



Subject:	European City of Sport Update
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues									
1.1	This paper provides members with an update on the activities undertaken and planned around the European City of Sport.									
2.0	Recommendation									
2.1	Members are asked to: - Note the supported activity to date - Note the ongoing and upcoming programme of activity for the remaining 5 months of the year. - Approve the expenditure relating to the Coaching Conference to be held in October 2026 and expenditure associated with production of a final report in line with the required guidelines.									
3.0	Main Report									
3.1	Background Information Members are aware Belfast was designated as a European City of Sport for 2026 following a bid process and successful ACES delegation visit in November 2025. As a designated European City of Sport Belfast must comply with the general regulations as set out by ACES for successful cities.									
3.2	Members will recall that at committee in May 2026, approval was given for a budget of £220,000 under European City of Sport. In addition, a reprofiling of funds became available from Active Belfast to support small activity grants of up to £1000 available to clubs and community organisations. The profile of the current allocation is shown in Table 1 below. Table 1. European City of Sport budget allocation <table><tr><td>Programme</td><td>Budget</td><td>Awarded to date</td></tr><tr><td>Grass Roots Grants</td><td>£70,000 (Active Belfast reprofile)</td><td> • 55 Applications received totalling £44,137 • 21 BCC Community Centres totalling £10,500 • Rolling application programme until October or funding exhausted </td></tr><tr><td>Showcase Events</td><td>£100,000</td><td> • £50,000 Commonwealth Games Boxing holding Camp • £8,000 Athletics International events celebrating 50 Years of Mary Peters Track • £20,000 Cricket Internationals Ireland vs India & Afghanistan • £2,000 Para-Bowls Irish Championships </td></tr></table>	Programme	Budget	Awarded to date	Grass Roots Grants	£70,000 (Active Belfast reprofile)	• 55 Applications received totalling £44,137 • 21 BCC Community Centres totalling £10,500 • Rolling application programme until October or funding exhausted	Showcase Events	£100,000	• £50,000 Commonwealth Games Boxing holding Camp • £8,000 Athletics International events celebrating 50 Years of Mary Peters Track • £20,000 Cricket Internationals Ireland vs India & Afghanistan • £2,000 Para-Bowls Irish Championships
Programme	Budget	Awarded to date								
Grass Roots Grants	£70,000 (Active Belfast reprofile)	• 55 Applications received totalling £44,137 • 21 BCC Community Centres totalling £10,500 • Rolling application programme until October or funding exhausted								
Showcase Events	£100,000	• £50,000 Commonwealth Games Boxing holding Camp • £8,000 Athletics International events celebrating 50 Years of Mary Peters Track • £20,000 Cricket Internationals Ireland vs India & Afghanistan • £2,000 Para-Bowls Irish Championships								

3.3	Governing Body	£120,000	Applications close Monday 3rd August up to a maximum of £10,000. Applications ringfenced for Governing Body bid partners
	Grass Roots Programmes		
	Total	£290,000	
3.3	Events supported over the first 6 months To date, two well received quarterly reports have been made to ACES with the third to be submitted at the start of October. Some highlighted participation events over the first six months include; - Primary Schools Cross Country - Friendship Four Series Ice Hockey - Spar Craic10K - British Isles Indoor Bowls - GLL Easter Activity Programme - Active and Able Disability Programme - Golf Now Belfast Sports Awards 19 Awards - Belfast City Marathon - GAA Tailteann Cup & Joe McDonagh Cup - Mary Peters 50th Anniversary Track Celebrations - Learn to Cycle Programme - UEFA U17 Euros - NI Power Lifting Competition - Ride on Belfast City - Teenage Kicks at Ulster Hall - NI Masters Athletics event at the Mary Peters Track - T20 International Ireland Vs India - Commonwealth Games Holding Camp – 18 Countries acclimatising in Belfast		
	3.4 Planned Events from August – December - GLL holiday programmes - Boxing International Multi Nations Challenge - IFA Coaching excellence programme - Atlantic Rim Bowling Championships - Belfast City Half Marathon - NI and Ulster combined events championships - European Week of Sport		

	• Coaching Conference • Coach Education Month • Halloween Box Cup International • Primary School Relay event • Friendship Four Men's Ice Hockey • Ulster Elite Boxing Championships • Final Celebration of the Year of Sport
3.5	Request for approval <u>Showcase Events</u> Officers are seeking approval under the City of Sport showcase element to host a Coaching Conference in partnership with our bid partners GLL. The event will take place in October during the annual month of Coach Education. The conference will address the City of Sport requirement for developing skills and championing leadership also aligning with the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy 2026 to work with Governing Bodies of sport and develop long-term sustainable participation. It is estimated that an impactful conference would cost up to £10,000 and would include topics around sports role in ending violence against women and girls, barriers to participation, sharing best practice and inspire coaches across all sports and levels including those based in local communities.
3.6	Reporting Obligations As a designated European City of Sport Belfast must comply with the general regulations as set out by ACES for successful cities these in summary include: Quarterly reporting submission of reports to ACES including: • A summary of the activities carried out, • Photographic material • Media coverage and press impact • A final year report
3.7	In keeping with the ACES regulations, a final year report must be submitted in January 2027 and in keeping with the original bid document, it is expected that this report should be of similar quality and contain a range of high-quality photographs and video footage

	documenting the relevant events throughout the year. These must also contain the obligatory publicity materials on display at the supported events. Officers anticipate that a budget of up to £10,000 from underspends in the budget. would cover the above to ensure we meet the requirements while ensuring the focus of the funding remains on participation.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications within this report as funding is contained within existing budgets as identified.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices
	None