asked to consider the report and matters raised in relation to the applications for dual language street signs in Irish received for Ormeau Road, Delhi Street, Whitewell Road, Victoria Road, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Burmah Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Sunningdale Gardens, Belmont Avenue and either:</p> <p>a) Agree that surveys of occupiers of these streets be carried out.</p> <p>or</p> <p>b) Agree that no surveys will be carried out on the grounds of the potential adverse impacts identified and these applications are closed.</p> <p>2. Members are also asked to agree that the application for Donegall Road is closed on the basis of the agreement at SP&amp;R in October 2023 that dual language street signs would only be erected in the section of Donegall Road within the Gaeltacht Quarter boundary between the Falls Road and the Broadway roundabout. Note signs have now been erected on this section of road.</p>
	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	The Dual Language Street Sign policy states that “ <i>each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs and where any adverse impacts are identified that information will be brought to Committee.</i> ”
3.3	The initial assessments were carried out for all the streets listed and potential adverse impacts were identified. Draft equality screenings were therefore carried out, assessing the request for dual language street signs in Irish for Ormeau Road, Delhi Street, Whitewell Road, Victoria Road, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Burmah Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Sunningdale Gardens, Donegall Road and Belmont Avenue for equality and good relations issues.
3.4	The screenings have identified that the carrying out of surveys and the erection of Irish language street signs in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension. Conversely the screenings also identified that the process could assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The findings are outlined in the equality and good relation section below.

3.5	Objections to the applications for Ormeau Road and Donegall Road were also raised by Elected Members during the elected member notification procedure.
3.6	<p><b>Ormeau Road</b> – Cllr Davy Douglas, member for Lisnasharragh raised an objection stating: -</p> <p><i>“Ormeau Road is a mixed community and progress has been made in recent years around issues with flags in the area. I feel that the adoption of Irish street signage could be seen as divisive and have an adverse effect on good relations within the community, undoing some of the progress that has been made. I would therefore ask that the Council exercise its discretion not to apply its policy at this location”</i></p> <p><b>Donegall Road</b> – Cllr Tracy Kelly, member for Botanic raised an objection stating: -</p>
3.7	<i>“The Donegall Road splits in two, it is my understanding that the Nationalist side is already approved for Irish Language and Cllrs agreed that the Unionist side would be left as is due to the sensitivities.</i>
3.8	<i>I would like to raise my objection to the Unionist side of the Donegall Road having Irish language street signs as this is a strong unionist area that will totally object this proposal, I believe any consultation may raise tensions and create division in a community that has recently just settled down after a spate of serious ASB and rioting”</i>
3.9	Members are further advised that the Donegall Road was discussed at an SP&R meeting as part of the proposal to erect dual language signs in Irish within the Gaeltacht Quarter. At a meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023, it was agreed “that those streets which form the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter also be included as part of the area, with only that portion of the Donegall Road within the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter, as set out in the appendix to the report, to be included”. This was ratified at full council.
3.10	In this regard dual language street signs with a second language in Irish have already been erected on the portion of the Donegall Road which runs from the Falls Road to the Broadway Roundabout.
3.11	Based on this decision and given that dual language street signs have now been erected within the GQ section of Donegall Road, members are asked to confirm that the application for Donegall Road be closed.
3.12	Further to objections raised for the two streets above and following the member notification for Sunningdale Gardens the Director of Planning and Building Control received 19 emails from residents of Sunningdale Gardens and the wider local community. These emails expressed concerns about the application for this street and the negative impact on good relations which would be created by the installation of street signs in Irish.
3.13	These applications are therefore being brought to Committee to determine if surveys of residents of these streets will take place, considering this information.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.14	If it is decided to carry out surveys, the resulting tasks are included within the normal resources for the process.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>

3.15	An EQIA was carried out on the main Dual Language Street Signs policy in 2021-22. This confirmed the initial assessment process to be carried out, which may indicate the requirement for equality screening.
3.16	The applications for dual language street signs (with the second language in Irish) for Ormeau Road, Delhi Street, Whitewell Road, Victoria Road, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Burmah Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Sunningdale Gardens, Donegall Road, and Belmont Avenue were assessed for equality of opportunity and good relations issues through the initial assessment process. This process identified that the potential for adverse impact existed and recommended further screening prior to referral to committee for authority to proceed to survey.
3.17	The draft screenings have identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore has the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It is acknowledged; however, the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.
3.18	The applications were also presented to Elected Members as part of the Elected Member notification procedure and objections were received from Cllr Davy Douglas with regard to Ormeau Road and from Cllr Tracy Kelly with regard to Donegall Road. The members were concerned about the potential for adverse impacts on good relations with full details of their objections in paragraphs 3.5-3.8 above.
3.19	Emails from the residents and wider local community were received regarding the application for Sunningdale Gardens which expressed concerns about the potential for negative impact on good relations caused by the installation of street signs in Irish.
3.20	The council retains 'residual discretion' in relation to these applications. In effect this gives Elected Members the option to not proceed to survey and/ or halt the erection of an Irish language street sign in this street where, in the view of Elected Members taking into account the agreed criteria, this action would be considered inappropriate.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Applications for dual language street signs with the second language in Irish for Oldpark Road, Donegall Park Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
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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	To consider if a street survey of occupiers will be carried out for three applications for the erection of dual language street signs in Irish within the city for which potential adverse impacts have been identified by the initial assessments. These applications are being considered as “long streets” as contained in clause 3 (X) of the Dual Language Street Signs policy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>1. Members are asked to consider the Dual Language Street Sign applications for Oldpark Road, Donegall Park Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue which have been identified as “long streets” and for which the potential for adverse impacts has been identified and either:</p> <p>a) Agree that surveys of occupiers of these streets be carried out using the proposed approach;</p> <p>or</p> <p>b) Agree that no surveys will be carried out on the grounds of the potential adverse impacts identified and these applications are closed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	The Dual Language Street Sign policy states that “each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs and where any adverse impacts are identified that information will be brought to Committee.”
3.3	<p>The policy also states that:</p> <p><i>‘Consideration will to be given to “long streets” where opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street. In these circumstances, the decision as to the erection of dual language nameplates in certain portions of the street will be made by Committee, exercising its residual discretion and taking into account advice from officers.’</i></p>
3.4	Having carried out initial assessments, officers consider that Oldpark Road, Donegall Park Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue fall within this definition.
3.5	Draft equality screenings were therefore carried out and have identified that the carrying out of surveys and the erection of Irish language street signs in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension. Conversely, the screenings identified that the process could assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The findings are outlined in the equality and good relation section below.
3.6	Members are therefore asked to confirm if surveys are to be carried out for these three streets. If members determine these streets should be surveyed, it is proposed that additional analysis of the results of the survey will be carried out by officers to confirm any difference of opinion in the readily identifiable sections, which may influence if and where signs would be erected. The findings will be presented to members for consideration at a future committee meeting, including the location of existing street signage.



	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.7	If it is decided to carry out surveys, the resulting tasks are included within the normal resources for the process.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	An EQIA was carried out on the main Dual Language Street Signs policy in 2021-22. This confirmed the initial assessment process to be carried out, which may indicate the requirement for equality screening.
3.9	The applications for dual language street signs (with the second language in Irish) for Oldpark Road, Donegall Park Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue were assessed for equality of opportunity and good relations issues through the initial assessment process. This process identified that the potential for adverse impact existed and recommended further screening prior to referral to committee for authority to proceed to survey. It also determined that the three streets met the definition of "long street" contained in clause 3 (X) of the policy, in that opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street".
3.10	The draft screenings have identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore has the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It is acknowledged; however, the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.
3.11	The council retains 'residual discretion' in relation to these applications. In effect this gives Elected Members the option to not proceed to survey and/ or halt the erection of an Irish language street sign in this street where, in the view of Elected Members taking into account the agreed criteria, that this action would be considered inappropriate.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	None

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