

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 9th September, 2025

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor R. Brooks (Chairperson);
Alderman S. Copeland; and
Councillors Abernethy, Black, Bower,
Bradley, Bunting, Canavan, Cobain, Collins,
M. Donnelly, R-M Donnelly, Doran, Flynn,
Garrett, Magee, Maghie, McKeown and Verner.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services;
Mr. S. Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet,
Open Spaces and Streetscene;
Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

There were no apologies received.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson (Councillor Brooks) declared an interest in item 5 (a) re: 'Invite to Parliamentary Launch of Nature and Towns and Cities' in that she had attended the aforementioned event in her capacity as Chairperson. Councillor Brooks left the meeting whilst the item was under consideration.

Deputations

Stranmillis Neighbourhood Association

The Committee acceded to a request from representatives of the Stranmillis Neighbourhood Association to receive a deputation at its meeting in October to outline a range of issues in relation to the Pilot Opening Hours Scheme at Botanic Gardens.

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Lagan Valley Regional Park

The Committee agreed to receive, at its meeting in October, a deputation from representatives of the Lagan Valley Regional Park to consider matters related to the organisation's governance and sustainability.

Belfast Healthy Cities

In accordance with its decision of 14th January, the Committee welcomed Ms. C. Brooks and Ms. J. O'Hagan, representatives of Belfast Healthy Cities, who were in attendance to provide an update on the outcomes of the European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting in Bursa, Türkiye, which had taken place from 17th to 19th June.

Ms. Brooks reported that the event had provided an opportunity to examine how cities throughout Europe had addressed similar challenges to those faced by Belfast. The event included a range of site visits and presentations which had explored health policies, climate resilience, equity, and urban innovation. She explained that Belfast Healthy Cities had made a presentation on its 'Greening the City' initiative as part of the conference. The meeting, she added, had been themed, 'Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All' and had explored six key subthemes, namely: prosperity; planet; participation; people; place and peace. The aim of the event had been to help cities understand how environmental and social exposures – such as pollution and a lack of green spaces – affected mental health and cognitive development.

The representatives of Belfast Healthy Cities answered several questions which had been posed by Members and, after discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for the information which had been provided.

Noted.

Notice of Motion – Support for Leisure Workers

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the above-mentioned motion to enable it to be considered within the context of a report to be submitted to a future meeting that would provide a comparison of the costs incurred by the Council in both outsourcing and insourcing its leisure provision.

Review of Funding Levels for the Summer Scheme Fund

The Committee was informed that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 21st August, had referred the undernoted notice of motion, which had been proposed by the High Sheriff (Councillor McAteer), and seconded by Councillor Bower, to the Committee for consideration.

“To ask Council officers to review the funding levels for the summer scheme fund and to provide costings for an updated level of funding to allow providers to adequately run schemes.”

The High Sheriff outlined the principal aspects of the motion. She referred to the important recreational opportunity which summer schemes provided to children and their

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families and how the ability to deliver such schemes had been impacted upon by the rising cost-of-living. She requested that officers re-examine the current level of funding provided to groups and to consult with service users and providers to identify issues that were affecting their ability to deliver summer schemes within existing budgets.

A further Member suggested that any report submitted should examine the possibility of delivering summer schemes on a multi-agency basis, with organisations such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust etc., being approached with a view to collaborating in the delivery of services, such as transport, on a collective and more cost effective basis.

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would address the motion and consider the range of comments made by Members in this regard.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following six items was restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following items as there could be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee was advised that the content of the ‘restricted’ reports and any associated discussion should be treated as ‘confidential information’ and that such information could not be disclosed as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

Financial Report – Quarter 1 2025/26

The Committee considered a report regarding its Quarter 1 financial position.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group

The Committee considered and adopted the minutes of the meeting of Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group of 7th August, and the following recommendations contained therein:

- approved the continuation of the pilot guided walks and volunteering in Friar’s Bush Graveyard and facilitate guided walking tours of Balmoral Cemetery;
- approved the decision to adopt and publish the draft Bereavement Service Standards;

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- approved the decision to permit members of the Muslim Community to place a monument and interpretative panel that would recognise unmarked Muslim graves in the City Cemetery;
- approved the decision to allocate £600 to support the promotion of public tours during European Heritage Open Days; and
- approved that the Trooperslane site be excluded from the Expression of Interest process for the provision of a cemetery and that officers revisit the expansion of the Roselawn site for future burial provision.

Parliamentary Launch of ‘Nature Towns and Cities’

(Councillor Cobain, Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair).

The Committee granted retrospective approval for the attendance of the Chairperson at the above-mentioned event, which had taken place at the Houses of Parliament on the previous evening. It was noted that the invitation to the Chairperson had been received subsequent to the Committee’s meeting in August, hence retrospective approval had been necessary.

All-Party Reference Group on Older People

(Councillor Brooks, Chairperson, in the Chair).

The Committee noted the contents of the minutes of the All-Party Reference Group on Older People of 10th June and agreed that an invitation be extended to representatives of the Alzheimer’s Society to present at a future meeting.

Forth Meadow Greenway, Parks and Open Spaces Pilot Opening Hours Scheme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 In August this committee considered a report on the findings of the two consultation exercises on the possible extension of the opening hours of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway (FMG) and five other park sites. This report provides an update on information the committee requested following consideration of that report.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note further information in relation to the lighting schemes for 5-pilot park sites and the proposed timeframe for trialing 24hr opening of FMG.**

3.0 Main report

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- 3.1** Members will recall that at P&C Committee on 5th August 2025 officers provided an update on the key findings of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway Opening Hours (FMG) and Opening Hours Pilots (5 park sites) consultation exercises; and in relation to both - noted residents feedback, including views on opening hours preference for each greenway section/ park site, programming and further physical enhancements.
- 3.2** Members agreed to trial the 24-hour opening of the FMG. Members requested further information to be brought back on trialing extended gate opening hours along the Greenway for a one-year period. Members deferred consideration of the 5 Opening Hours Pilots to allow further information to be submitted on each park to the Committee. This paper is to be considered by way of update to that request.

Opening Hours Pilots (5 sites) - Next Steps

- 3.3** Ensuring park safety through artificial lighting and additional security was highlighted by residents as a requirement to extended opening hours at all park sites (Botanic Gardens, Belmont Park, Falls Park, Ormeau Park, Woodvale Park), and in particular those currently not benefitting from lighting (Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park, Belmont Park).
- 3.4** Members are reminded that the installation of any new lighting infrastructure requires significant capital investment. Further to Members discussion in August' P&C Committee, officers can confirm that artificial lighting at the park sites have been included within the 'Park Improvement Programme' which is currently a Stage 1- Emerging under the Capital Programme which has enabled feasibility monies to be allocated. This feasibility support will now allow studies to be progressed to develop costed options for each park site to include lighting and other safety measures and will be informed by ecological assessments and further engagement. There is no timetable for the work at present however officers are aware that members would like to see this work completed as soon as possible and are working with colleagues in Physical Programmes to expedite this work. Once this has been completed for each park officers will bring proposals back to members that will also include animation plans, security /patrolling measures including costings.

Forth Meadow Community Greenway Next Steps

- 3.5** In considering optimal timeframe for trialing of extended/ 24-hour gate opening hours along the Greenway for a one-year period, Members are reminded that additional security and warden staff are currently being considered as part of Council's Park Warden

Review. Officers plan to take a proposal to a future meeting of this committee on the future.

- 3.6** Members will recall that at P&C Committee on 10th October 2023 in seeking to promote and enhance the usage of newly established or refurbished park properties it was agreed that an 'annual programming budget of £15,000 is allocated to all new Parks. Taking account of the scale of the FMG and two large park sites within one of its 5 sections (Falls Park and Springfield Park / Dam) potentially 6 separate animation plans would therefore be required at a cost of £90,000.
- 3.7** Officers are proposing to commence the pilot in April 2026 as this would allow time to develop operational and animation plans over the coming months and have them ready to implement in parallel to the pilot ensuring increased participation and positive and safe use of the FMG. These plans will be developed in consultation with colleagues in Community Provision to consider any additional diversionary monies are required to support sites which continue to be impacted upon by ASB. Similar to other Council parks sites at community interfaces – a 'Forth Meadow Community Greenway Gate Closure Protocol' will be in place throughout the pilot which can be activated for any of the gates in response to a security assessment by the PSNI.
- 3.8** At the end of the consultation period there will an opportunity to carry out a further consultation exercise to gauge community perception in advance of formalising opening hours into the Greenways By-Laws. Learning from Forth Meadow Greenway extended opening hours 1 year pilot will also help inform operational requirements to facilitate later opening hours across the 5 park sites from a park warden service and security perspective.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.9** There is currently no revenue budget in place to support both the required animation of and the additional patrolling of the Greenway during the pilot phase. Growth bids for both will be submitted into the revenue estimates process for 26/27.
- 3.10** Lighting at the park sites have been included within the 'Park Improvement Programme' which is currently a Stage 1-Emerging under the Capital Programme. Feasibility monies are now in place to allow costed lighting options to be developed.

During discussion, a Member referred particularly to the consultation exercise which had been undertaken with local residents regarding the proposed scheme at Woodvale Park. She pointed out that it had been evident that there existed significant

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opposition to the proposals and, as such, no further consultation should be undertaken and that the park be removed forthwith from the terms of the Pilot Opening Hours Scheme.

A further Member suggested that officers should commence engagement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to progress the work associated with the Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge at the Ormeau Park/Gasworks site. In addition, such discussions should explore potential collaboration on the development of additional through routes across Ormeau Park and funding options for such a development, given that it would complement accessibility to the bridge on its completion.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and it was moved by Councillor McKeown, seconded by Council Abernethy, and agreed:

- that Woodvale Park be removed from the terms of the Pilot Opening Hours Scheme;
- that officers would engage with DfI to progress the work associated with the Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge at the Ormeau Park/Gasworks site, together with exploring collaboration on the development of through routes and accessibility to the aforesaid bridge; and
- that officers would meet with a range of local community groups to discuss the pilot scheme at Botanic Gardens.

**Department for Infrastructure Consultation re:
Grant Support for Inspection Requirements**

The Committee approved a [consultation response](#) in respect of the above-mentioned exercise and agreed that it be forwarded in advance to the Department for Infrastructure, subject to its adoption or amendment by the Council on 1st October.

Drinking in Public Byelaws and Powers

The Committee considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek retrospective approval from Members for the attached draft response to the Department for Communities who are seeking the Council's views on the proposed commencement of Articles 68-72 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:**

- **note the contents of this report;**

- agree the draft response to DfC, attached as Appendix 1; and
- note the Committee's 2018 response to DfC on this issue, attached as Appendix 2.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

In late 2023 the Department for Communities ('DfC'), and Department of Justice ('DoJ'), undertook a joint public consultation on potential amendments to the legislative framework and powers to deal with anti-social behaviour ('ASB'), including drinking-in-public.

The Consultation sought views on:

- the areas that should be designated in which drinking-in-public is prohibited, and the reasons for their designation;
- whether powers should be provided to police officers and/or authorised council officers to request a person to stop drinking and issue a fixed penalty notice if they fail to do so;
- whether the powers provided should include a power of seizure and/or disposal of alcoholic drinks and if that seizure and/or disposal power should apply to open and/or closed containers;
- the situation the powers may be used in; and
- which legislation should be in place to provide these powers.

Belfast City Council did not provide a response to this consultation.

3.2 Members may be aware that a similar consultation exercise about ASB was conducted by the DoJ in 2018 in which they sought views, among other things, on the commencement of Articles 68-72 of the 2008 Order.

On 5 June 2018 Committee agreed on the response, in which it was recognised that any legislative framework should reflect the wide range of powers available across Northern Ireland to ensure maximum effectiveness.

As noted in paragraph 3.3 below, the proposed commencement of Articles 68-72 now includes an 'opt in' power for councils to require individuals to stop drinking alcohol in a designated area and surrender any alcoholic drinks in their possession.

3.3 In April 2025 DfC published a summary of responses to the most recent consultation, which clearly indicated that the current

legislative framework to tackle drinking-in-public and associated ASB needs to be updated to ensure it is fit for purpose, with an overwhelming majority of respondents agreeing that an explicit power to seize and dispose of alcohol should be available in certain circumstances.

3.4 Following the consultation period, DfC sought the Council's view on the proposed commencement of Articles 68-72 of the 2008 Order, with the following amendments:

- to provide a specific power to police officers allowing the seizure and disposal of open and closed containers of alcoholic drinks in designated areas and in certain public order situations. It is not proposed that council officers would be provided with this power.
- to extend the powers conferred on police officers requiring individuals to stop drinking alcohol in a designated area, and surrender any alcoholic drinks in their possession, to council officers. Anyone refusing will be committing an offence and may be issued with an FPN. However, it should be noted that this will be a power which councils may use, and each council district will be provided with the option to "opt in".

3.5 Members are asked to agree this response.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications connected to this report.

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out. Both the draft response to DfC ([Appendix 1](#)); and the 2018 response to DfC in the matter ([Appendix 2](#)) were made available on the Council's website.

Requests to Host Events in Parks and Open Space

The Committee granted authority for the hosting of the undernoted events, subject to the applicants adhering to - and meeting with - all of the stipulations as set out within the report:

- VC Glendale - Falling Leaves – Irish National League Race – Falls Park (11th and 12th October, 2025);
- Sound of Belfast and Factory sessions – Tropical Ravine (6th November, 2025);
- Row on Row Remembrance 2025 – Pitt Park (3rd to 11th November, 2025);

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- CIYMS - Orange Grove Athletics – Boxing Day Run – Belmont Park (26th December, 2025);
- 5 Kilometre Autism NI Walk – Ormeau Park (18th January, 2026);
- Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park (9th May, 2026);
- Darkness into Light – Waterworks (9th May, 2026); and
- Wellfest – Ormeau Park – (12th and 13th September, 2026).

Surveys for Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider a proposal to re-survey 20 streets being processed under the dual language street signs policy which were affected by postal issues and to consider an extension to survey response times which may be impacted by delivery schedule changes.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree to: -**

- The re-survey of 20 streets where residents’ returns have been impacted by a postal service issue; and
- To extend the survey response times to 21 days from the current 14 days for all applications going forward to reduce impact of delivery schedule changes for second class post (Initially one month on policy implementation)

3.0 Main Report

Re-survey of 20 Streets

- 3.2 The Director of Planning and Building Control provided an update to members at the People and Communities Committee on 5th August regarding an issue which affected the return of dual language street sign surveys using prepaid envelopes.**
- 3.3 An account suspension applied to BCC Royal Mail account between 15th April 2025 and 17th July 2025 has impacted a number of survey returns being processed and delivered to BCC by Royal Mail. It is unclear and we have been unable to ascertain to date when this suspension resulted in letters being held by Royal Mail. During our account suspension the Royal Mail Delivery Centre held 375 surveys. In addition, a number of surveys**

had been internally transferred to their National Returns Centre for return to sender (residents).

- 3.4 Whilst we have received all the survey returns held by the Royal Mail Delivery Centre and are continuing to receive surveys from the National Returns Centre we are unable to obtain accurate numbers for the surveys which were sent back to residents. A small number of residents have contacted BCC directly to advise they had received their survey back. This involved the surveys of Rosetta Avenue, Skegoneill Avenue and Victoria Road.
- 3.5 Officers have been closely monitoring the returns and have been able to identify 20 Streets which have been impacted by this issue. Given the unknown number of surveys that have been returned to residents and the inability to obtain accurate figures from Royal Mail, officers consider the only option to ensure fully accurate survey results would be to conduct a re-survey of these streets. This re-survey has been extended to any streets where we consider there is the potential for results to have been affected by residents returns. This analysis took into consideration streets we have received held mail from the Delivery Centre and National Returns Centre, and those streets where surveys were returned to the residents.
- 3.6 The list of these streets and the number of surveys involved in the re-survey are listed in Table 1 below which will follow the same process as the original survey.

Return will be by prepaid envelope for all surveys in line with existing processes.

Street	No of Surveys to be Re- Issued
Lagmore Downs	152
Upper Dunmurry Lane	173
Rosetta Avenue	87
Wellesley Avenue	122
Skegoneill Avenue	242
Victoria Road	173
Burmah Street	70
Delhi Street	123
Lismain Street	53
Sunningdale Gardens	145
Donegall Park Avenue	205
Mill Valley Gardens	22
Alexandra Gardens	47
Appleton Park	130

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Oldpark Road	757
Woodland Avenue	34
Lagmore View Crescent	45
Cliftondene Gardens	93
Colinvale	244
Bearnagh Drive	187
Total Number of surveys	3104

- 3.8 As part of the re-survey, correspondence will be included providing an explanation to residents of the reason for the re-survey and that any existing returns from the original survey expressing a preference in respect to the proposal will not be counted.

Review with Royal Mail

- 3.9 Officers have used the information available at present in the proposal above. The account has now been confirmed as operational, and a review is ongoing internally within BCC. To facilitate this, we are working to establish a senior contact within Royal Mail to discuss this matter to ensure that this issue cannot happen in the future, it is proposed that a further update report will be brought once this review is complete.
- 3.10 Royal Mail second class postal services have changed their delivery schedules which include discontinuing Saturday deliveries and implementing a weekday rotation schedule. These changes took effect on July 28, 2025.

The breakdown of these changes is as follows:

- Second-class letters will no longer be delivered on Saturdays.
 - Second-class mail will be delivered on a two-week rotating schedule: Week 1: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; Week 2: Tuesday, Thursday.
- 3.11 The revised dual language street signs policy indicates that replies should be received with one month. At a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24th March 2023 it was agreed to reduce the response times for surveys to 14 days. However, given the reduced delivery schedules 14 days may now not be sufficient to allow all residents to have their preferences lodged within time.
- 3.12 Members are asked to consider the proposal to increase this time period to 21 days for all surveys moving forward, which officers believe will have minimal impact on the processing of applications and should not create any delays.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.13 The cost for the re-survey of the 20 streets will be covered by existing budgets. Dedicated existing staff working on the current process will process the new surveys.**
- 3.14 There are no costs or resource implications associated with increasing the survey response times to 21 days.**

Proposal

Moved by the Chairperson (Councillor Brooks),
Seconded by Councillor Dornan,

That the Committee agrees that the period of time permitted to allow for the receipt of responses for dual language surveys be extended to 28 days.

On a vote, eight Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations as set out in the report, that being:

- to re-survey the 20 streets where residents' responses had been impacted upon by a postal service issue, and
- to extend the survey response time to 21 days, from the current 14 days, for all applications henceforth to reduce the impact of delivery schedule changes for second class post (initially one-month on policy implementation).

Resources and Fleet Waste – Update

The Committee considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To provide an update to People and Communities Committee on the work being conducted in relation to the overfilled bins and bin liner collection issues (Bin Safety Campaign).**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main report

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- 3.1** Members will recall this matter was discussed in June and members requested that updates were presented to P&C Committee at the August and September meetings.

This report provides an update to members on progress to date in relation to the campaign.

- 3.2** It should be noted that Corporate Communications have supported and continue to provide support and resource to Resources and Fleet the Service through the external and internal communications and awareness raising elements of the plan. The Project team engage with Corporate Communications regularly around the campaign, resident feedback and progress.
- 3.3** The Project Team and their Resource Advisor colleagues within Waste Management have produced an engagement plan based on the Implementation and Communications Plan approved by Council.
- 3.4** Monday 4 August – the beginning of Amber tagging bedding in period for 8 weeks. Collections continue as normal (i.e. overfilled bins and bins with liners still collected) with warning tag placed on bins and reporting by crews. Resource Advisor Teams on ground raising awareness and messaging.
- 3.5** Monday 29 September – planned start date for the beginning of Red tagging collecting strictly to policy phase. Overfilled containers will be tagged and will not collect, and instances reported. Temporary additional Special Waste Collection Operational teams (SWCO) to be engaged Resource Teams, OSS and Enforcement Teams will be deployed to targeting remaining hot spot areas.
- 3.6** Project Team progress as at time of writing of this update report:
- Overfilled and lined Bins – Domestic and Commercial Waste
- 3.7** The following actions are ongoing or scheduled to be conducted as detailed. Summary of data and metrics around the campaign are below for reference.
- Additional Resource Advisor Staff have been deployed and began operating in Urban Belfast from Monday 21st July. In terms of direct communications by the Resource Advisor Team and Waste Management colleagues, all is going to plan. 890 streets equating to 34342 urban households have received direct communications around the campaign.
 - The Project team have continued to hold weekly briefings with operations managers and assistant managers and their

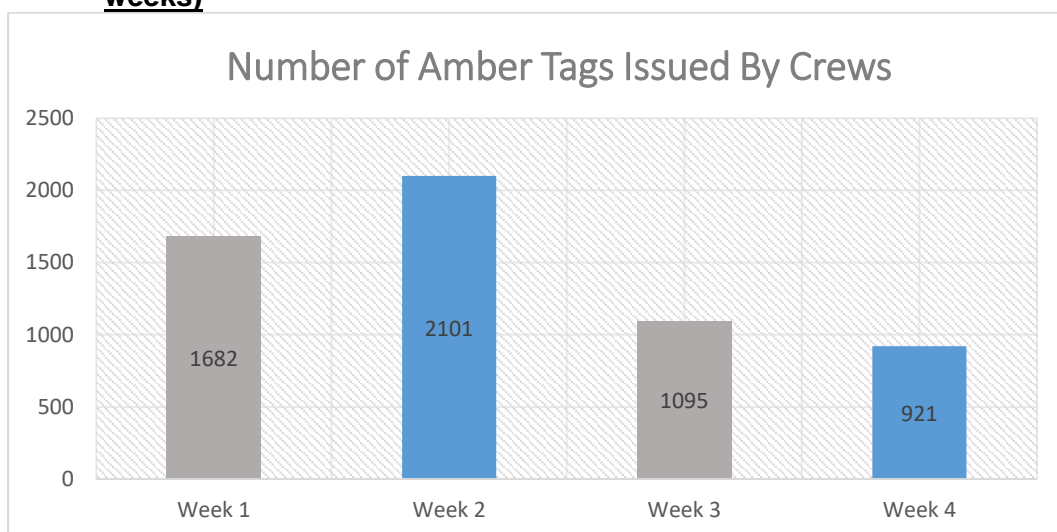
crews. Further briefings are planned at the end of August around the collection to policy (red) phase. These briefings will include Customer Hub colleagues, OSS and relevant FAQs will be reviewed and updated.

- Red tags (domestic) and red stickers (commercial) have been ordered and delivered – these will form part of the briefings above and be circulated to stakeholders including the customer hub.
- A new Special Waste Operations Team (SWOT) will be required from the end of September when we collect to policy. It is envisaged that these posts will be in situ for 15th September, for training, in advance of the red collecting to policy phase on Monday 29 September.
- Translations - the 5 versions required have been printed and are in hand for staff on the ground, including Outreach Teams.
- Performance/Campaign impact – In the first 2 days of the campaign, we experienced some teething problems. This did lead to small instances of non-collection at a number of sites and location which were corrected very quickly. After day 3, operationally, the campaign began to bed in well with crews on the ground and has also highlighted or magnified some of the “business as usual” issues at some of collection sites and areas e.g. overfilled euro bins and lidless euro bins at apartments. These issues are relatively small in number and being noted in issues log and issues managed case by case by Waste Collection and via colleagues in Waste Management. Issues raised to date are either resolved or in hand and we expect to see more of these as we go through the campaign.
- The comms and engagement on the ground is having an impact. Resource Advisor home visits are up significantly as are orders for boxes and bins. Increases in orders and requests for service show a positive trend around better recycling messaging. The WM section is keeping close track of container stocks and orders coming in. Levels are currently comfortable in the context of increased demand and further orders are in progress to replenish stocks. Waste Management will continue to monitor this closely.
- At the time of writing this report, 4 full weeks data has been gathered. Graph 1 below shows tag use/consumption for the first 4 weeks of the amber phase. The average rate of tagging vs number of collections during the period equates to less than 2% overall. The project team are content with

progress to date and will continue to monitor the data, which is summarised in more granular detail in Table 1.

- The Service introduced the quick report of workplace violence to crews at the start of the campaign and as of 29 August 2025, there were no reports made.
- Customer Hub Feedback - There was a spiked increase in customer contact at the start of the amber tagging period due to teething issues with tags in some areas, however returned to normal levels quickly when resolved with only 14 service requests attributed to the bin safety campaign logged on CRM Dynamics during the month of August. A small number of residents have reported that they were not aware of the campaign prior to receiving a tag on their bin.
- Two comments have been recorded about the campaign to date, with residents raising concerns about bins stored on streets/entries being overfilling by neighbours and bins being returned to their bin collection point by crews. The use of Report it app by squads to report matters impacting the collection of bins continues to be critical to assist the hub with handling customer contact.
- It is anticipated that customer contact will increase when the red tagging commences and the customer hub are working with Resource and Fleet Collections to ensure preparedness for the handling of enquiries this is expected to generate.

Graph 1 – summary of amber tag use cycle 1 and cycle 2 (4 weeks)



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Table 1 – headline summary of campaign metrics

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Number of Amber Tags Issued By Crews	1682	2101	1095	921
Percentage of Bins Emptied Tagged	2.08%	2.59%	1.35%	1.14%
WPV Reports	0	0	0	0
Total number of houses posted	19587	23917	28104	34342
Number of Black Bins Ordered	134	162	109	71
Number of Boxes Ordered	564	479	321	215

- 3.8 Corporate Communications summary of campaign feedback so far includes - Social media content has already reached over 300,000 views, with widespread media coverage achieved. This has included TV news on both BBC and UTV. The most successful post alone generated 245,000 views and 1,175 interactions (comments, likes, and reactions).
- 3.9 Corporate Communications will continue to share regular reminder posts. As we move closer to the red tagging stage at the end of September, messaging will be adapted to highlight what red tags signify and why they are important. We plan to issue another media note ahead of the red tagging phase to generate a fresh wave of coverage.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.11 There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Kerbside Glass Collection Expansion
Scheme – Agreement on Additional Streets**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of phase two of the kerbside glass expansion scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve the street list which will make up phase two of the kerbside glass expansion scheme, as outlined in the report.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 In 2024, the Resources and Fleet Service was successful in obtaining capital funding under the DAERA Household Waste Collaborative Change Programme with regard to the expansion of its kerbside glass collections scheme.**
- 3.12 This funding, combined with the Council's capital programme, resulted in the implementation of phase one of this scheme which delivered a Lorna glass collection scheme to 23,000 households from Q4 2024/25. While initial scheme participation data is below expectations, the tonnage captured is on target, with approximately 35 kg/hh/pa equating to around 800 tonnes of glass per annum. The Service is also working on contingency measures for vehicle breakdown to ensure a more consistent approach to kerbside collections across the city.**
- 3.13 The Service is now planning for phase two of the project which involves a further expansion to another 23,000 households. The Implementation phase involves the recruitment of collection crews, procurement of containers for both individual households and apartment blocks, procurement and leasing of vehicles, communication of the scheme to the selected households, assessment of apartments (if any within the selected areas) and finally delivery of containers followed by first collections.**
- 3.14 The scheme roll-out commences with a letter drop to households within the agreed phase two catchment area. This letter will outline the key aspects of the initiative along with practical information such as collection day, frequency, accepted materials and start date. Within seven days of receiving the letter, households will be issued with a kerbside box and lid for the presentation of their glass containers at the kerbside. An information leaflet will also be included within the kerbside boxes reminding residents on the salient points of the scheme. Kerbside collections will then commence within ten working days of receiving the kerbside box.**
- 3.15 Given the lead times associated with a number of these activities, in particular the purchase and receipt of containers, and mindful of the potential clash with collections arrangements for the Christmas 2025 season, it is envisaged**

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that project implementation will commence in January and will be completed by March 2026.

- 3.16 Detailed route planning is still being finalised. Members are requested to approve the street lists so that further detailed planning can be completed. Members will also note that the agreement of phase two will by default result in the final phase three being those households still not receiving a kerbside glass scheme and subject to financial approval via the rates setting exercise, the final roll-out will include these households in the 26/27 financial year.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.1 The capital costs associated with phase two of the glass kerbside expansion scheme will be met by both the Council's capital programme and DAERA's Household Waste Recycling Collaborative Change Fund. Revenue costs will be met through the Service's revenue estimates."

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out. A full list of the streets included in the expansion of Phase 2 of the Scheme can be found in the [attached link](#).

Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee agreed to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Brooke Crescent, Juniper Park, Elimgrove Street, Deerpark Mews, Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane.

Proposals for the Naming of New Streets

The Committee approved the naming of Rileys Place and Keegan Way.

Items Raised in Advance by Members

Replacement Keys for Alley Gates

At the request of Councillor Canavan, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would examine the costs incurred in providing replacement keys to local residents.

**Control of Invasive Species in
Council Parks and Open Spaces**

At the request of Councillor Flynn, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would outline the Council's policy for the management and removal of invasive plant species, in particular Himalayan Balsam, and how such work might be undertaken in partnership with local communities.

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**Proposed Community Consultation on the
Renaming of Balfour Avenue Playground**

At the request of Councillor R. M. Donnelly, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting in this regard.

Chairperson