

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



**Belfast
City Council**

26th November 2025

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 2nd December, 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) Donegall Pass Residents' Association
- (b) Queen's University Community Archaeology Project at Woodvale Park

3. Notice of Motion - Sustainable Burial Options (Pages 1 - 2)

4. Restricted

- (a) Financial Reporting - Quarter 2 (Pages 3 - 10)
- (b) City of Sport 2026 - Belfast Candidature Bid Update (Pages 11 - 104)
- (c) DfC Welfare Reform Mitigations Advice Funding 2026/27 (Pages 105 - 110)

- (d) Community Support Plan - Large Grant Funding Programme (Pages 111 - 114)
- (e) Lagan Valley Regional Park - Update (Pages 115 - 118)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Alley Gate Replacement Keys - Update (Pages 119 - 120)
- (b) Belfast City Airport - Rook Management at Victoria Park (report to follow)
- (c) Lenadoon and Suffolk Playing Fields - Developer Contributions (Pages 121 - 124)
- (d) All-Party Reference Group on Older People - Update (Pages 125 - 136)
- (e) Winter Festival 2025 - Update (Pages 137 - 146)
- (f) Requests for the use of Parks (Pages 147 - 150)
- (g) Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 151 - 154)
- (h) Proposals for the Naming of New Streets (Pages 155 - 158)



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Support for Leisure Workers
Date:	2nd December, 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Restricted Report

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a motion entitled 'Provision of Sustainable Burial Options' which the Standards and Business Committee considered on 20th November.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor T. Brooks, was referred to the Committee for its consideration:
3.2	<p><u>Provision of Sustainable Burial Options</u></p> <p><i>"That this Council recognises the significant environmental impact of traditional burial and cremation practices, including high carbon emissions, chemical pollution, and long-term land use challenges, as highlighted in the All-Party Group on Climate Action's briefing paper "Beyond Burial and Cremation".</i></p> <p><i>This Council further acknowledges the growing public interest in more sustainable, dignified, and low-carbon alternatives to conventional practices – such as natural (green) burials, tree pod interment, and other emerging end-of-life methods.</i></p> <p><i>Natural burial, which involves the use of biodegradable materials, avoids embalming, and often takes place in woodland or meadow settings with minimal ongoing maintenance, has already been successfully implemented elsewhere as a simple and ecologically restorative option. Accordingly, this Council agrees to:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland burial areas in our district; and</i></p>

4.0	<p>2. <i>Provide an update report on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.</i></p>
5.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion.</p>

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

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Subject:	Alleygate Replacement Key Update
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of the following report is to provide updates on member queries at October Committee.</p> <p>Committee requested the following information relating to replacement keys issued by Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of replacement keys issued in previous 24 months 2. Income received from replacement keys within the previous 24 months 3. Country of origin of replacement keys
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members to note the contents of the report
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In the period from September 2023 until September 2025, there were a total of 166 replacement keys requested.
3.2	During the period outlined above, the total income generated by those keys was £4,150. The cost of an individual replacement key to those requiring one is £25.
3.3	Costs to council for a replacement individual gate key, the type typically requested by residents, vary depending on quantities ordered and which manufacturer the vendor sources them from given the specialist type of key. However since the introduction of the alleygating scheme, it averages at approx. £10 - £15 per key ex VAT.
3.4	Given that the cost of a replacement alleygate key varies, at approx. £10 - £15 per key ex VAT, it is estimated that between September 2023 and September 2025 the cost to council was approx. £2,490 to purchase those replacement keys.
3.5	Therefore, the remainder of the £4,150 income generated, excluding the cost price of replacement, is estimated at approx. £1,660. This amount would typically cover any cost of officers processing requests for replacement keys including printing costs associated with duplicate order/receipt books, processing of credit/debit card payments, officer time sorting and storing replacement keys and officer time spent delivering keys out to those unable to attend Cecil Ward Building due to mobility issues.
3.6	Council currently procures the alleygate keys from a Belfast based company. Following a query by officers to confirm the country of origin, the Belfast based company have confirmed that they source the keys from a UK based specialist supplier.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached



Subject:	Developer Contributions for Open Space at Lenadoon Park & Suffolk Playing Fields
Date:	2nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Gary McNeill, OSS Lead Officer

Restricted Reports

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members regarding a developer contribution that was secured, via the Developers Contribution Framework, for council maintained open space at Suffolk Playing Fields and Lenadoon Park, and the improvements that City & Neighbourhood Services Department have delivered as a result of the financial contribution.
1.2	Details of the improvements are outlined in Section 3.7 (Main Report)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note that, by way of an £81k developer contribution, all open space improvements have now been completed at Lenadoon Park.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As members will be aware Council's Developer Contributions Framework was ratified for adoption by Full Council on 6th January 2020. Developer Contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate or manage the impacts of new development. They may be used to ensure that new development is supported by the right infrastructure or make sure that the environmental impacts of proposals are appropriately managed. The Council's Developer Contribution Framework sets out the council's approach to securing Developer Contributions as part of the planning application process.
3.2	Developer Contributions are a form of Planning Obligation and are normally secured through a Planning Agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. A Planning Agreement is a legally binding agreement between the relevant parties, normally between the council, landowner, applicant and any other parties directly involved in fulfilling the agreement.
3.3	As part of the planning process, a developer contribution, relating to the redevelopment of the Lidl store on Stewartstown Road (Planning Ref: LA04/2022/0002/F), to improve open space at Suffolk Playing Fields and Lenadoon Park was secured by colleagues in Place and Economy Department . In June 2024, Council agreed a financial contribution, by way of a Planning Agreement, totaling £281,000 for open space improvements across both sites.
3.4	Members should note that £200k of the total developer contribution has been ring-fenced to support the potential, future development of a 3G pitch at Suffolk Playing Fields. Design options and costs estimates are being developed by colleagues in our Property & Projects

	<p>Department, in partnership with local groups and elected members. Officers are actively seeking to secure the remainder of the necessary funding via the emerging Pitches Strategy. The remaining £81k of the total contribution was allocated to improve the existing grass soccer pitch at Lenadoon Park.</p>
3.5	<p>Officers from City & Neighbourhood Services worked with elected members and local users to prioritise and quantify improvements at Lenadoon Park. The total cost of the works at this site cannot exceed the financial contribution allocated by way of the developer contribution.</p>
3.6	<p>Members should note that open space improvements at Lenadoon Park are now complete and are within the available funding envelope of £81k. Works were delivered via council's existing measured term contract and were supervised by officers from CNS Landscape Planning & Development Team.</p>
3.7	<p>Open space improvements at Lenadoon Park included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new short-section panels to existing soccer pitch security fence, increasing overall height to 2.4m • Realignment of existing fence around dugout areas and installation of new pedestrian access gate at existing grass soccer pitch • Construction of a new spectator hardstanding around soccer pitch • Repair of drainage channels and repainting of pitch markings at existing MUGA • Replacement of damaged ballstop panels at existing MUGA
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>£81k of the total developer contribution (£281k) allocated to improve open space at Lenadoon Park has now been committed, with all improvement works completed recently.</p>
3.10	<p>£200k of the total developer contribution (£281k) has been ring-fenced to support the potential, future development of a 3G pitch at Suffolk Playing Fields. Design options and cost estimates are being developed by colleagues in our Property & Projects Department in partnership with local groups and elected members. Officers are actively seeking to secure the remainder of the necessary funding via the emerging Pitches Strategy.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

4.0	Appendices
4.1	None



Subject:	Older People's Reference Group
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Joanna Holland, Age Friendly Co-ordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</div> <div> Yes <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> No </div> </div>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 16 th September 2025.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the updates provided on the Age Friendly Belfast activities and priorities for the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership's (HASP) third year of the Age Friendly Plan.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.
3.2	The meeting was held on 16 th September 2025 in the City Hall. Members may wish to note the following update on the main items discussed.
3.3	<u>Age Friendly Belfast Update</u> The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.
3.4	<u>Warm and Well Project, National Energy Action</u> Mr Hugh McVeigh provided the Reference Group with an overview of the work of the Warm and Well Project and the support they can offer.
3.5	<u>Engage with Age</u> Ms Michelle Bolton provided the Reference Group with a presentation on the work and support that Engage with Age provides to older people.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.

4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Older Person’s Reference Group 16.09.25

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Reference Group on Older People

Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REFERENCE GROUP ON OLDER PEOPLE

Members present: Alderman Copeland (Chairperson);
And Councillors T. Brooks, Douglas,
McCabe and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. J. Holland, Age Friendly Coordinator;
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer - Community Provision; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th June, 2025, were adopted.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

Update on Age Friendly Belfast Plan and other activities

The Reference Group considered the undernoted report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To update members on the Age Friendly Belfast activities and priorities for the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership's (HASP) third year of the Age Friendly Plan.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the updates provided on the Age Friendly Belfast activities and priorities for the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership's (HASP) third year of the Age Friendly Plan.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023 – 2027

Members will recall that the plan focuses on the following key themes.

1. Infrastructure/getting out and about.
2. Social connections
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Financial security/cost of living

3.2 Infrastructure

Age Friendly Design Principles

The Age Friendly Coordinator as part of the Age Friendly Network NI housing subgroup issued a housing survey across Belfast to gauge older people's issues in terms of housing needs. The survey closed on 30th June 2025 and a total of 1232 surveys were completed from across Northern Ireland. Following a quotation process, Social Market Research were appointed to collate the findings from the surveys and include some recommendations. The findings from the report will help to advise and influence policy makes, housing providers, designers and developers on the housing issues and needs of older people. It is hoped that this report will be available to show at the Age Friendly Summit in November.

3.3 Social Connections /health and wellbeing

Positive Ageing Month

Back for its tenth year, positive ageing month will once again highlight the different activities and events on offer to older people across Belfast providing lots of opportunities to get involved.

Partners from different organisations have submitted events to be included in the Positive Ageing Month booklet. This year's booklet has taken on a slightly different design to highlight some of the main events, and there will be more information on the Belfast City Council website to ensure that ongoing programmes are available to view all year round. This is based on some feedback received about the availability of events/programmes for older people outside of Positive Ageing Month.

Booklets will be available across Belfast in Community Centres, Leisure Centres, Libraries and the City Hall. They will also be distributed to the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum to pass onto their members and networks. A link to the webpage will be circulated to the Age Friendly distribution list- which has over 300 contacts.

The Age Friendly Belfast events include:

- 7th October - Tea dance in 2 Royal Avenue

- 9th October - Walking tour of Friars Bush Graveyard
- 15th October - Movie in the City Hall (singing in the rain)
- 20th October - Walking tour of Shankill Graveyard
- 22nd October - Tour of library at the University of Ulster, Belfast
- 28th October- Talk on the Life and Times of Mary McCracken

Grapevine Connection Hub update

Based on feedback from the participants, some taster activity sessions have been organised and they include boccia, armchair aerobics and Chi Me. These are being funded by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Loneliness Network. Part of the funding is also being used to produce a handbook with details to guide other organisations wanting to replicate similar programmes. The Grapevine steering group, which is made up of the Age Friendly volunteers and partner organisations have met to agree the content for the guide and have also decided to produce a short video to accompany the guide. The filming for the video took place on 2nd September in 2 Royal Avenue and included recordings from the volunteers and participants.

The monthly Fix IT session with Ignite IT organised by the Super connected Communities Project Officer continue to offer people the opportunity to bring along smartphones/ laptops/ tablets for basic repairs& maintenance or IT advice.

It is available the first Tuesday of the month in 2 Royal Avenue and during October will be available every Tuesday, to coincide with the Grapevine session.

Age Friendly Tea Dances

At the September Tea Dance ahead of Falls Prevention week, The Falls Prevention Team from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust provided an information stand and were able to advise on some tips for preventing falls and also provide information on how to join their strength and balance programme.

There are further tea dances planned for October and December, however no tea dances can be planned beyond this period as the future of the building at 2 Royal Avenue remains unknown. The Tea dances and the Grapevine connection hub are both based in 2 Royal Avenue and without this space it would greatly impact the running of both programmes. 2 Royal Avenue was chosen due to its ease of accessibility and as

result the numbers attending the tea dances frequently are 100 people and sometimes more. Recent evaluations from both of these programmes have shown how attending these increases people's wellbeing by connecting in with others.

Volunteer Celebration Event

Plans are underway with the Community Development Officer taking the lead in organising a volunteer celebration event in the City Hall on Wednesday 10th December 12-2pm. The event will be an opportunity to celebrate and thank older volunteers for the amazing work they carry out across Belfast. This year the event will link in with the Take 5 steps to wellbeing approach in relation to the volunteers and those they work with. All volunteers will be treated to some Take 5 activities, lunch and music with Rosey Hunter.

Financial Security/ cost of living

Some Winter warm packs are still available and there have been further deliveries throughout the summer months.

Age Friendly Summit

The Public Health Agency in partnership with the Age Friendly Network NI are organising an Age Friendly Summit to showcase examples of Age Friendly work happening across Northern Ireland in line with the World Health Organisation eight Age Friendly domains. The aim of the summit is to raise awareness of Age Friendly initiatives and their impact on older people, but also to identify the priorities for the future. The event is taking place on Tuesday 4th November in the Titanic Hotel, Belfast. The Age Friendly Coordinator sits on the working group for this and has provided a poster presentation using the Grapevine connection hub as a case study. As part of the housing subgroup the work carried out on the survey has also been submitted as a case study example.

Age Friendly Evaluation

The Public Health Agency currently funds the Age Friendly Coordinator posts across the 11 council areas, including Belfast. The funding for these posts is due to end next year and specifically for Belfast the funding will end on 31st March 2026.

The Public Health Agency have appointed an external consultant to carry out an evaluation of the impact of Age Friendly work, so that a business case can be presented for more funding to enable the Age Friendly officer posts and coordination of the Age Friendly Plans to continue. The consultant will be talking to the Age Friendly Officers, partner organisations and others to help with the collation of the report. The Public Health Agency are hoping to present the findings from this at the Age Friendly Summit in November.

Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP)

At the HASP meeting on 18th June the priorities for the third year of the plan were agreed:

Infrastructure

- Develop a joined-up approach to engagement and co-design with older people on local and city centre developments
- Work to review and improve access to seating and toilets
- Review provision of seating and toilets in parks and open spaces in Belfast and identify gaps (including provision of radar keys)
- Carry out an audit of current public toilet usage and identify any barriers to use
- Explore 'take a seat' pilots in several areas
- Provide age friendly input into the development of parklets
- Public toilets in Belfast

Social inclusion

- Annual programme of activities (including PAM events)
- Connection Hub - Grapevine
- Seasonal planning/ citywide subgroups
- Dementia Carers Cafes- (Establishing a citywide group to report into HASP to ensure consistency across the city).
- Volunteer celebration event (Dec '25)

3.4 Health and wellbeing

- Ensure voice of older people is heard in discussions on access to services and influence new developments
- Support 600-800 older people most in need to improve mobility levels, feel more connected and less lonely.
- Involve older people in expansion of the 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing' approach (delivery to Grapevine volunteers).

3.5 Financial security

- Work to normalise and reduce the stigma of older people accessing financial entitlements and addressing debt
- Promote debt advice services to older people
- Review and support the wider policy level work on food and fuel poverty for example: increase uptake of reducing food waste cookery sessions and promotion of fuel stamps, promote links to foodbanks and social supermarkets
- Promote and support the Age at Work approach to recruit, retain and retrain workers aged 50 plus.

. Financial and Resource Implications

All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.

**5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.

The Reference Group noted the information provided.

Warm and Well Project, National Energy Action

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. H. McVeigh, Project Coordinator for the Warm and Well Project, which was managed by the National Energy Action in Northern Ireland. Mr. McVeigh indicated that the project provided support to persons aged 65 years or older; those living with a disability or a long-term physical or mental health condition. In addition, the projects provided also support to households with young children (from new-born to school age); and people on a low income. He proceeded to outline the types of adaptations and support which was provided to enable households and properties to become more energy efficient.

The Working Group was then provided with an overview of the work, which was undertaken in consultation with the Council, which in 2024, had included the provision of 630 gas/electric vouchers to the value of £49, with households able to receive a maximum of two vouchers. In addition, NEA had enlisted 22 trusted stakeholders to support referrals and signposting services, particularly for vulnerable people who were finding it difficult to keep their homes warm.

Noted.

Engage with Age

The Reference Group welcomed Ms. M. Bolton, Chief Executive Officer with the above-mentioned group in Northern Ireland, who was in attendance to provide an overview on the work of the organisation. She explained that the organisation's mission was to empower older people to live happy, healthy, independent and more connected lives. The charity provided a range of services for individuals and older people's groups and forums, mostly in south and east Belfast.

She added that Engage with Age was in the process of delivering a three-year Strategic Plan and its main aims were:

1. to empower older people to reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods;
2. to empower older people to improve their own health and wellbeing;
3. to strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums; and
4. to empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives.

The Reference Group was apprised also PAL (People Addressing Loneliness) Project, which was aimed at older people, but did not have a strict age limit, which focused on addressing loneliness and isolation. The project offered a range of group activities and telephone befriending to help people connect and stay active.

Ms. Bolton referred also to the Dementia Friendly campaign which operates in both east and south Belfast. The campaign delivered a range of Initiatives including a 'What's On Guide', dementia friendly coffee mornings; and dementia friendly telephone befriending for carers of people living with dementia.

Noted.

Positive Ageing Month

The Reference Group noted the range of events which would take place in October as part of Positive Ageing Month in October, which was a comprehensive programme of free events and activities for older persons. The Members thanked officers for the work which had been taken in collating the programme.

Any Other Business

The Reference Group was updated on the plans for the hosting by the Council of the Christmas annual tea dances and considered a range of options for alternative venues.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 23rd February at 12:30pm in the Conor Room.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Winter Festival Programme 2025
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales – Strategic Director for City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety Godfrey McCartney – Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The report outlines the delivery of the Winter Festival Fund
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members to note the contents of the report
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In October's SP&R committee and approved at November Council's meeting, members agreed to fund a 'Winter Festival Fund'. The funding provides interested groups resources to deliver a winter festival programme up to the value of £17,000 in their quadrant of the city.
3.2	Officers from Neighbourhood Services developed and delivered an open call process for groups to apply for funding.
3.3	<p>Criteria for the delivery of the fund is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide resources to communities to deliver a Winter Festival within their quadrant of the city. • To promote winter festivities between the 26th of November to 24th December • Organisations will have to demonstrate support from a minimum of four neighbourhoods within one quadrant of the city. • The Fund will cover either one large or a range of mini winter programmes within the quadrant. • There would need to be a minimum of 2,000 participants across all events within the quadrant. • The activities must be inclusive for the entire community. • The events will not take place at the same time as Belfast City Council's main Christmas event.
3.4	<p>An information session was delivered by officers for those interested groups to understand more about the funding. One session was held in each quadrant of the city as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North - Girdwood Community Hub • West - Divis Community Centre • South - Shaftesbury Recreation Centre • East - EastSide Visitor Centre <p>Information sessions were well attended, with groups using the opportunity to discuss collaborative bids with each other.</p>

	<p>38 application forms were requested by groups, with 8 applications received prior to the closing date.</p>
3.5	<p>A scoring panel consisting of 3 officers undertook the assessment of applications received against the criteria of the programme. The following groups scored highest in their respective quadrant of the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Belfast - Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum • South Belfast – Forward South • West Belfast – Féile an Phobail • East Belfast – Eastside Partnership
3.6	<p>A short synopsis of each of the successful programmes, alongside groups the lead partner will work with, are contained in appendix 4.1.</p> <p>Successful groups were informed on 21st November, with letter of offer issued for completion on 24th November.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>£68,000</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known at this time.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Winter Festival Update 2025

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Winter Festival Fund 2025

Successful Applicants

North Belfast – Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (Lead Partner)

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum submitted a comprehensive proposal developed in partnership with The Ashton Centre, Ligoniel Improvement Association, and North Belfast Alternatives.

The programme will deliver 30 Winter Festival and Christmas activities across the North Belfast area, including pensioners' events, Christmas tree switch-ons, Winter Wonderland experiences, arts and crafts, family events, fun days, volunteer recognition activities, a children's disco, a pantomime trip, and healthy eating packs.

These activities will support some of the most disadvantaged groups in North Belfast, including disabled people; young people with Special Educational Needs; children with autism and their families; older people; and families experiencing significant hardship. Many local households face intense pressure during the Christmas period, heightened by poverty, poor health, mental ill-health, and issues related to alcohol and drug misuse.

The programme provides free, accessible, community-based alternatives that allow local residents to participate in festive celebrations, strengthen social bonds, and experience a positive sense of community spirit.

South – Forward South Partnership (Lead Partner)

Forward South Partnership has coordinated Winter Festival activities involving 13 community organisations across the Inner South, South West, and Outer South neighbourhood areas, encouraging collaboration and partnership building throughout the locality.

Inner South Partnership organisations include:

- LORAG Mornington Community Project
- Albion Star FC
- Donegall Pass Community Forum
- An Droichead
- Happy Women's Group

South West Partnership organisations include:

- GVRT
- BSCR
- Windsor Women's Centre
- South City

Outer South organisations include:

- Belvoir Community Association
- Ballynaveigh Community Development Association
- Annadale Community Centre

The programme features a broad range of inclusive activities such as festive workshops, senior festive dinners and dances, Winter Wonderland experiences, Christmas breakfasts, Santa's grotto events, Christmas light switch-ons, drop-in sessions, and community celebration mornings.

These activities will engage families, older people, ethnic minority communities, newcomer families, individuals experiencing isolation or loneliness, and residents who may have limited access to creative or seasonal opportunities. The programme aims to strengthen community connection, encourage creative expression, and promote cultural inclusion.

East – Eastside Partnership (Lead Partner)

EastSide Partnership will coordinate a series of cultural and community wellbeing activities taking place throughout December. These free community events will create opportunities for social connection, reduce isolation, and promote positive mental wellbeing, helping to bring East Belfast to life during the festive season.

EastSide Partnership will also provide administrative support, including financial management and monitoring.

Planned events include the annual Wandsworth Lantern Parade, a Christmas party for children with additional needs, a Christmas Parade, and Santa's grotto. Additional activities will be delivered in partnership with Walkway Community Association, Bloomfield Community Association, Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club Trust Ltd, Phoenix Education/Urban Youth Project, Pitt Park Residents Association, Ulster Tower Street, Megain Nazarene Church, Wandsworth Community Association, and Willowfield Church with the Willowfield Flute Band.

West - Féile an Phobail (Lead Partner)

Féile an Phobail will create a large-scale festive experience by transforming Falls Park into a winter-wonderland on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December.

Partner organisations include Upper Andersonstown Community Forum, Upper Springfield Development Trust, Falls Residents Association, Lagmore Youth Project and Blackie River.

In addition to the main event, Féile will support multiple neighbourhood-based Christmas activities delivered in collaboration with local groups, including:

- A Christmas light show in Páirc Nua Chollann
- Santa's arrival and a Christmas parade in Andersonstown
- Christmas lights switch-on in the Upper Springfield area
- A community Christmas carol concert
- A series of local initiatives throughout the Lower Falls, including the Féile na Nollag outreach programme, which brings music, storytelling and seasonal activities to shopping centres, care homes, community facilities and neighbourhood groups

The overall programme will deliver a magical, culturally rich, and accessible festive experience for thousands of residents, while strengthening Christmas activities across West Belfast through coordinated partnership working.

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2025 Events
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a late request from Lagmore Youth Project to host a series of Christmas events at Pairc Nua Chollan during the month of December. If approved the event will take place before the decision can be ratified at full Council in January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	If agreed, the event organiser will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.
3.3	The event request comes late to the department as the opportunity to fund the event has only come to fruition over the past number of weeks. The organisers have secured funding for the event from the Northern Ireland Housing executive.
3.4	The organisers have asked for some additional financial support from Council where the overall event budget doesn't cover some of the activities. The Parks Events and Outreach team hold an animation budget for the park to assist with programming following the regeneration project of the park.
3.5	Lagmore Youth Project organise and deliver a range of events and programmes of activity in the park that assist Council to deliver on the agreed outcomes as laid out in the funding application to Urban Villages.
3.6	<u>Light up the Night – Pairc Nua Chollan and the Education Zone within the Park</u>
3.7	Lagmore Youth Project are proposing to host a Christmas Light display at Paric Nua Chollan over 6 evenings in December. The events will be free to attend and will consist of visuals, music and lights to entertain park users. Members of the public will be asked to remain on the main walkway on the external side of the education space and watch the display that will be held within the boundary of the education Space.
3.8	Further to this the organisers will host Santa's post office in the Education space over 4 days. Members of the public will be able to access the education centre and take part in

	<p>writing a letter to Santa and prepare reindeer food for Christmas. Members of the public will then be able to walk along the lit-up forest trail to Santas Post Office. The post office will be a 5m x 3m Shed that will be built for the event. Santas Visit will be a donation led part of the event everything else will be free.</p>
3.9	<p><u>The Key Dates and times are as follows.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursdays & Fridays in December 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site open to public: 5:00pm – 8:00pm ○ Queue animated light & music experience: from 5:00pm ○ Countdown sequence: 6:30pm (30-minute countdown) ○ PA announcements re: dimming of park lights: from 6:55pm ○ Main projection light show: 7:00pm – 7:20pm • Saturdays in December 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full programme (Light Up The Night + family winter experience) ○ Winter Wonderland (<i>The Enchanted Post Office at Páirc Nua</i>): 3:00pm – 8:30pm ○ Projection and light show schedule as above
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>An annual animation budget of £15k to support programming at the park was agreed at a prior meeting of the people and communities committee. The Parks Outreach Manager will support aspects of the event financially by way of raising purchase orders. Financial support coming from the animation budget.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for five streets within the city.																		
2.0	Recommendation																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Old Colin, Whitewell Road & Upper Dunmurry Lane																		
2.2	Members are also asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Rileys Place and Keegan Street. These applications were made by the developer after the English Street names were agreed in September 2025, and construction is ongoing.																		
3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																		
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																		
3.3	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr><tr><td>Old Colin</td><td>Seanchollann</td><td>Off Stewartstown Road/Pantridge Road, BT17</td><td>221</td></tr><tr><td>Whitewell Road</td><td>Bóthar an Tobair Ghil</td><td>Off Shore Road, BT36</td><td>587</td></tr><tr><td>Upper Dunmurry Lane</td><td>Lána Dhún Muirígh Uachtarach</td><td>Old Golf Course Road, BT17</td><td>173</td></tr></table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Old Colin	Seanchollann	Off Stewartstown Road/Pantridge Road, BT17	221	Whitewell Road	Bóthar an Tobair Ghil	Off Shore Road, BT36	587	Upper Dunmurry Lane	Lána Dhún Muirígh Uachtarach	Old Golf Course Road, BT17	173
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Upper Dunmurry Lane	Lána Dhún Muirígh Uachtarach	Old Golf Course Road, BT17	173																
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	Old Colin, BT17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">53 occupiers (23.98%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.5 occupiers (2.26%) had no preference either way.																		
3.7	Whitewell Road, BT36 <ul style="list-style-type: none">212 occupiers (36.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.19 occupiers (3.23%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.8 occupiers (1.36%) had no preference either way.																		

3.8

Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17 (Resurvey due to postal issue)

- 50 occupiers (28.90%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 2 occupiers (1.15%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 3 occupiers (1.73%) had no preference either way.

3.9

Dual language nameplates for new street names approved at 9th September 2025 P&C Committee

3.10

Based on the process for dual language street sign applications made by developers that was agreed by Council on 4th December 2023 the Committee is asked to agree to the erection of second street nameplates in Irish at the proposed new streets, Rileys Place and Keegan Street.

3.11

English Name	Non- English Name	Location
Rileys Place	Plás Uí Raghallaigh	Off Raphael Street, BT7
Keegan Street	Sráid Mhic Aogáin	Off Stewart Street, BT7

3.12

Members are asked to consider the applications made by Radius Housing to erect dual language street nameplates showing the names of the streets expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish. The applications have been progressed according to the approved process including carrying out initial assessments and Elected Member notifications in the normal way. Given there are no occupiers of the new streets during development, no surveys have been carried out. The translations have been provided by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.13

The English street names for the two new streets were approved by P&C Committee on 9th September 2025. The dual language street sign applications had not been completed by the developer at that stage.

3.14

Assessment against policy

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.

All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.

3.15

Financial and Resource Implications

3.16	<p>There is a cost of approximately £1410 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><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments for Whitewell Road and Upper Dunmurry Lane identified that the carrying out of the survey had the potential to cause adverse impacts on the grounds of good relations. These applications were subsequently screened and the draft screenings identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these streets had the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore had the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It was acknowledged however the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The elected member notification carried out for Whitewell Road and Upper Dunmurry Lane did not identify any potential for adverse impacts. These applications were presented to Committee prior to survey in line with the agreed process referencing the initial assessment and screening and both streets were approved for survey by Committee and full Council.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for Old Colin, Rileys Place and Keegan Street did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Proposal for naming two new streets
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

☒

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

Insert number

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6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction,
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.1	To consider the application for the naming of two new streets in the city.									
2.0	Recommendation									
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of the application for naming two new streets in the city.</p> <p>The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant the applications, or• Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.									
3.0	Main Report									
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p> <p><u>New streets</u></p>									
3.2	<p>Members are asked to consider the following application for naming 2 new streets in the city. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council’s Streets Register and do not duplicate any existing approved street names in the city.</p>									
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Eastland Street</td><td>Off Third Street, BT13</td><td>Ark Housing</td></tr><tr><td>Eastland Place</td><td>Off Third Street, BT13</td><td>Ark Housing</td></tr></table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Eastland Street	Off Third Street, BT13	Ark Housing	Eastland Place	Off Third Street, BT13	Ark Housing
Proposed Name	Location	Applicant								
Eastland Street	Off Third Street, BT13	Ark Housing								
Eastland Place	Off Third Street, BT13	Ark Housing								
3.4	<p>Ark Housing are developing vacant lands bounding First Street, Third Street and North Howard Street BT13 for residential use. The development includes two new streets containing 15 domestic properties.</p>									
3.5	<p>For the first street, the developer has proposed Eastland Street as their first name choice for the new street located at Third Street, (8 properties which will be constructed in a future phase). Eastland Street was a street in the Shankill area of West Belfast that was the site of a significant tragedy during the Belfast Blitz, specifically the Easter Tuesday raid on 15th-16th April 1941, when Luftwaffe bombs caused the deaths of several residents, including the Wallace family at 57 Eastland Street. Whilst the street itself no longer exists, its memory is preserved in the archives of the NI War Memorial Museum.</p>									
3.6	<p>The second name choice for this new street is Luke Street, continuing the association with the historical former street. The history of Luke Street in Belfast’s Shankill is not a single event but a combination of historical figures and events. Luke Street likely refers to a street name associated with the Archbishop Luke from the 13th century, who played a significant role in clearing forests to establish courts in the Shankill area around 1230 in the context of the Shankill district of Belfast.</p>									
3.7	<p>For the second street, the developer has proposed Eastland Place as their first name choice for the street located at Third Street and the proposed Eastland Street, (7 residential properties</p>									

	being constructed in first phase). Eastland Place has been proposed in keeping with the historical connection of the two streets.
3.8	The second name choice for the new street is Luke Street, continuing the association with the historical former street.
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p>
4.1	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct Equality implications.</p>
5.0	Appendices
	None

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