



Subject:	Alleygate Delivery Update
Date:	7 th October 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety

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 individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<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	<p>The purpose of the following report updates on the delivery of Phase 5 of the Alleygates Programme.</p> <p>The following issues are addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member query relating to delay in delivery of Phase 5b 2. Delivery of Alleygates in Holylands area 3. Issue raised in advance relating to the allocation of replacement keys under the scheme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members to note the additional funding secured to progress the delivery of the remainder of gates under phase 5.
2.2	Members agree to enact the Belfast City Council (Holylands) Traffic Regulation Order 2025 (appendix 1)
2.3	Members to note the costs of replacement keys
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Delivery of Phase 5 of the alleygating programme is underway, with Alleygates in tranche 1 of phase 5 installed.
3.2	Property and Projects Officers are working with the fencing contractor to develop a schedule of works for the delivery of the remaining Alleygates within the programme. It is anticipated that delivery of phase 5, tranche 2, will commence by October 2025, with delivery completed by February 2026.
3.3	<p>The delivery of Alleygates within phase 5 of the programme for the Holyland area of South Belfast, funded by the Department for Communities has been delayed because of concerns raised by landlords within the area.</p> <p>Officers have been working on the issues raised; however, members should note that the objections raised by landlords, relate not to the installation of the Alleygates themselves, rather any subsequent 'alleyway transformation' programme that might be delivered by Council. In correspondence received from landlords, they note however that they would like to see Alleygates installed to assist with security at the rear of their properties.</p>

	<p>The installation of Alleygates and the future delivery of any 'alleyway transformation' programme are separate programmes, with the framework on the delivery of the latter still to be agreed by council.</p>
3.4	<p>Members are asked to enact the Belfast City Council (Holylands) Traffic Regulation Order 2025 (appendix 1) to allow work to commence on the installation of gates under Phase 5b Alleygating programme in the Holylands area of South Belfast.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Key Allocations / Replacements</u></p> <p>When Alleygates are agreed at a location, prior to installation, officers will undertake key distribution sessions, typically in a local facility close to where the gates are being installed. Residents are informed and attend these sessions, completing the relevant paperwork and are issued with 1 key free of charge to allow access to rear of their property, via the new Alleygates.</p>
3.6	<p>Where a resident has recently moved into a property and can demonstrate they did not receive a key at the time of installation, 1 key will be issued to them free of charge.</p>
	<p>If however, a replacement key is required because a resident has lost or broken their original key, the cost of a replacement key is currently set at £25. This charge has been set since the introduction of the original alleygating scheme.</p>
3.7	<p>The alleygating scheme was designed to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and fear of crime at the rear of residential properties across Belfast.</p>
3.8	<p>The purpose of the £25 charge per replacement key was to cover the costs to Council for the replacement, including any associated administration costs. The cost was also designed to reinforce the importance of keeping the original key secure, thus minimising the amount of keys in circulation. The success of each phase of alleygating across the city in reducing ASB, crime and fear of crime is potentially compromised if keys are not kept secure or easily misplaced, and lots of replacement keys are in circulation.</p>
3.9	<p>Each gate across the city requires an individually cut specialist key, to increase the security and integrity of the gates, therefore residents cannot source their own replacement key through a locksmith or traditional key cutting service.</p>

3.10	Replacement keys are issued at Cecil Ward Building, Linenhall Street, and requires those needing a replacement key to attend with appropriate identification and payment, with a replacement key issued at that visit.
3.11	If a resident indicates that they have mobility issues that impacts them attending Cecil Ward Building, officers can make arrangements to complete the relevant paperwork at their home.
3.12	Keys are ordered from a supplier when current stock is low. Costs to Council vary per order, however a replacement master key, which can open all gates, and is typically issued to our cleansing crews and utility companies for essential maintenance, average approx. £21 ex VAT.
3.13	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.
3.14	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>£50,000 from within annual departmental budgets</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known at this time</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - Belfast City Council (Holylands) Traffic Regulation Order 2025