



Subject:	Alleygating Programme Review
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director Neighbourhood Services Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety

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	The purpose of the following report is to update members on the review of Councils Alleygating Programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members to note the content of the report and the proposed scope of the review.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Belfast City Council have delivered an alleygating programme for approximately 20 years, through five separate phases of delivery.
3.2	Phase 5 of the alleygating programme has now concluded, with no further budget identified for any new phase of alleygating. With the conclusion of phase 5, the fencing contract has now also concluded. Ongoing maintenance of existing Alleygates is covered through Councils Property Maintenance team in conjunction with the Community Safety Unit.
3.3	To date, there has been no comprehensive review of the overall programme.
3.4	A report presented to committee in February 2020 recommended undertaking a review of phases 1 – 4 of the alleygating programmes, which was anticipated to begin in 2020/2021.
3.5	The covid pandemic resulted in a pause to this review being undertaken, and subsequently members, following the end of the pandemic, approved further funding for the delivery of phase 5 of the alleygating programme across the city.
3.6	Delivery of phase 5 of the alleygating programme meant that the committee decision to carry out a review would not be practical during the delivery of a new phase, therefore a decision was taken to postpone the review until phase 5 was completed to ensure a comprehensive review could take place of all phases.
3.7	Delivery of phase 5 has now completed and a contractor from Ulster University has been appointed to undertake the review of the alleygating programme.
3.8	The review methodology will involve desk-based research on alleygating alongside fieldwork involving interviews with elected members, council officers, partner agencies and community and resident groups to ensure maximum input from across Belfast.

3.9	Review Aim <i>Belfast City Council has recently completed Phase 5 of the Alleygating Programme. As no comprehensive review of the programme has been undertaken to date, this provides an opportunity to assess its effectiveness and reflect on whether the objectives of each phase have been achieved, including reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving community safety, enhancing the local environment and perceptions of security, reduce environmental nuisance, and support the regeneration of residential neighbourhoods. The review will also explore the internal processes around the selection of sites for alley gates across the city.</i>
3.10	Methodology <i>A review of the documents, statistics, papers and reports relating to the different phases of the Councils Alleygating programme which has been in operation since 2005</i> <i>A series of interviews with stakeholders</i> <i>A brief analysis of evaluations of similar city alleygating programmes from across Ireland and the United Kingdom</i>
3.11	Financial Implications Costs associated with the review will come from existing department budgets, with support from Council officers provided to ensure efficient use of resources.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendices 1 – Scope of review