



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 <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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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