

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



Belfast
City Council

9th April, 2024

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 9th April, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Restricted**

- (a) Difficult to Access Streets Update (Pages 1 - 14)

3. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) GLL 2024 Business Improvement Plan (Pages 15 - 26)
- (b) Leisure Services Community Engagement and Underrepresented Target Groups (Pages 27 - 52)
- (c) GLL Service Report 2023/24 (Pages 53 - 70)

- (d) Consultation - Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and Circular Economy in NI (Pages 71 - 110)
- (e) Social Supermarkets 2024/25 (Pages 111 - 116)

4. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Requests for Events in Parks (Pages 117 - 122)
- (b) Static Park Warden Pilot Update (Pages 123 - 136)
- (c) Dual Language Street Signage Proposal (Pages 137 - 142)
- (d) Proposal for Naming new Streets (Pages 143 - 146)

5. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Renaming Suffolk Community Garden - Councillor Kelly
- (b) Dilapidated Buildings - Councillor R. Brooks
- (c) Communication Boards - Councillor Bunting

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	GLL Business improvement plan for 2024
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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
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4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
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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

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To present members with the annual GLL Business improvement plan for 2024 as required within the terms of the leisure management contract and as previously reported through Active Belfast Limited.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are requested to consider: The information provided below and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual business improvement plan for the following year. This report has previously been presented through Active Belfast Limited. As the contract is now under direct Council control, this and future annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.</p> <p>GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand.</p> <p>GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping to transform leisure facilities and services across the city. GLL seeks to deliver a successful social business focusing on customer needs. As a not-for-profit organisation, GLL reinvests back into the community by developing staff, investing in BCC centres, supporting young athletes and increasing participation across all user groups.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>The 'GLL Business improvement plan for 2024' attached at Appendix 1 is presented for consideration.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Communications & Public Relations</u></p> <p><u>None</u></p>
3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>

3.6	None <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 GLL Business improvement plan for 2024

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ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS PLAN

PARTNER
OF CHOICE



TACKLING HEALTH
INEQUALITIES



CUSTOMERS &
COMMUNITIES AT OUR HEART



MORE THAN
A JOB

We are a
Living Wage
Employer

RESPECTING
THE PLANET



THE BETTER WAY OF
DOING BUSINESS



PARTNERSHIP:
Belfast

15th December
Adrian Walker

GLL

1. INTRODUCTION AND PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

2024 will see the Belfast Partnership entering its 10th year.

Since 2015 the Belfast partnership has increased from an initial 10 centres to the current level of 16. The Belfast City Council Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP) is nearing completion for its present phase with 6 of 7 new builds having been successfully opened at a cost of £105m.

Additional local reinvestment since 2022 has exceeded £900,000 with a range of 'small scale' projects and upgrades being completed at centres across the estate. These small scale projects have seen significant investment in a number of the older centres with additional improvements approved for completion in 2024.

Our present leisure offering comprises (to 2023):

- 16 Leisure centres
- 10 centres with swimming pools
- 1 bespoke sensory pool at Brook LC
- 5500 swimming lessons per week
- 23,300 Health and Fitness members
- 8 facilities with 3G provision including 6 full size and 15 small sided games pitches
- 17 group exercise studios
- 1000 plus gym stations
- Indoor climbing wall
- Laser Quest

Contract Status

Length of Contract: 15 Years (2015 – 2030)

50/50% surplus share between GLL and BCC

Key Findings

In 2023 the Belfast Partnership delivered another strong year against projected financial performance. Financial success remains a key metric for 2024 with ambitious income projections.

The expansion of inclusive swimming lessons is a key area for growth planned for 2024.

The introduction of a conferencing package at Girdwood will be completed by Quarter 1 2024.

Areas of Improvement for 2024

Staff succession plans for General Managers and Service Managers.

Utility consumption improvement by a further 5% year on year.

Improvement across main income codes by £325,000 year on year (excluding membership and lessons).

Re-introduction of Service Manager, Duty Manager and Fitness Manager forums

2.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

The table below outlines the annual business plan targets for 2024, which will be reviewed and reported to Committee in April and November. The membership target indicates the desired numbers to be achieved by year-end.

KEY RESULT AREA	KPI	TARGET
Financial Performance	% income increase against 2023	11
	% expenditure increase against 2023	11
Customer Growth & Experience	Total Prepaid Members	24,500
	Total participants on Lessons & Courses	6500
	Total Customer Visits	3,300,000
	Customer Satisfaction Score	4.1
	Trust Pilot Reviews	4.1
	% of Online Bookings	80%
Sustainability	Total Energy Consumption vs Target (KWh)	29,717,530
Employee Engagement & Retention (%)	% of staff registered to the GLL Society	33
	% Vacancy Rates	5
	% Voluntary turnover	12
	% Time Lost to Sickness	3
Improved Customer Journey	% of Facilities using the latest technology (Near Field Communication and QR) for access control	90



Belfast City Council is made up of 60 Councillors spread across 10 District Electoral Areas.

Since the new Council mandate, GLL has written to all 60 Councillors and provided a copy of the Belfast Leisure Review, as well as engaging on a cross-party basis on specific matters including autism friendly swimming provision and plans for the future of the service's older building stock.

GLL has established brand partnerships with Belfast City Marathon, Belfast Giants ice hockey team, EastSide Awards (East Belfast business and community development organization), Aisling Educational Bursaries (West Belfast Business and Development Board), Spirit of NI Awards (NI Community recognition awards)

GLL will continue to support 125 athletes on our GSF programme and engage with a range of Sport National Governing Bodies in the delivery of programmes and competitions.

Contract management meetings

The following schedule demonstrates the ongoing contact between GLL and BCC planned for 2024.

- Bi-weekly operational meetings with BCC Partnership Manager.
- Monthly strategic meetings with BCC increased strategic face to face contact with key BCC officers.
- Quarterly Leisure Transformation Board meetings
- Six monthly Facility Maintenance meetings with BCC Senior Officers (Physical Programmes team) have been scheduled in May and November 2024.
- Six monthly contract review meetings with BCC Senior Officers have been scheduled in April and October 2024.

Open lines of communication between BCC and GLL have been developed and maintained since contract commencement in 2015. The success of the partnership has been built around the maintenance of strong business relationships at all officer levels.

4.

CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES AT OUR HEART



In 2024 GLL will deliver a group exercise programme comprising 400 classes offering over 7,500 participation opportunities per week. This will represent a rise of 11% on 2023 figures.

GLL will increase monthly pre-paid membership to 24,500. At current levels over 50% of these will avail of concessionary rates ensuring that price is not a barrier to participation.

GLL works in partnership with Swimming Buddies, an Autism Swim Teaching provider, to deliver autism specific sessions to over 90 participants each week.

2024 will see GLL develop in-house Autism focused swim lessons at an additional 4 locations.

Inclusive sessions are offered for Water Slide and Air Venture Sessions and centres are currently developing a trial for 'quiet gym sessions' to provide for those with specific sensory related conditions.

5.

TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES



GLL is focused on growing opportunities for participation in physical activity as the key driver in tackling health inequalities. More people, More Active, More Often.

GLL continues to deliver on referral pathways for cancer, cardiac, pulmonary and long Covid patients with additional pathways established for musculoskeletal conditions and diabetes. 200 referral patients completed these interventions in 2023 and GLL have set a target of 240 for 2024.

Healthwise membership will increase to 900, up from 850 in 2023 (3-month memberships and DD HealthWise memberships).

In 2024 GLL plans to maintain delivery of 21 specific group classes per week to support participants enrolled in Healthwise programmes introducing specific water and land based musculoskeletal specific sessions.

6.

RESPECTING THE PLANET



GLL will continue to lobby local government for NI support to gain access to schemes such as SALIX and the governments support for swimming pools.

In 2024 GLL will continue to work with BCC on investment in more energy efficient technologies including PV solar panels, EV charging points and further conversion to LED lighting.

GLL will continue to work with BCC on the councils 1,000,000 trees project.

GLL will sit on the councils climate projects team in 2024 along with other key stake holders, identifying co-operative projects for reducing carbon emissions and creating a greener Belfast.

7.

MORE THAN A JOB

We are a
Living
Wage
Employer

GLL will develop a staff wellness strategy and will implement city-wide wellness plans to include monthly walk and talk events, benefits brunches and regular training.

GLL will recruit a further 4 Trainee Managers and 3 University placement students.

GLL will develop and roll out the “You Choose” initiative for stable contracted hours. This affords colleagues the choice of upgrading to a permanent contract of employment.

GLL will develop content for and host 3 middle management seminars in 2024 for the designations of Assistant Manager, Duty Manager and Fitness Manager.

Upskilling of Trainee Managers in project management, report writing, business and project planning, maintenance and energy management during projects placement. 3 placements will be delivered in 2024.

8.

THE BETTER WAY OF DOING BUSINESS



In 2024 GLL will expand JAM card friendly training to the front of house teams.

GLL will improve the Events and Conferencing offer. Agreed packages and promotional plan will be in place by end of Quarter 1 2024. A Trainee Management placement was assigned in Jan 24 to assist in delivery.

Strategic marketing approach to sales campaigns targeted for each Centre to include internal branding to achieve our goal of 24,500 prepaid members and 8,500 Pay and Play members by the end of 2024.

9.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / ENDORSEMENTS

GLL have partnered with BCC in the successful launch of seven new centres since 2015. Six of these centres are part of the Councils Leisure Transformation Programme.

Since the commencement of the contract (2015) pre-paid membership have risen from 7,500 to 23,500 with centre footfall exceeding 3,000,000 visits per annum in 2023.

Swimming lesson uptake has increased from 1,250 in 2015 to nearly 5,500 per week in 2023.

Health intervention programmes (Physical Activity Referrals) have substantially increased aligned to enhanced demand.

2024 will see GLL Belfast operate with no planned centre openings or closures. This stable service offering will allow GLL to build upon successes achieved to date and for the first time compare accurate like for like year on year performance.

Four cafes at Lisnasharragh, Andersonstown, Olympia and Grove will re-open by April 2024 in partnership with an external provider to augment our provision.

GLL look forward to another busy and customer focused year in Belfast.

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Subject:	GLL community engagement and underrepresented target groups update
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☒

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To provide members with the annual update for 2023 on community engagement and underrepresented group focused promotional activity.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are requested:</p> <p>To consider and record receipt of the information provide below and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual report on community engagement initiatives for the preceding year. This annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.</p> <p>GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of GLL's core priorities is to ensure full access for all members of the community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often. CNS works closely with GLL to encourage community outreach and regular participation amongst traditionally underrepresented target groups.</p> <p>GLL employ a Regional Business Manager (RBM), whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people fromn every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity.</p> <p>In support of this the RBM manages a team of three Community Sport Officers, a team of ten Health Officers and one Group Exercise Coordinator. All members of the team have work programmes designed to deliver on strategic objectives with a focus to increase participation in both the mainstream and underrepresented groups.</p> <p>GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable, and non-inhibiting.</p> <p>GLL re-invests through the GLL Sport Foundation that provides and sustains support for talented individuals.</p> <p>53% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>Sport National Governing Body (NGB) and Club Programmes</p>

GLL continue to support a number of Sport NGBs in the delivery of their holiday programmes, grassroots events and performance programmes. Holiday camps were delivered by the Irish FA and Ulster Badminton. In addition to this GLL worked with Peace Players International, British Fencing and Ulster Boxing in the delivery of coaching workshops throughout the summer months.

All Ireland water polo league events are hosted regularly at Lisnasharragh LC and the venue has also hosted a number of Ulster Swimming Galas. Ulster Boxing competitions are regularly welcomed to centres including Girdwood CH, Ballysillan LC, Brook LC and Whiterock LC. Shankill LC hosts the Northern Ireland Futsal Federation league for both males and females and in the Autumn, began hosting Northern Ireland Fencing competitions. NGBs regularly deliver coach education courses at BCC leisure centres.

BCC leisure centres, programmed by GLL, host over 200 local sports clubs and performance squads. Leisure centres in Belfast are utilised for club and performance training and service a variety of local and regional competitions. Gaelic games, boxing, fencing, football, futsal, rugby, tennis, table tennis, cricket, basketball, baseball, netball, softball, dodgeball, swimming, water polo and martial arts are amongst the sports allocated essential training facilities for programme delivery.

School & Youth programmes

GLL works with local Primary and Post Primary schools to provide facilities to support physical education delivery. Over 80 schools accessed school swimming lessons accounting for an allocation of over 5,000 programmed pool lane hours in 2023.

Centres facilitated a number of primary and secondary school end of term celebrations in June. Schools were able to access a variety of junior products and swimming pools across the city to celebrate the conclusion of their academic year.

GLL have expanded their Holiday Scheme programme to now deliver in Easter, Summer and Halloween. In total 80 supervisors and instructors were recruited to deliver the programme during the three holiday periods. Twelve centres in total delivered the programme over the three holiday periods. Programmes varied from a traditional holiday activity scheme model and others delivering sports specific models. Football, Gaelic games, gymnastics, basketball, swimming and tennis were offered as sports specific schemes. GLL worked in partnership with Ulster GAA, Ulster Badminton, Northern Ireland Fencing, Ulster Boxing and Peace Players International to support coaching sessions throughout the holiday scheme programme. In total the GLL Holiday Scheme catered for 2,766 children which represented 81% of the spaces offered. Additional detail is provided in Appendix 1.

GLL delivers a lessons and courses programme currently focused on swimming, gymnastics, tennis and climbing. Throughout 2023 over 5,500 children have been enrolled on swimming lessons, 40 in diving lessons, 220 in tennis lessons, 160 in gymnastics sessions and 50 in climbing lessons. In the coming year (2024) GLL plan to expand the swimming programme to cater for 6,500 children weekly, 65 in diving, over 250 in tennis, over 250 in gymnastics and 65 in climbing.

Brook LC has engaged with a number of Special Needs schools to offer the Air Venture product to support with Physical Education delivery. This combined with the sensory pool has resulted in 30% of all Brook Leisure Centre programming being an inclusive offering.

Community outreach

In 2022 GLL established community engagement leads in each centre to drive local engagement projects but also support citywide initiatives. In December twelve centres supported the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. Over 700 gifts were donated with an estimated value of £10,000.

GLL continue to partner with 'Menshed' by offering space at Girdwood CH, Brook LC and Whiterock LC where the focus is on improving mental health for men.

GLL have supported a number of mental health charities and initiatives in the form of awareness and fund raising.

The Colin Autism Support Group uses Brook LC for parents of children with autism and other learning disabilities.

Avoniel and Andersonstown hosted open days for community organisations to promote their work to customers within the centres.

The Belfast Community Sport team delivered an outreach event to Ulster University Sports Studies students in October at Girdwood CH. This event saw over 80 students participate in a variety of sports and activities. GLL also presented employment opportunities within Belfast highlighting student placement opportunities and their trainee manager scheme.

Older Participant Programmes

At the end of 2023 30% of all Belfast pay and play and prepaid members were aged 60+. Council continues to provide free of charge access for over 60's before 11.00am Monday to Friday.

GLL delivers a daily programme of activities targeted at and suitable for older people. The programme expanded month on month throughout 2023. Belfast benefits from a citywide pool programme that ensures there is always Swim for Fitness (lane swimming) and Swim for All (family casual swim) options available every day across the city. GLL continue to deliver an introductory physical activity programme suitable for members looking for a lower intensity/low impact workout.

GLL deliver a number of active ageing mornings across the city which include activities such as Danderball, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia and Water Polo. These are being delivered at Avoniel LC, Falls LC, Girdwood CH, Grove WC, Lisnasharragh LC, Olympia LC Ozone, and Shankill LC. GLL have plans in place to expand the programme in 2024.

On Friday 29th September Girdwood CH hosted the Better Club Games. Six centres were represented and a total of 50 participants took part in seven sports/activities throughout the

day which included Pickleball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Bowls, Boccia and a selection of physical challenges. Additional information is provided in Appendix 2.

GLL deliver chronic conditions (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.

Strategic partnerships and working groups (attended by CNS and GLL) are well established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.

Girdwood CH partners with Chest, Heart and Stroke Association in offering weekly low intensity exercise along with arts and crafts.

People with disabilities

GLL supports the NOW group (Social Enterprise) in the delivery of a 'Lets Get Fit Now' programme in Falls LC. This programme offers participants with a learning disability the opportunity to participate in tailored fitness classes and gym inductions.

Belvoir Activity Centre in partnership with Disability Sport NI provides a dedicated disability sports hub catering for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Boccia and New Age Curling. Ballysillan LC also supported the Northern Ireland Powerchair team in their World Cup preparations as well as providing training space for the Trailblazers club.

Whiterock LC supports disability groups in Upper Springfield by offering sports and fun fitness sessions twice per week.

The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 2 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will contribute to their individual coaching, travel, competition, and equipment costs.

Brook LC has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The centre runs six weekly 'quiet swims' currently attracting approximately 20 to 30 participants in each session. GLL engage with Swimming Buddies, an organisation that specialises in Autism friendly swimming lessons. Currently sessions are being offered throughout the week at both Brook LC and Templemore Baths. Brook LC also supports the delivery of Air Venture inclusive sessions which are designed to meet the sensory requirements of participants.

Women & Girls

47% of all current Belfast members are female (16,719).

In partnership with Irish FA, GLL provide female only football sessions at five centres across the city through the IFA Shooting Stars Programme.

3.3	<p>GLL have supported Netball NI in the delivery of their social netball programme and are also in discussion about the potential for Lisnasharragh LC to become a regular training base for the senior international squad.</p> <p>GLL supports 64 female athletes through the GSF programme (51.2%) to enable them to compete at national and international level in their respective sports.</p> <p>GLL works in partnership with WISPA in the delivery of female only classes (aqua aerobics, yoga, Pilates and circuits) at Avoniel LC, Belvoir AC, Brook LC, Olympia LC, Shankill LC and Whiterock LC</p> <p>Brook LC delivered an after schools multisport and fitness programme for girls and also works in partnership with local GAA clubs to deliver a 'Gaelic for mothers' programme.</p> <p>Family programming</p> <p>GLL have created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate. For example, a 'basic group exercise offering' which permits junior members to exercise with older family members.</p> <p>Junior group exercise classes have been introduced into the group exercise timetable and GLL plan to expand this programme in 2024 subject to the availability of qualified staff. Adult and Child gym sessions have been added across the city which permits children as young as 9 to attend the gym as long as they are accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian.</p> <p>Junior and family products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown LC, Air Venture at Brook LC and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh LC are all meeting the demands of families, particularly over the weekend and holiday periods.</p> <p>Birthday parties are offered at all centres and represent good value for money. Provision includes bouncy castles, climbing wall, sports (indoor and outdoor) along with the new products mentioned above.</p> <p>Wet centres provide family fun pool sessions, with floats and inflatables, as part of their weekly programme.</p> <p>Brook LC offers weekly pool parties and family aqua aerobics sessions.</p> <p>GLL continue to provide a citywide family membership which was first launched in August 2021. At the end of December 2023 there was over 400 family memberships across Belfast which equates to 1,982 members.</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>To consider and record receipt of the information provide above and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
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3.4 3.5 3.6	<u>Communications & Public Relations</u> None <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached (below)
	Appendix 1 - GLL Holiday Scheme Programme Report 2023 Appendix 2 – Better Club Games Report 2023

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GLL Belfast Easter Scheme

Background

GLL in Belfast delivered an Easter Scheme programme for the first time since the Covid-19 Pandemic. After the success of the previous year's Summer Schemes, the demand for an Easter Scheme was growing. Due to this being the first delivery of an Easter Scheme in a number of years, there were only three centres delivering a traditional scheme with a heavier focus on sport specific schemes. This allowed us to use already existing staff members such as Tennis, Swimming and Gymnastics coaches to deliver as well as being able to outsource coaches for GAA and Basketball. Overall, this meant there was less demand on us to hire new members of staff.

As mentioned above, three centres delivered a traditional Holiday Scheme model in addition to seven centres delivering a sports specific model. Gymnastics was offered at Belvoir Activity Centre, Tennis at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex whilst swimming was offered at Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Shankill Leisure Centres. For the first time Whiterock Leisure Centre hosted a mixed GAA and Soccer scheme with help from Ulster GAA. We also partnered with Peace Players NI to deliver a basketball scheme at Shankill Leisure Centre.

Statistics

In total the GLL Halloween Schemes catered for 251 children which was 78% utilisation of the spaces offered. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 92 across their traditional scheme and swimming short courses which represented 86% utilisation, followed behind by Olympia Leisure Centre with 44 (74%) and Belvoir Activity Centre with 25 (100%).

Further information can be found in figure 1 below.

Figure2: GLL Easter Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female	Total
Grove	7	11	6	14	10	24
Lisnasharragh	12	18	10	19	21	40
Olympia	7	12	6	13	12	25
Belvoir (Gymnastics)	14	8	3	8	17	25
Ozone (Tennis)	6	14	9	15	14	29
Shankill (Basketball)	3	11	2	10	6	16
Whiterock (GAA and Soccer)	7	5	1	10	3	13
Lisnasharragh (Swimming)	32	20	0	24	28	52
Olympia (Swimming)	6	4	9	10	9	19
Shankill (Swimming)	6	2	0	4	4	8
Totals	100	105	46	127	124	251

GLL Belfast Summer Scheme

Background

GLL in Belfast were delighted to once again deliver a successful Summer Scheme programme. Recruitment commenced in April and fourteen Activity Supervisors and 56 Activity Instructors were selected to support the programme during July and August.

Twelve centres delivered a traditional Summer Scheme model in addition to six centres delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel, Brook and Whiterock Leisure Centres, gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre, tennis at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex and basketball at Shankill Leisure Centre.

The traditional Summer Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools along with Air Venture, Aqua Splash, Surf Belfast and Waterslides at specific centres.



Image 1: Participants of Avoniel and Templemore Baths joint Summer Scheme.

A variety of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) supported the GLL Summer Schemes in our centres that delivered a non sports specific offering.

Ulster Boxing delivered sessions for the older children that attended our traditional Summer Schemes across Belfast. They delivered 20 sessions and attended centres from all corners of the city. Patrick Gallagher (Commonwealth Gold medallist) and Brendan Irvine (Olympian and European Silver medallist) delivered the sessions tailoring their coaching to suit the age and ability of the children.

Table Tennis Ulster delivered 10 sessions for children aged 7-14 in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre across the 5 weeks of their summer schemes. Sessions were taken by Jing Yi Gao (former Table Tennis Olympian) with the focus to get more kids involved in the sport and teach them the basic rules of the game.

Annadale Hockey Club delivered multiple sessions in Olympia Leisure Centre and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre through their coach Philip Wilson. The sessions were delivered once a week to all summer scheme participants with the main focus being on having fun whilst learning basic hockey skills.

Statistics

The traditional Summer Scheme offered an early drop off option at four of the centres. The uptake was once again low with only 109 slots being booked, a small increase of 7 from last year. Overall, the early drop off only had a 37.8% occupancy rate. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,861 children which was 96.3% utilisation of the spaces offered. Compared to 2022, this was an increase of 407 children and 19.2% increase in utilisation of spaces.

With the early drop off included 1,970 children were involved in GLL programmes this summer, representing 88.7% utilisation of the 2,220 spaces offered. 49.7% of the spaces taken were from males and the remaining 50.3% from females. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 319 which represented 99.7% utilisation, followed behind by Olympia Leisure Centre with 227 (97.8%) and Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex 204 (89.9%). These figures do not include early drop off.

Further information can be found in figure 2 and 3 below.

Figure2: GLL Traditional Summer Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female
Andersonstown	99	77	24	98	102
Ballysillan	19	10	3	12	21
Belvoir	12	3	1	5	11
Brook	74	38	6	69	51
Falls	85	46	17	74	74
Grove	84	80	33	96	104
Lisnasharragh	115	123	81	130	189
Olympia	107	87	23	127	100
Ozone	25	105	74	112	92
Shankill	79	55	9	94	49
Templemore	50	51	20	56	65
Whiterock	67	53	10	55	75
Totals	816 (44.2%)	728 (39.5%)	301 (16.3%)	928 (49.9%)	933 (50.1%)

Figure 3: GLL Traditional Summer Scheme Statistics – Capacity and Utilisation

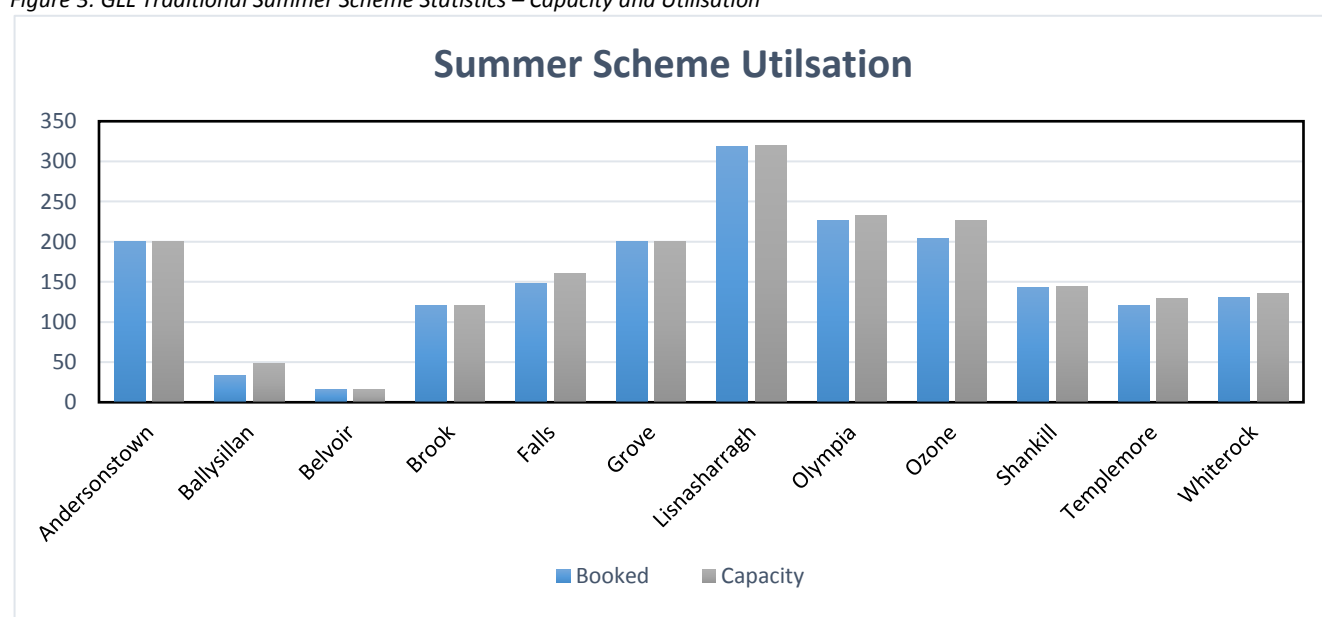




Image 2: Children learning to play football at Brook Leisure Centre.



Image 3: Children learning to box with Patrick Gallagher at Olympia Leisure Centre..

Sports Specific Summer Schemes

Belvoir Gymnastics Summer Scheme

The Belvoir Activity Centre Gymnastics Summer Scheme was delivered between 17th – 21st July, 31st July – 4th August and 7th – 11th August. The weeks involved 5 x 2 hour sessions delivered by a current GLL Level 1 gymnastics coach and supervised by a Group Activity Instructor. The children had a range of ability so the sessions were structured in such a way that participants could be introduced to new skills, play fun games and develop core skills through instruction and play.

59 participants attended the scheme which represented 92.2% utilisation. 75% of the participants were female and 25% male, this was a 7% increase on male participation from the previous year. The age range of participants was from 5 to 12 years of age.

The scheme was designed to provide a sports specific option for those either current enrolled on GLL gymnastics programmes or who would be keen to enroll in September. The gymnastics programme at Belvoir Activity Centre took a break over the summer period and resumed on Monday 4th September.

Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

Avoniel delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 14th - 18th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 13 children attended the scheme which represented 81.3% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 3 participants aged between 5 to 7 with the rest being 8 to 11. 62% of these participants were male and 38% female, a 23% increase on female participation than the previous year.

Brook Football Summer Scheme

Brook Leisure Centre also delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 31st July - 4th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 20 children attended the scheme which represented 100% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 3 participants aged between 5 to 7 with the rest being 8 to 11 and 60% of these participants were male and 40% female.

Whiterock Football Summer Scheme

Whiterock Leisure Centre also delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 7th - 11th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 26 children attended the scheme which represented 100% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 14 participants aged between 5 to 7, 10 were aged 8 to 11 and only two aged 11-14. 81% of these participants were male and only 19% were female.

Ozone Tennis Short Courses

The Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex delivered small group tennis lessons throughout the summer for seven weeks from 3rd July to 25th August. These lessons were for children aged 5-14 with sessions being split 5 to 7 and 8 to 14 age groups. The lessons were aimed at giving children an accelerated learning experience as

oppose to the regular one session a week, they received daily tennis lessons with the qualified tennis coaches at Ozone. In total 76 children participated in the short courses, representing 45% utilisation.

Shankill Basketball Summer Scheme

Shankill Leisure Centre in conjunction with Peace Players NI delivered a basketball camp from 14th to 18th August. This scheme was aimed at getting children involved in basketball and learning the basic skills and rules of the sport. The scheme was open to children aged 5-14 years old. In total there were 10 participants in this scheme, representing 63% utilisation. The gender split was 50% each with 2 being in the 5 to 8 age group, 4 in the 8 to 11 age group and also 4 in the 11 to 14 age group.

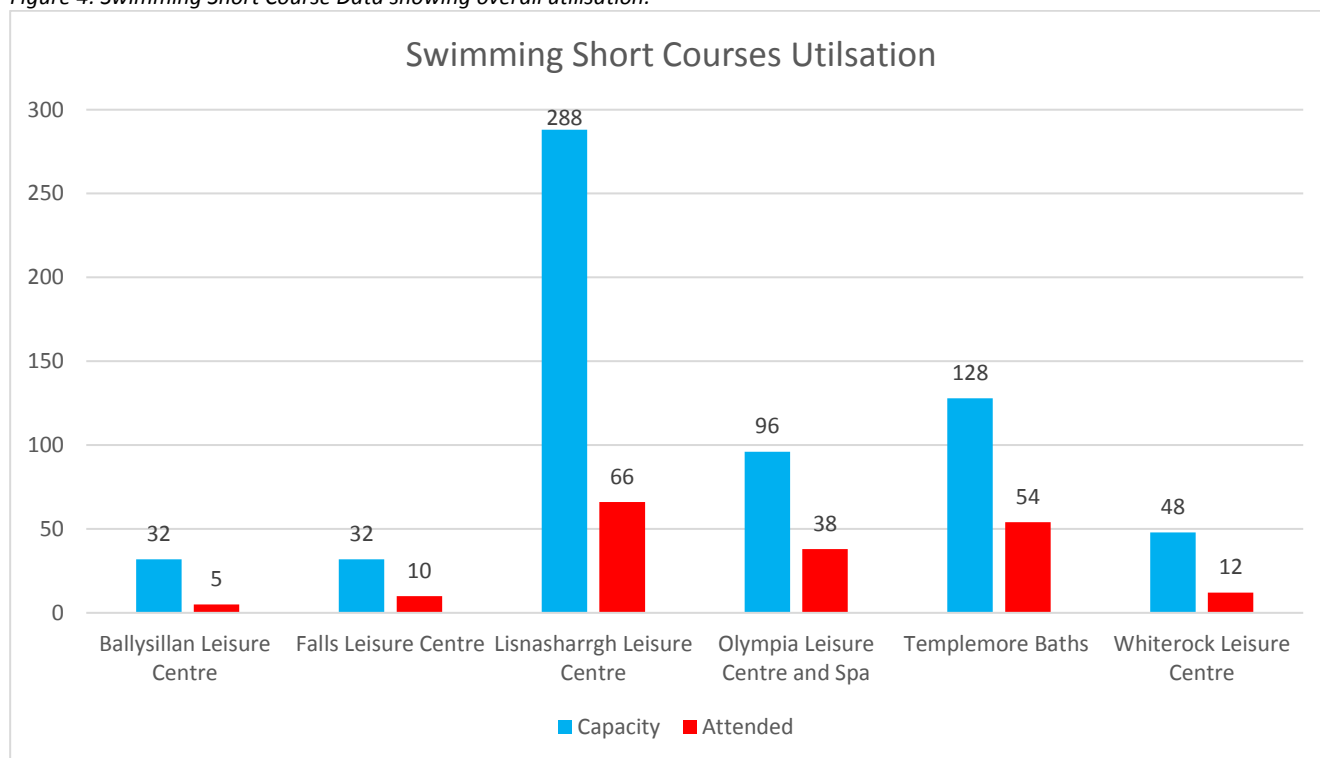
Aquatics Short Courses

During the months of July and August a selection of Swimming Short Courses were delivered in Belfast. The venues included Ballysillan Leisure Centre, Falls Leisure Centre, Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre, Olympia Leisure Centre, Templemore Baths and Whiterock Leisure Centre. The aim of these courses is to help beginners feel comfortable in the water as accelerate their learning by providing them with a lesson each day instead of the usual weekly lesson as part of our Swim School programme.

Overall 185 children attended these courses throughout the summer, representing a 30% utilisation rate. This was down by 55 participants from the previous year. Due to the increase in Swim School members and capacity, this can explain why there is a decrease in numbers. The need for complete beginners to avail of short Swimming Courses has declined as we are now in a better position to meet the demands of lessons and courses throughout the entire year in comparison to the previous year.

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre delivered to 66 children which showed an increase of 3 from the previous year and was the most of any centres this summer. However, Templemore Baths recorded the highest utilisation rate of 42% and delivered to 54 children. All the data can be viewed in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Swimming Short Course Data showing overall utilisation.



Summer Scheme Celebration Event

On Thursday 3rd August the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex was host to a Summer Scheme Celebration Day to mark the success of the Summer Scheme programme. The day welcomed over 300 children from across 9 centres. Each centre split their groups into age sections and were all given a specific centre colour Better t-shirt.



Images 4 and 5: Children showcase the sports on offer at the celebration event.

At the beginning of the day each group were sent to a sports activity station, either in the indoor tennis courts or on the 3G Multi Sports Pitch. GLL enlisted the support of a number of sporting NGBs and clubs to deliver coaching sessions throughout the day. The participants rotated stations every 20 minutes so they could experience of all the sports on offer.

The NGBs and clubs included the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Peace Players NI and NI Fencing. East Belfast GAA, Knockbreda FC and Annadale Hockey Club also supported by providing coaches for the specific sports. All other stations were delivered by qualified GLL staff including tennis, rugby, fitness, dodgeball, cricket and athletics stations.



Images 6 and 7: Children with Johnny Davis from NI Fencing and Aidan Walsh, Jacqui Pope and Councilor Ryan Murphy, Lord Mayor of Belfast with participants.

GSF Athlete and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Aidan Walsh was present to support the children, provide expertise coaching the boxing sessions and be an overall inspiration to all children. The event also welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Ryan Murphy. Speaking about the event he said, “The Summer Scheme programme is brilliant, it’s a great opportunity to bring kids together, help them make new friends and also give them a bit of an insight into the different sports and try to promote an active healthy

lifestyle. It's fantastic to be able to bring people together from all across the city to celebrate the success of the Summer Schemes."

The celebration event was a wonderful way to celebrate the summer of activity to a close and showcase the good work that had been delivered across the city in July and August. The Community Sports team in Belfast will review all aspects of delivery and consider feedback from participants, staff and partners as they formulate their summer plans for 2024.

The remainder of this report will highlight some of the other projects that were delivered across Belfast during June, July and August that formed part of our wider community engagement this summer.



Images 8 to 11: Images of children and coaches at the Summer Scheme Celebration at Ozone.

Local Community Group Summer Programmes

GLL have supported numerous organisations and community groups throughout the summer in all of our centres to deliver community events and sports programmes. Below are just some of the most significant events that took place in some of our centres.

Andersontown Leisure Centre

On 27th June, Andersonstown hosted a Performance Analysis and Talent Identification workshop which was delivered by Terence O'Hara. Terence currently works for Ajax FC and has previously worked with Leicester FC AND Nottingham Forest FC. This event was open to all local football coaches who wanted an insight into how professional clubs operate within this department. Over 50 people registered their interest in this event with 29 actually attending the event. The attendees' ages ranged from 21-56 with both senior and junior coaches in attendance. The coaches were a mix of male and female and came from all corners of the city.

On 22nd August, a Health and Fitness Fair was organised and hosted by the team at Andersonstown. The aim of the fair was to promote awareness around the benefits of physical activity for your mental wellbeing and physical health. As well as how a well-balanced diet can help you improve your health for the better. This included Cooper's Pharmacy, Avonmore, Marie Shaw (dietician), Olympia Spa team, Better Healthwise team and Anthony Nolan charity all having dedicated stalls and information points throughout the centre. This was open to anyone and attracted many non-members into the centre for the first time whilst also helping current members discover more on how to improve their wellbeing.



Images 12 and 13: Local coaches take part in a Performance Analysis and Talent Identification workshop at Andersonstown and Olympia Spa Experience team at the Health and Fitness Fair hosted by Andersonstown.

Avoniel

Galactico Soccer hosted their Primary School tournaments at Avoniel on Friday 2nd and 9th June. The first day was an all-girls tournament whilst the boys competed the week after. With over 300 children in attendance both days and 22 schools, it was a very successful event.

On June 16th seen the return of the Annual Men's Health event in collaboration with Community Sport Network. It kicked off the morning, beginning with an 8 team Danderball tournament. Clubs from across Northern Ireland were invited to represent their team and compete. Avoniel won the tournament themselves however it was a great day for everyone involved.

Alongside this there was a Men's Health Fair in the studio space which allowed men to gain more information on health related topics. This included 15 stalls and information points including our own Healthwise team, Prostrate Cancer and Men's Shed along with many others. Both events drew over 300 men to Avoniel on the day.

Avoniel again hosted Elmgrove Primary School's end of year Sports Day on 16th June. With 600 pupils in attendance and having a fantastic day, this is now a staple venue for the school due to the standard of the facilities.

Clonduff Football Club hosted their end of season awards and fun day at Avoniel. This included over 200 children in attendance to celebrate their season past.

Avoniel hosted an Ethnic Minority 11 a-side football completion in collaboration with EMSONI Foreign nationalities, whom reside in Northern Ireland each represented their countries to battle it out to find out the overall champion. Teams from Nigeria, Sudan, Northern Ireland, Senegal, Romina, Poland, Portugal, Ghana, Benin, South African and Syria all took part.

Every Monday and Wednesday in August Women in Sport and Physical Activity held a Boot Camp style class at Avoniel. The sessions were delivered by fully qualified female instructors who specialise in a range of exercising methods such as Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, Circuits and Chair based aerobics.

Avoniel hosted multiple sports camps during the summer including the Irish Football Association, Clonduff FC, TW Sports Group, Eastside Partnership and Healthy Kidz.



Images 14 and 15: Danderball participants and the Men's Health Fair at Avoniel.

Brook Leisure Centre

Brook Leisure Centre hosted a community fun day on 8th August. This event had been run by the Feile festival in 2022 as a diversionary day to help detract from the anti-social behaviour associated with the festival. Funding cuts in 2023 meant they couldn't deliver this event themselves, however, the centre delivered a community fun day allowing for all activities to be discounted to £1.

Kelly's Roller Disco repeated their successful event from 2022 once again on 4th August this year with around 150 people in attendance.

Local school's held end of term fun days at Brook with a combined pool party and air venture session with Scoil Na Fuisseoige and St Colm's both choosing to celebrate their end of school year at Brook Leisure Centre.

Football clubs also chose to hold fun days at Brook Leisure Centre during the summer with the aim of tackling anti-social behaviour. The sessions hosted over 250 children.

Better Gym Connswater

On 4th June, Connswater hosted a member walk in which they trekked up Cavehill. At the top they enjoyed some buns along with tea and coffee. In total, they had 7 members join them on this walk and plan to continue hosting walks in the future.

Girdwood Community Hub

Girdwood hosted multiple summer schemes delivered by outside organisations, these included; Our Club Our Community; TAMHI; Belfast Trust; Cliftonville Community Regeneration; St Malachy's Youth FC; New Lodge Arts; and Open Arts.

They also facilitated Fun Days during the summer for Cruse Bereavement and Pathways Project on 26th July and 25th August respectively. Both events were well attended and received by well by all involved.

The NHS hosted a Wheelchair Skill Event at Girdwood on Tuesday 1st August. This was aimed at young people and was attended by people from all over Belfast.

Lower Old Park Community Association held their roller skating event at Girdwood in the main hall on 5th August to conclude their fun day.

Belfast City Council also facilitated an end of summer disco for young children. This was attended by 60 young people on 18th August. They also held a bird box making event in centre on 21st August to support mindfulness and senior activities

The Aston Centre ran a health and wellbeing day on 8th August. This was supported by TAMHI and a colour run also took place around the centre to conclude the event.

TAMHI also delivered a programme called Girdwood 4 All summer intervention which was delivered every Monday to Thursday from 6pm to 10pm between 31st July to 25th August.

On 22nd August Girdwood hosted a cultural heritage event which was attended by 200 people to enjoy a range of African music and cuisines.

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted Aqua Splash sessions on 9th and 30th July and 13th and 27th August. This is an increase on the usual timetable in order to cater for the school holidays. Several hundred children and adults attended the wet inflatable sessions.

Whiterock Leisure Centre

Springfield Trust organised their annual Fun Day at Whiterock Leisure Centre. As part of this fun day they booked the main hall, multi sports pitch and front car park. They had bouncy castles set up along with free taster sessions on electrical go-karts and offered free treatments and massages. Sainsbury's food bags were also given out and a barbecue was set up for people to enjoy some burgers and hot dogs in the community garden.

GLL Halloween Programme

Background

GLL in Belfast were delighted to deliver a successful Halloween Scheme programme for the first time. After the success of the Easter and Summer Schemes, the demand for a Halloween Scheme was growing. Due to this being the first delivery of a Halloween Scheme, there were only 30 Children's Activity Instructors and Supervisors hired. This was also due to the Halloween holidays not being as long in duration or in line with regular University holiday times, therefore the pool of potential workers was decreased.

Six centres delivered a traditional Holiday Scheme model in addition to three centres delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel and Brook Leisure Centre as well as gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre. The traditional Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools along with many other fun activities.

Statistics

In total the GLL Halloween Scheme catered for 156 children which was 75% utilisation of the spaces offered. Shankill Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 31 which represented 96.9% utilisation, followed behind by Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre with 30 (75%) and Andersonstown Leisure Centre with 22 (91.7%).

Further information can be found in figure 5 below.

Figure5: GLL Halloween Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female	Total
Andersonstown	12	8	0	10	12	22
Falls	12	7	0	9	10	19
Grove	5	7	3	9	7	16
Lisnasharragh	15	9	5	16	14	30
Shankill	13	12	4	18	13	31
Whiterock	4	1	0	0	5	5
Avoniel (Football)	2	1	1	2	2	4
Belvoir (Gymnastics)	10	5	0	4	11	15
Brook (Football)	8	5	1	9	5	14
Totals	81	55	14	77	79	156

Holiday Scheme Performance

The total participant numbers, gender split and age split of the combined programmes can be viewed in figures 6 to 8 below.

Figure 6: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Total Participation Numbers

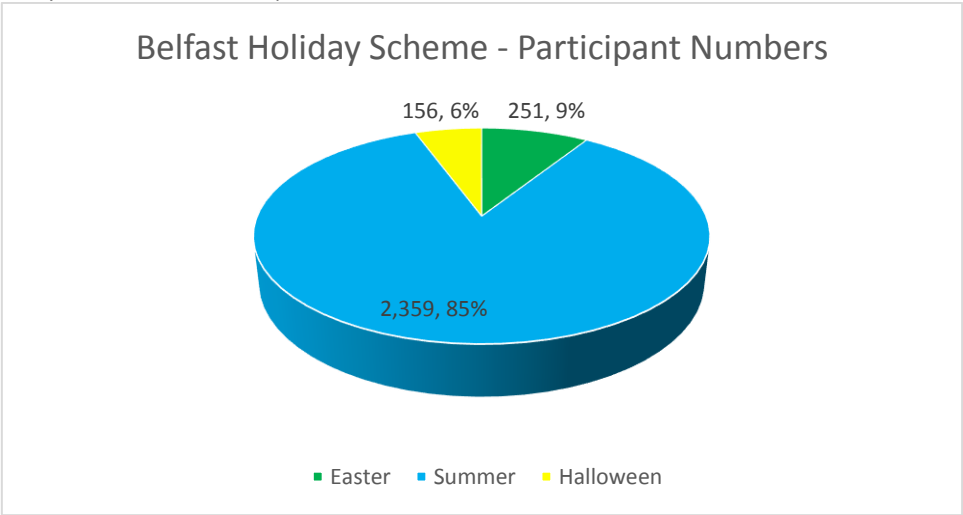


Figure 7: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Gender Spilt

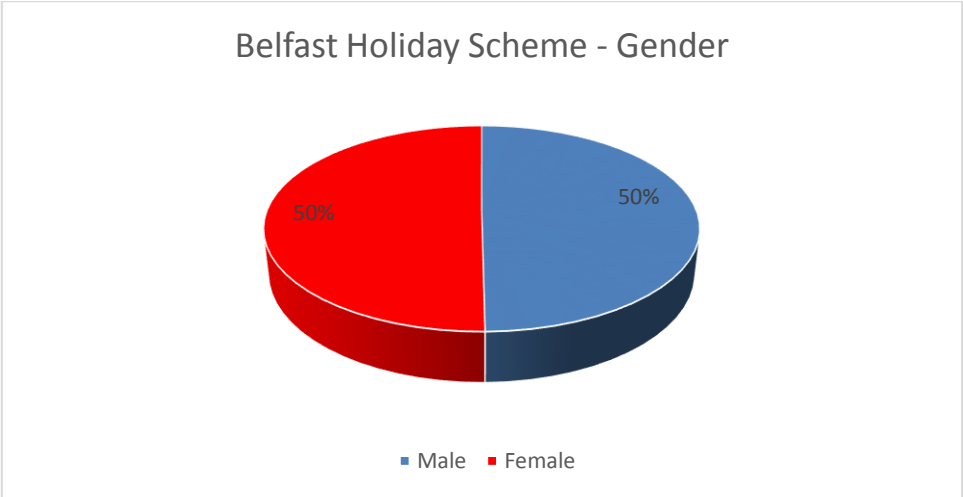
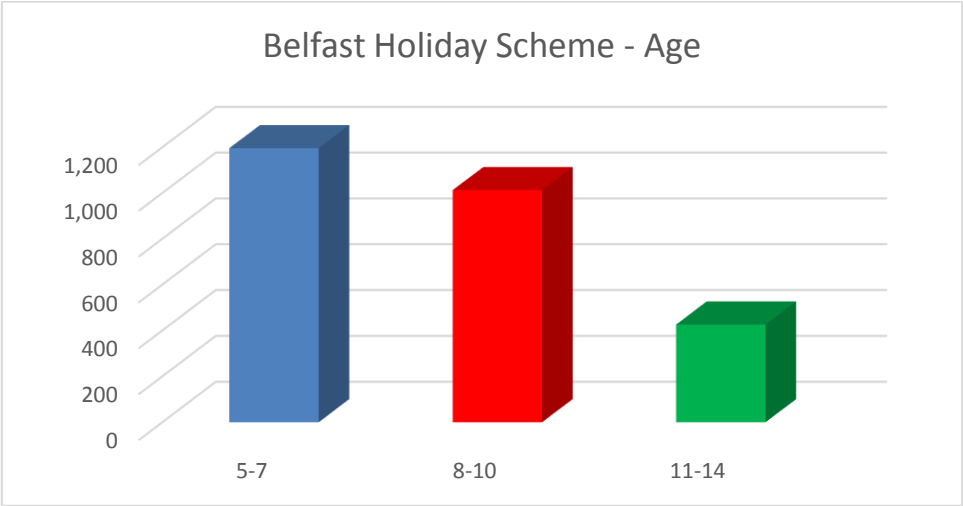


Figure 8: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Age Spilt



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Belfast Club Games

2023 Report



On Friday 29th September, Better Belfast hosted their Club Games event at Girdwood Community Hub. GLL welcomed over 50 participants aged 60+ from centres across Belfast to take part in a range of sports. These sports included Table Tennis, Badminton, Bowls, Boccia, Pickleball and Fitness Challenges.

Upon arrival all participants signed in and picked their two sports they would like to take part in, one in the morning session and one in the afternoon session. They were also given a Better t-shirt with each centre having their own dedicated colour.

The competitions went very well with a great level of competitiveness being shown whilst keeping a good level of sportsmanship throughout. In between sessions, participants were provided with tea, coffee and sandwiches along with tray bakes and cakes as our Macmillan Coffee Morning was running parallel to this.

In the end, Team Falls came away with the win after winning the Bowls and Badminton, taking over from reigning champions Girdwood. It was a great day for everyone involved and the feedback we have received has been very positive.



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Subject:	GLL service report for 2023										
Date:	9 th April 2024										
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services										
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager										
Restricted Reports											
Is this report restricted?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 											
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table> <tr> <td>After Committee Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>				After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 or Summary of main Issues
	To present members with the annual GLL service report for 2023 as required within the terms of the leisure management contract and as previously reported through Active Belfast Limited.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are requested to consider:</p> <p>The information provided below and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual service report for the preceding year. This report has previously been presented through Active Belfast Limited. As the contract is now under direct Council control, this and future annual service reports will be presented through the People and Communities committee.</p> <p>GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand.</p> <p>GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping to transform leisure facilities and services across the city. GLL seeks to deliver a successful social business focusing on customer needs. As a not-for-profit organisation, GLL reinvests back into the community by developing staff, investing in BCC centres, supporting young athletes and increasing participation across all user groups.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>The 'GLL in 2023' document, attached at Appendix 1, highlights our key successes and challenges in 2023 focusing on the six guiding values at the heart of our business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner of Choice • Respecting the Planet • The Better way of doing Business • More than a Job • Customers and Communities at our Heart • Tackling Health Inequalities
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p>

3.4	Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided above and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
3.5	<u>Communications & Public Relations</u> <u>None</u>
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 GLL Service report for 2023

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LEISURE IN BELFAST



Belfast
City Council

GLL
better for everyone

BETTER

GLL operate Belfast City Council owned leisure centres under the Better Brand

INTRODUCTION

GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand. We work to provide the best leisure services available. Our mission is to get more people, more active, more often, in our 17 leisure centres and gyms across Belfast.

GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping transform leisure facilities across the city. To ensure our growth, we deliver a successful social business focusing on our customer's needs. As a Not for Profit organisation, we reinvest all our surplus back into the community by developing staff, investing in our centres, supporting young athletes and increasing junior and senior participation.

GLL manage 17 leisure facilities across Belfast.



This document highlights our key successes and challenges in 2023 focusing on the six guiding values that sit at the heart of our business.

- [Partner of Choice](#)
- [Respecting the Planet](#)
- [A Better way of doing Business](#)
- [More than a Job](#)
- [Customers and Communities at our Heart](#)
- [Tackling Health Inequalities](#)

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE...

WAVE
MACHINE

6
GROUP CYCLE
STUDIOS

INDOOR
INFLATABLE

SOFT PLAY
AREA

11
SWIMMING
POOLS

3
HIGH SPEED
WATERSLIDES

41
BADMINTON
COURTS

CLIMBING
WALL

5
STEAM
ROOMS

LASER
QUEST

8
3G PITCHES

3
CAFES

OVER
1,000
GYM
STATIONS

4
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
STANDARD TENNIS
COURTS

SURF
SIMULATOR

CONFERENCE
FACILITIES

10
SAUNAS

WATER
BASED
INFLATABLE

14
5-A-SIDE
PITCHES

18
GROUP EXERCISE STUDIOS

1
7-A-SIDE PITCH

PARTNER OF CHOICE

- GLL has completed 7 years in Belfast and continues to deliver an extensive leisure programme on behalf of Belfast City Council. In 2023 the newly renovated Templemore Baths opened and is another strong example of the strength of this partnership.
- Prepaid membership increased by 1,513 in 2023 which represents a 7% improvement as prepaid membership broke beyond 22,000 for the first time in Belfast.
- Over 2,000 customers participated in our annual user survey which was up by 131% from the previous year. Belfast recorded 4.1 satisfaction rate out of 5, which we will continue to work to increase.
- 13 centres achieved Quest – The UK Quality Accreditation for Sport and Leisure and is a tool to help us offer 5 star service every time.
- Increased professional profile through memberships and award applications of business networks including Social Enterprise NI, Women in Business, NI Chamber of Commerce, Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officers of the Third Sector.
- GLL support the Belfast Giants in providing training spaces for their athletes. In return we can reward our staff with tickets for matches as well as have the opportunity to raise the profile of our centre and activate memberships via Giants fans on match nights.
- Girdwood Community Hub hosted a range of conference, theatrical and sporting events. It now completes with established and versatile venues across the region.
- Top Team Life Guard competition was hosted at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre.

4.1
SATISFICATION
RATE

7%
IMPROVEMENT
IN PREPAID
MEMBERSHIPS

13
CENTRES
ACHIEVED
QUEST

GIRDWOOD
A TOP EVENTS
AND
CONFERENCING
SPACE FOR THE
CITY

RESPECTING THE PLANET

- The Partnership reduced energy consumption 2022 > 2023 through focused energy management plans and investment in energy efficient technology
 - o Electricity -9%
 - o Gas -5%
- The partnership completed LED lighting conversion at Belvoir and Ballysillan. Whiterock and Grove. Pitch LED lighting investment was also completed at Whiterock. 82% of Partnership lighting has been upgraded to full LED provision. In 2024 we will be looking to work with our partner on investment in more energy efficient technologies including PV solar panels, EV charging points and further conversion to LED lighting.
- EV car charging points have been installed at Girdwood, Grove, Lisnasharragh, Ballysillan and Brook Leisure Centre.
- The Belfast Partnership are currently developing proposal for the one million trees project in partnership with Belfast City Council. The project allows partners to support in identifying potential tree planting sites on both council and programme partners' land, developing community engagement and identifying sponsorship opportunities. Currently site surveys are being conducted for Andersonstown Leisure Centre and Whiterock Leisure Centre.
- GLL attended the NI Sports Forum All Party Group at Stormont Parliament Buildings in March and delivered a briefing on the impact on energy crisis and escalating costs on the Leisure Sector.
- The Belfast Partnership will sit on the Belfast City Councils Climate projects team in 2024 along with other key stake holder, identifying co-operative projects for reducing carbon emissions and creating a greener Belfast.



GLL Customer Service Centre located in the heart of the city and servicing the UK



Large crowd at the GLL Communications Day



Time to relax in the health suite at Templemore Baths



Team Lisnasharragh competing at the Top Team Lifeguard event



GSF Ambassador Shirley McCay with Belfast athletes at the GSF Awards Event



Children take part in a touch rugby session at Summer Holiday Scheme

A BETTER WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

- Our continued social impact is only possible through sound business practice. We grew our memberships and usage while continuing to offer a variety of concessionary options for everyone.
- £1.95m of internal reinvestment projects have been delivered to date across the partnership since 2015.
- £504k comprehensive small project schedule was delivered in 2023 including reception remodels, changing room upgrades, outdoor fitness provision and R&M projects. Please see some highlighted below:
 - £165K reception and changing room refurbishment at Ozone
 - £24K reception and lighting refurbishment at Falls
 - £22K studio refurbishment at Girdwood
 - £8K investment in social space at Whiterock
 - £39K investment in adding a strength and conditioning area and boxing space at Brook
 - £77K investment in an outdoor gym space at Ozone
 - £52K changing room and steam room refurbishment at Better Gym Connswater
 - £67K on repair and maintenance projects across the city
- Digital innovation helped attract new customers and compete with other operators in leisure with over 90% of bookings being made online and the same joining online.
- Over 60,000 people engaged with the Better brand across social media sites such as X, Facebook and Instagram.

MORE THAN A JOB

- We employ 948 staff with over 85% living in the Belfast area. In 2023 we had over 30 internal promotions across the Belfast Partnership.
- We have worked to create an environment where our staff understand the importance of our social enterprise message.
- We continue to invest in our staff with a comprehensive internal and external training and development programme delivering various courses from National Pool Lifeguarding, Pool Plant Operator and Swimming Teaching Qualifications and an array of online training courses. We delivered 2 Leisure Employment Academies in partnership with Council and Workforce Training Services.
- A coaching and mentoring programme was created to support team work and motivation among staff across the city.
- We recruited 80 Children's Activity staff to deliver Holiday Schemes at 12 centres.
- Our 2 year Trainee Manager Development Programme is in its 29th year, with 4 new recruits joining us each year to gain experience across all areas of the business.
- We recruited 3 student coach placements to work within our Community Sport team, delivering a variety of young and senior sport and physical activity programmes.
- Absentee rates remained a focal point and whilst sitting slightly above the Company average, we are actively working with management teams to reduce high sickness levels.
- We made improvements to our self-service Human Resources management and payroll system continuing to give staff more control and access to their personal information.
- Staff to income ratio continued to reduce from 94.7% in 2022 to 87.4% in 2023, with an ongoing focus on the management of absence levels.
- We have been shortlisted in various awards in 2023 from the Social Enterprise NI Awards, Women in Business Awards to UK Active Awards.
- The importance of providing fully qualified staff was again championed at the Top Team Lifeguard event with participation from 40 staff from across Northern Ireland.
- We recognised the contribution of our teams at the GLL Communications Day with over 150 nominations for local staff awards. Held in the Europa Hotel this year we had a record 370 in attendance.



Opening day at the newly restored
Templemore Baths



Health Referral Manager Victoria Irving
working with a Healthwise participant



Participants play a game of indoor bowls at
the Club Games at Girdwood Community



Jonny Davis from British Fencing delivers a
session at the Summer Scheme Sports Day



Enjoying a swim at Andersonstown Leisure
Centre



Junior participants and their coach at the
Tom Daley Diving Academy in Lisnasharragh

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES AT OUR HEART

- We continued to offer our services to all user groups and actively promoted people getting involved in physical activity.
- Putting the customer at the heart of our business helped us increase our memberships to 35,571.
- Spa Experience, our award-winning day spa is accessible and affordable for the whole community.
- Our GLL Sports Foundation supported 125 local athletes with over £70,000 bursaries, injury rehabilitation, education assistance and free memberships to all 17 centres.
- Over 5,500 children take part in swimming lessons every week learning a key life skill. This represents a 10% increase from the previous year.
- 2,766 children from across the city enjoyed our Holiday Schemes, taking part in activities such as football, swimming, dodge ball, tennis, basketball, pickleball and arts and crafts.
- The Club Games saw 50 participants from 6 teams of over 55s competing in a range of sports and activities including pickleball, table tennis, badminton, bowls, boccia and a collection of physical challenges.
- Warm Places and Winter Wellness programmes delivered in 6 centres and engaging with over 100 residents aged 40 and over.
- We delivered winter activity sessions in local community centres with over 400 people aged 50 and over taking part.

TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- Our 12-week Healthwise exercise referral programme helped 1,600 people referred through their GP or other NHS services to increase physical activity and rehabilitate from cardiac, cancer, obesity and other health related issues.
- Our Move More programme in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support worked with 186 people who survived or are living with cancer.
- We deliver a number of active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as danderball, pickleball, table tennis, boccia and water polo.
- Concessionary membership options across all centres offered more affordable access to leisure for all sectors of the community.
- Belvoir Activity Centre serves as a disability sports hub in partnership with Belfast City Council and Disability Sports NI.
- We partner with Autism Swimming organisation Swimming Buddies to deliver autism specific swimming lessons at Brook Leisure Centre and Templemore Baths
- We offer an inclusive UK wide membership for people with a disability. This offers access to gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes at a discounted rate. Currently over 300 people in Belfast access this membership option.
- GLL grant free of charge admission to centres for all carers when accompanying the person in their care.
- We operate a JAM card scheme which allows people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way.
- All new LTP leisure facilities are equipped with Changing Places facilities. These accessible toilet and showering facilities were created to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who require appropriate equipment and more space.
- Currently 8 pools across the city provide Poolpods. These pool platform lifts are transforming pool access and are used by wheelchair users and other customers with mobility issues to access the water.
- In partnership with Belfast City Council, we offer a digital sign language service via our concierge teams that assists customers who are deaf to communication effectively with staff members.



Feeding the animals at the Avoniel Family Fun Day



Table tennis at an Active Morning at Girdwood Community Hub



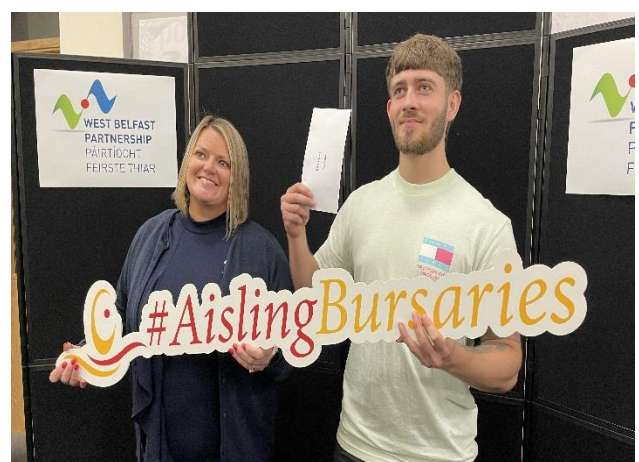
Young participants and their coach at a RISE Gymnastics session at Lisnasharragh



Laser Quest fun at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex



Gym refurbishments at Belvoir Activity Centre



Belfast Head of Service Jacqui Pope at the Aisling Bursaries

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2024

- **Partner of Choice** – Our difference really comes through in the quality of our relationships. We have a capability and willingness to support our partners' broader agendas and we will continue to deliver on not only the Belfast Agenda but the numerous health and wellbeing strategies for the city and Northern Ireland. We will continue to explore further opportunities to expand our partnerships in 2024.
- **Respecting the Planet** – We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment through actions such as minimising waste, moving towards a full LED lighting solution, and working with partners to find more efficient ways to heat the facilities. We will work closely on joint actions with Belfast City Council to achieve these collective aims.
- **A Better way of doing Business** – We will continue to operate high quality facilities that embrace technology and meet our customer's needs. We will continue to invest in centres outside the Leisure Transformation Programme ensuring they continue to cater for the needs of the local community. We will continue to offer a range of membership options suitable for all members of our community to help them become involved in physical activity.
- **More than a Job** – We will ensure that our staff are well trained and customer focused, while continuing to better themselves. We will continue to offer staff exciting pathways to develop within the company and build a career. We will continue to expand our team and expertise as we expand the service in 2024.
- **Customers and Communities at our Heart** – We continue to offer clean, friendly and modern facilities, using technology and innovation to benefit our customers. We will continue to expand our group exercise programme bringing a wider range of activities to suit everyone from juniors to senior participants. Our GLL Sports Foundation continues to grow and we will support over 125 local athletes. We will develop a wide variety of holiday schemes to encourage more children to try new sports and activities.
- **Tackling Health Inequalities** – Our focus remains on encouraging those in our community who are less active to become involved in physical activity. These initiatives will target juniors, over 55s, women and people with a disability. Our health programmes will continue to grow as we explore opportunities within MSK, diabetes, neuro and weight management initiatives. We will work with Belfast City Councils Disability Advisory Panel to challenge the accessibility of our facilities and programmes. In line with this we will commit to extensive training of staff in the area of disability inclusion.

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Subject:	DAERA Consultation - Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director OSSS & Resources and Fleet
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

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 this report is to inform members of the launch of a public consultation by DAERA on 'Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI'
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the contents of the report, • agree the upcoming workshop to formulate a Belfast City Response on the key items within the consultation. • Agree to support a request via the Council Waste Forum for a time extension to consider a full and proper response to the consultation.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	On 7 th March. 2024, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) published a consultation titled "Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI" seeking views of key stakeholders
3.2	DAERA stated that the purpose of the consultation is to work towards meeting legal requirements and the statutory targets contained within the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and the Waste and Contaminated Land Order (NI) 1997.
3.3	DAERA stated that they wanted to hear the views of stakeholders on proposals designed to improve the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, reduce food waste, and cut landfill rates with a view to developing policy options.
3.4	<p>They noted that the consultation also covered proposals on the implementation of recycling for businesses, (also known as the non-household municipal sector), which is now included in the legal definition of municipal waste in legislation through amendments made by the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2020. DAERA have positioned this consultation in relation the relevant legislative context as follows;</p> <p>'The EU Circular Economy Package (CEP), which the UK committed to prior to EU exit, was transposed into domestic legislation in December 2020 via the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. This amended the content of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and introduced a range of targets including a municipal waste recycling target of 65% by 2035 (with interim targets of 55% by 2025 and 60% by 2030) and municipal waste landfill target of 10% or less by 2035.</p>

3.5	<p>This legislation also extended the definition of “municipal waste”, to include waste collected from sources other than households where the waste is similar in nature and composition. This means that most businesses, public sector and third sector organisations are now in scope of this revised definition. In addition to these targets, we also have a new recycling target arising from the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, which requires Northern Ireland to achieve a 70% waste recycling rate by 2030’.</p>
3.6	<p>This consultation has been much anticipated by those involved in Waste Management. Since publication, BCC officers have been reading and understanding the content of the consultation. It is their view that this is potentially the most important consultation in relation to the future collection recycling and treatment of waste for many years. The findings and outcomes of the consultation will determine the future government direction of travel in terms of the management of Waste and will be a major influencer in the subsequent Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy to be developed later in 2024 by DAERA.</p>
3.7	<p>The consultation is open for 12 weeks, and consists of 26 distinct proposals split into 2 areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 - Proposals 1 to 12 - to improve commonality in collections from households. • Part 2 - Proposals 13 to 26 - to improve recycling of Non-Household Municipal Waste <p>Over the 26 proposals consultees are asked to put forward views on over 100 separate questions.</p> <p>The 26 proposals are outlined at Appendix 1 and detail the considerable complexity of the consultation - a link to the full suite of consultation documentation is here; https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-measures-climate-action-and-circular-economy-ni-consultation</p>
3.8	<p>There are concerns from officers across the 11 NI Councils that the 12 week consultation period is too short to answer this consultation properly and there is a proposal being raised at the Council Waste Forum on 12th April to agree to make a request from all Councils to DAERA for an extension to this deadline, to allow for consideration and appropriate governance arrangements for every NI council to be carried out properly. BCC officers would request that the People and Communities Committee support this proposal for a time extension.</p>
3.9	<p>That said, and without an extension currently being granted, in order to complete as full and considered response as possible, officers would propose to run a member’s workshop, in the</p>

3.10	<p>Conor Room in City Hall from 12 – 2pm on Thursday 18th April. The workshop will be designed to gain consensus with members on the consultation response and in particular on identified key topics. Officers will then endeavour to formulate a draft response for the May Peoples and Communities Committee meeting for approval and subsequent submission to DAERA at the end of May.</p> <p>Should members wish to attend this workshop, Officers would encourage Members to familiarise themselves as much as possible by referencing the link above and becoming familiar with Appendix 1 (attached)</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 - Rethinking Our Resources - Measures for a Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI - Abridged Version



Rethinking Our Resources:

Measures for Climate Action
and a Circular Economy in NI

Abridged version

March 2024



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living,
working, active landscape
valued by everyone.*

This document is also available on the DAERA website at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-measures-climate-action-and-circular-economy-ni-consultation>

On request, we can arrange to provide other formats of the documents above, such as:

- Paper Copy
- Large Print
- Braille
- Other Languages

To request an alternative format, please contact us:

Resources and Waste Strategy Team
Environmental Resources Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
BT49 9HP

Email: wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk

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Ministerial Foreword

Our landmark Climate Change (NI) Act 2022 has set the direction and ambition for environmental protection and tackling the ever-increasing impacts of the climate crisis we now face. We are committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050. It is now imperative that all the people of Northern Ireland come together and actively contribute to reaching this crucial goal.



Our current linear economy, where we **take, make, use and waste**, means that [92.1% or 33.6 million tonnes](#) of material is not cycled back into the economy in NI. While some of these materials are used for buildings and infrastructure which last for a long time, unfortunately, most of these precious resources end up as waste rather than being reused, refurbished, re-manufactured or recycled.

We need to change this.

Reducing the amount of waste we generate, the amount we send to landfill together with managing our resources more sustainably by increasing the quality and quantity of our recycling will allow a move to more closed-loop, local recycling systems. This move will not only have benefits in the reduction of greenhouse gases from the waste sector but will also provide significant economic benefits to NI, helping drive a transition to a low carbon, Circular Economy and aligning with the NI Executive's over-arching draft Green Growth Strategy.

My vision for Northern Ireland is a strong, green economy which values its resources and actively closes the loop by putting as many of those resources back into the system as possible.

We have made great strides in dealing with our waste and reducing our reliance on landfill in Northern Ireland over the past two decades. We have achieved 50% household recycling by 2020 and reduced the quantity of municipal waste to landfill by three quarters since 2007.

We now need to go further.

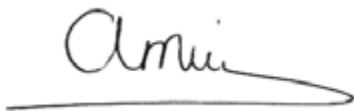
I fully recognise the importance of recycling as part of tackling our waste problem, which is why I proposed the amendment to the Climate Change Act, laying down a requirement for at least 70% of waste to be recycled by 2030. This consultation is an important step in delivering on that ambition.

This means not only making improvements to the way we recycle at home, but also looking at how we manage our resources at work, at school or in other settings. Recycling is the right thing

to do and shouldn't be difficult. With that in mind, I am proposing, through this consultation, to introduce recycling to those organisations and businesses that produce waste which is similar in nature to that produced by households and propose to implement collection systems which mirror those in households to make dealing with our recycling easy and consistent no matter where we are in NI or what we are doing.

This consultation seeks responses to twenty-six proposals focused on household recycling and 'non-household municipal' recycling or business recycling. Parts of this document are complex and technical; it is therefore not necessary for every respondent to answer every question. Please only answer the questions you feel are relevant to you, your business, or your organisation.

Responses to this consultation will be used, along with expert advice and evidence, to develop new policy and legislation with the goal of improving resource and waste management in Northern Ireland, aiding the transition to a low carbon, Circular Economy and tackling climate change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Muir MLA

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Executive Summary

The Climate Change Act incorporates several actions for the decarbonisation of the waste sector and in particular sets out a clear requirement of achieving at least **70% of waste recycled by 2030**. In addition to this requirement, amendments made in 2020 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 (WCLO) introduced new municipal recycling targets - for households and businesses who produce waste like households. The WCLO requires NI to **achieve a 65% recycling rate for municipal waste by 2035 and a 10% cap on the amount of waste going to landfill** by the same year.

Reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill and managing our resources more sustainably, by increasing the quality and quantity of our recycling will allow a move to more closed-loop, local recycling systems. This move will not only have benefits in the reduction of greenhouse gases from the waste sector but will also provide significant economic benefits to NI, helping drive a transition to a low carbon, Circular Economy and aligning with the NI Executive's overarching Green Growth Strategy.

In June 2020, a discussion document 'Future Recycling & Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland' was consulted on to inform options for the way forward. A summary of responses was published in 2021 and an overview of short-, medium- and long-term options to improve recycling was published in September 2022. In the interim period, between the publication of the Discussion Document and the launch of this consultation, ongoing and fruitful engagement with stakeholders provided useful feedback used to help inform the development of the proposals in this document.

We have made great strides in dealing with our waste and reducing our reliance on landfill in Northern Ireland over the past two decades. We have achieved 50% recycling by 2020 and reduced the quantity of municipal waste to landfill by three quarters since 2007. However, there is no greater challenge facing us today than climate change, and there is an urgent need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors including waste. Increasing our recycling and reducing landfill can contribute to this and the proposals in this consultation can assist in achieving this.

This abridge version of the consultation is sets out the proposals to improve commonality in collections from households and Non-Household Municipal premises.

DAERA would now like to hear your views on how Northern Ireland can take steps towards improving the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, how to improve reductions in food waste, how to cut landfill rates and how to get businesses on board to increase recycling rates. The aim of this consultation is to bring forward new policy options for an incoming Minister and questions focus on issues such as how new measures might best

be implemented, considering views on practicality, economic barriers and how the future of recycling in Northern Ireland might look.

You can find a copy of the questions associated with this consultation at Annex A. It is **not** essential for everyone to answer every question, rather, we would prefer you to **only** answer the questions you feel are relevant to you or the organisation you are responding on behalf of.

We are encouraging everyone to respond to this consultation through our Citizen Space website as this makes analysing the responses and any future decision making more consistent and provides better data outputs. However, if you cannot respond using the website and would like to submit your response using a different format, please contact wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk to discuss this.

For more information on responding to this consultation and a link to the Citizen Space website please see Section 10 of this document.

We look forward to hearing your views on these important issues.

1. Introduction

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is consulting on how the future of our resources and recycling in Northern Ireland (NI) might look. We want to improve the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, reduce food waste, decrease the amount of waste we send to landfill and help enhance the services offered to households and businesses.

Resource and waste management has a key role to play in helping to tackle climate change and the transition to a low carbon, Circular Economy. We have ambition for change and key targets to meet, set out in legislation. We believe that the proposals set out in this consultation will help empower the waste sector to lead the way for other sectors through innovation and change, tackling emissions and improving our resource efficiency.

Previous engagement with stakeholders in 2020 provided positive responses to options that could change the way we manage our resources. Engagement with stakeholders has been ongoing since then, and in this formal consultation we are seeking to build on and further improve NI's successful track record on recycling over the last 20 years.

This consultation builds on our previous successes and addresses how changes to help futureproof the waste and resources sector can help us achieve the necessary reductions. The document has nine parts:

1. A call to action;
2. Support for Change, Building on Success and our Legislative Framework;
3. Policy Rationale;
4. Funding;
5. Stakeholder Engagement;
6. Audience;
7. Proposals to Improve Commonality in Collections from Households;
8. Proposals to Improve Recycling of Non-Household Municipal Waste; and
9. Responding to the Consultation.

The aim of this consultation is to gather your views on the proposals so that we can make changes in a practical, cost effective and environmentally sustainable way.

2. Part 1: Proposals to Improve Commonality in Collections from Households

In this consultation, 12 proposals are presented to seek views on improvements to collections from households, with an intention to improve commonality, drive up recycling rates and improve the quality of materials collected. These proposals are set out in sections 2.2 to 2.12.

2.1 Economic Impact Assessment/Regulatory Impact Assessment

Through our engagement with all eleven councils, extensive modelling has been carried out on household waste and recycling to help support these proposals. As a result, an economic impact assessment been produced to inform policy development.

The three options outlined in the [Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) (RIA)¹ were consolidated from a long list of scenarios. The underlying assumptions were tested with Councils and the top ranking, in terms of cost savings and performance, have been written up as part of the RIA. These options were considered in the Discussion Document and are based on the potential impact on recycling rate, reduced landfill tax, greenhouse gas avoidance, as well as giving indicative capital, operational and transition kerbside recycling and waste collection costs for NI overall.

Table 1 below summarises the net costs and savings of each scenario. All results are shown with constant prices and, where relevant, applying an annual discount rate of 3.5% per year². The analysis follows the Aqua book principles throughout³.

Following analysis of responses to Discussion Document and supporting analysis in the Impact Assessment the options on which we are now consulting include:

- Restriction to residual waste capacity in household collections.
- Enhancements to household recycling capacity; and
- The development of a set of minimum service standards for local councils on delivering household recycling collections.

¹ Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

² HM Treasury, 2018, The Green Book: central government guidance on appraisal and evaluation.

³ HM Treasury, 2015, The Aqua Book: guidance on producing quality analysis for government.

Summary of impacts of considered policy options (discounted, against baseline) Costs (+) savings (-)	Option 1 HH: Restricted or 3 weekly residual, multi-stream recycling and separate food NHM: DMR + separate food waste + separate glass	Option 2 HH: 3 weekly residual, multi-stream recycling and mixed food and garden waste NHM: DMR + separate food waste + separate glass	Option 3 HH: 3 weekly residual, two-stream recycling and separate food NHM: DMR + separate food waste + separate glass
Municipal recycling rate achievable	74% ** (61% HH, 84% NHM)	74% ** (62% HH, 84% NHM)	72% ** (57% HH, 84% NHM)
Additional LAs net waste management costs(+)/savings(-) from changes in dry recycling and food waste collections for all HHs	£60-80m: £76-101m capital and transition costs, -£16-21m savings on ongoing costs (one year) *	£49m: £66m capital and transition costs, -£17m savings on ongoing costs (one year)*	£72m: £75m capital and transition costs, -£3m savings on ongoing costs (one year)*
Net waste management costs (+)/savings(-) to NHM businesses under increased recycling collections	-£13.5m	-£13.5m	-£13.5m
Monetised benefit of avoided carbon emissions ⁴	-£82-87m	-£84m	-£81m
Reduction in government landfill tax receipts (benefits to municipal)	£40-41m	£38m	£43m

Key: * Cumulative savings would be seen over the life span of a vehicle (assumed 7 years) in options 1 and 2 that could offset the capital and transition costs. ** Contamination removed. + Costs. -Savings.

Table 1: Summary of impacts of considered policy options (discounted, against baseline).

⁴ HM Treasury, 2021, Valuation of greenhouse gas emissions: for policy appraisal and evaluation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

2.2 Restriction of Residual Waste Capacity in Household Collections

Proposal 1: To restrict the residual waste capacity for households in Northern Ireland to a maximum of 90 litres per week, delivered either via a 180 litre wheeled bin collected fortnightly or a 240 litre wheeled bin collected every three weeks. Councils would decide on the most appropriate methodology for their own circumstances.

Around 55% of what people put in their residual waste bins is potentially recyclable material. A [waste composition analysis](#) of kerbside collected household waste conducted in 2017, suggests that although there is separate kerbside food waste collection provided by Councils to all households, just under 25% of the residual waste bin is food waste. Just over 15% of our residual waste is paper and cardboard and 7% is glass.

These figures indicate the real opportunities to further reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling in Northern Ireland.

These figures indicate the real opportunities to further reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling in Northern Ireland. We are now consulting on restricting residual waste capacity in household collections. Councils across the UK (including in NI) who have already implemented restrictions on residual waste have typically achieved this through lower frequency collections or by reducing the volume of the residual waste container. [Research shows](#) that where a well communicated, high quality complementary recycling service is provided, restrictions to residual waste can deliver overall financial savings to the council, increase the capture of key, quality recyclable materials, and promote upward movement of resources within the waste hierarchy whilst maintaining high levels of public satisfaction.

Most councils in the UK that have already restricted residual waste capacity have done so by reducing the frequency of collections, shown in Table 2, as this does not require a wholesale purchase and distribution of replacement, smaller containers (and potentially the retrieval of spent containers) where wheeled bins are in operation.

	2009/10 - number of UK LA's	2021/22 - number of UK LA's
Weekly residual collections	245	158
Fortnightly residual collections	219	219
Three or four weekly residual collections	0	32

Table 2: Frequency of residual waste collections operated by UK local authorities in 2009-10 and 2021/22. Source WRAP.

WRAP's [2020 Recycling Tracker survey](#) found that there is a strong correlation with good recycling performance and restricted residual capacity. Almost three quarters (74%) of those with a 3-4 weekly collection of residual waste use a food waste recycling service, as do 62% of those with an effective residual waste capacity of 90L or less per week. Many councils have enhanced their recycling collections at the same time as the restriction to residual waste is implemented.

Currently in NI, most councils collect the equivalent of 120 litres of residual waste per week (normally 240 litre wheeled bins collected fortnightly). Average residual waste capacity provided by Councils in Wales, the highest performing recycling nation in the UK, shows that households have less than 100 litres per week for residual waste⁵. Four factors, are expected to further reduce the residual waste presented for collection by households across NI namely; pEPR; DRS; and clear and consistent communication and engagement with people.

The Core Set

We are consulting on a comprehensive “core” set of recyclable materials to be collected from all households across all council areas in NI, which will mean that people have fewer materials to dispose of in their residual waste - key to growing the Circular Economy. The benefits of a core set are standardised communications to people and businesses/ organisations; opportunities for higher recycling and lower contamination rates; environmental benefits; and economic benefits to NI.

Proposal 6 in the Discussion Document set out that all Councils in NI should be required to restrict capacity for residual waste from households to help divert more materials from disposal and into the recyclable waste streams. The overall response was extremely positive, with 88% of those who answered agreeing that residual waste capacity should be restricted. Most respondents also believed the restriction of residual capacity should be accompanied by enhanced recycling services.

2.3 Options to Ensure Consistency in the Range of Dry Recyclables Collected from Households

Proposal 2: To require local Councils to collect a core set of dry recyclables from households to help avoid confusion and improve consistency and the quality of recyclable material.

DAERA considers it is now time to implement changes so that the same range, or “core set,” of materials is collected for recycling from every household in NI. Ensuring a common set of materials will help avoid confusion, enable harmonious communications to be promoted, improve consistency and quality in recycling which in turn supports more local reprocessing of material and the transition to circularity.

Proposal 9 in the [Discussion Document](#) set out that the core set of materials should be glass bottles and containers, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays, and steel and aluminium tins and cans. Respondents demonstrated a strong belief that those materials should be included in the core set but phased in over time.

⁵ Swansea Council provides [60 litres per week](#).

Given the strong support shown in responses to the 2020 discussion document DAERA proposes to legislate that local authorities in NI be required to collect a ‘core set’ of dry recyclable materials from the kerbside of all households, including flats. This core set shall include the materials set out in Table 3.

Material type	Examples of items by material type
Glass bottles and containers	Drinks bottles, condiment bottles, jars etc. and their metal lids, which can easily be extracted.
Paper and card	Newspaper, cardboard packaging, writing paper etc.
Plastics	Bottles including drinks bottles, detergent, shampoo and cleaning products containers, and plastic pots, tubs and trays etc., plus cartons (such as Tetrapak®) which are treated as plastics in recycling collections, due to the plastic layer in the laminate.
Metal packaging	Aluminium cans, foil, aerosol and aluminium tubes such as those used for tomato purée, steel cans/ tins and aerosols.

Table 3: Materials to be included in the core set for household recycling collections.

Table 4 shows that in 2021/22, most councils in NI are already collecting the majority of these materials at the kerbside.

Material	Aerosols	Cartons	Card	Foil	Glass	Metal lids	Metals (cans/ tins)	Mixed plastic film (all)	Paper	Plastics: bottles, pots, tubs & trays
Percentage of households provided with recycling collections of certain materials										
2021/22	100%	100%	97%	93%	75%	65%	100%	0%	100%	100%

Table 4: Households in NI receive collections for recyclable material in 2021-22. Source: WRAP.

Recognising that there may need to be some changes to kerbside collection services, we would expect all councils to be able to provide a kerbside collection of the core dry recyclables within two years (24 months) of notification of a statutory requirement by which time implementation is expected to be complete.

In the [Discussion Document](#), there was agreement that the core set of materials collected at the kerbside should be regularly reviewed and possibly expanded, provided certain conditions are met.

The range of materials would only be added to the core set when supported by evidence that materials can reasonably be collected for recycling and can reasonably be recycled. By this, we mean that there is capacity locally in NI, GB and Ireland or if necessary, further afield into Europe, that it can technically be recycled and that the cost of reprocessing is not prohibitive.

2.3.1 Flexible Plastic Packaging (Plastic Films)

Proposal 3: That additional materials are added to the core set over time when feasible, with flexible plastic packaging set to be collected from households by the end of the financial year 2026/2027

The UK nations have previously consulted on the introduction of films and flexible packaging to kerbside recycling collections by 1st April 2027 in all nations as part of the pEPR scheme, (published in the [consultation response](#) March 2022). This obligation will be set in forthcoming regulations which will be applicable in NI, with the cost being met by packaging producers.

The core set would be reviewed at this juncture and flexible plastic packaging added. Flexible plastic packaging is defined as “plastic film and plastic packaging which is not rigid”. On this basis all local councils should provide a kerbside collection service of flexible plastic packaging as soon as possible and no later than two years (24 months) of notification of a statutory requirement to collect. We are also consulting on the circumstances which may delay implementation of changes to collections.

2.4 Enhancements to Improve Commonality in Recycling Services - Options for Collections from Households

Proposal 4: To highlight NI’s unique legislation on the quality of dry recyclable materials, the proposed term QualiTEE should be adopted to describe the exceptions to collecting dry recyclable materials separately.

[Research](#) on glass and [plastic](#) recycling⁶ shows that greater separation of materials increases the likelihood of these resources being used in closed-loop recycling processes which significantly enhances the environmental and economic benefits. Furthermore, WRAP’s analysis of [WDF](#) shows that separately collected paper and card is much less likely to be exported beyond the EU for reprocessing but retained closer to its point of production, as also evidenced in 2020 by the [Confederation of Paper Industries](#). This provides vital raw materials for businesses, creates green jobs and infrastructure improvements and supports change by businesses to meet the ambitious 70% recycling requirement set out in the [Climate Change Act](#).

Shorter material supply chains, end destination visibility and reporting, and higher quality outputs are all conducive to the emerging requirements of producers and these will only become more of a priority as pEPR evolves. The [existing legislation](#) asserts that to achieve the high-quality recycling necessary for a Circular Economy and ensure we can reprocess as much of it as

⁶ See also [A closed-loop system for recycled plastic bottles saves money and CO2](#) • Plastics Europe.

locally as is possible, the core recyclable waste streams must be collected separately from each other. The exceptions to this default position are where separate collection is not **Technically feasible**, would entail disproportionate **Economic costs**, or would not deliver the best **Environmental outcome** with the threshold set at meeting just one of these requirements for an exemption to be applicable.

Amendments to the WCLO sets out that any exceptions to the default separate collection position must produce recyclables of a **comparable Quality**. This is unique to NI. No other devolved administration in the UK has material quality enshrined in legislation. As a combined concept, DAERA is interested in your views on naming these exceptions **QualiTEE**, with the notion of comparable quality being fundamental to this new test whilst retaining the technical, economic and environmental aspects of the assessment.

With the legislation set out as it is, Councils that already operate fully separate collections would not need to conduct a QualiTEE assessment.

2.5 Establishing the Default Position on Dry Recyclable Collections

Proposal 5: The default position for collection of dry recyclables from households is in four separate streams.

DAERA would like your view on whether all councils should be required to introduce a ‘multi-stream’ collection of the core materials in the dry recycling stream to comply with the separate collection legislation. .

‘Multi-stream’ here means the separate collection of, as a minimum, (i) paper/card, (ii) plastics, (iii) metals, and (iv) glass at the kerbside, in appropriate containers **which need not be a separate container for each material**. Innovation in collection systems means that new containers have been developed to minimise the number of recycling containers that people use and the footprint that they occupy for households. Examples include 240l bins with inserts for the separate streams or stacker boxes. Please note that Proposal 9 outlines a proposed exemption for separate collection of metals and plastics, where we also are seeking your views.

2.6 Justifying Why Collections of Dry Recyclables Cannot Be Separated, While Ensuring Quality and Environmental Benefits

Proposal 6: Standardised written assessments are prepared by councils where two or more dry recyclables are mixed during the collection process, evidencing why separate collections are not practicable and that Commingled recycling delivers recyclable material of comparable quality.

There is an existing requirement in [The Waste Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#)⁷, in Section 18 part (2) on local councils, *when collecting waste paper, metal, plastic or glass [to] take all such measures to ensure separate collection of that waste as are available to it*. At present

⁷ Which was amended by the [2020 Regulations](#).

however, there is no standardised template, nor a legislative requirement for waste collectors to assess TEEP compliance, nor to provide details in a written document. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the duties set out in The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

DAERA wants to ensure that written assessments are consistent and avoid unnecessary financial and resource burdens on Councils and NIEA. The aim is to improve the consistency of written assessments and the circumstances in which the exceptions apply as well as making them easier and less time consuming to complete. Where collection circumstances change, we would expect written assessments to be reviewed.

2.7 Details on the Exceptions to the Separate Collection of Dry Recyclables (QualiTEE) for Household Recycling

Proposal 7: A set of conditions should be set out that define comparable quality, best environmental outcome, technical feasibility and disproportionate economic cost-“QualiTEE”. Where conditions are met, an exception may apply, and two or more recyclable waste streams may be collected together from households.

Proposal 7a: Similar guidance on MRF sampling, to that used in England and Wales, should be introduced in NI to ensure that the quality of input and outputs for MRFs can be quantified.

There are clear trends for a requirement for higher quality secondary materials in the global market such. To reduce NI's reliance on overseas markets and to maximise the capture of high-quality recyclables to grow the NI Circular Economy further, the highest value possible must be extracted from these materials. In order to achieve this the materials need to be of the highest quality.

DAERA wishes to see materials reprocessed as close to their place of production and collection as possible. The details of where there may be exceptions to the separate collections of dry recyclables (QualiTEE) are included in legislation and are set out below.

Disproportionate Economic Costs

This refers to separate collection which does not cause excessive costs in comparison with the holistic cost of collecting and sorting of a co-collected recyclable streams, taking into account the cost of dealing with contamination and the added recycle value likely to be observed for separately collection fractions.

Financial impacts could be evaluated in wider economic terms, where we seek your views.

The economic impact assessment linked to this consultation has incorporated real life values provided by councils and calculated average costs (see Annex C), categorised according to

principal recycling collection methodology. A similar meticulous modelling approach could be used to compare the costs of different types of collections and determined on a per household basis, or at an individual council level.

To determine and quantify, we need to understand from stakeholders what they consider a reasonable cost differential to be, and this may differ according to their context.

Technically Feasible

By **technically feasible** we mean that the separate collection may be implemented through a system which has been proven to function in practice. Some factors may present technical issues in the short term, for instance depot space or availability of suitable containers. These issues could be resolved however through investment and time, in which case the factor is then economic. Where this is the case, consideration of factors in economic terms should be addressed in the relevant economic section of the written assessment, rather than technical.

Examples where local circumstances mean that it is not technically feasible to have separate collection could include, but are not limited to factors such as:

- Storage of containers at premises, outside of individual dwellings.

Note that the following issues are not considered by DAERA as within the scope of 'technically feasible' for the separate collection of recyclable materials:

- People or historical preferences; and
- Rurality - this should be considered in terms of the comparable quality, economic or environmental factors where relevant.

Best Environmental Outcome

To make the case that separate collection of recyclables does not deliver the **best environmental outcome** compared to the collection of recyclable waste streams together, evidence could include a variety of sources, on which we seek your views.

Various sources of [information](#) demonstrate that greater separation of materials promotes closed-loop recycling processes, which significantly increases the overall environmental benefits gained. Producers who, through pEPR, will be funding a higher proportion of collection and reprocessing costs of packaging material, and with packaging recycling targets to attain, will require evidence that the recycling of packaging material is optimised. Evidence factors should be provided, to demonstrate the difference in environmental outcomes from mixed collections versus separate. Standard default values and data with clearly referenced sources would be provided by DAERA.

Comparable Quality

It is proposed that two of the evidence factors outlined above are used to determine whether collecting paper, metal, plastic, or glass together results in output from those operations which is of comparable quality to that achieved through separate collection. Standard default values and data with clearly referenced sources could be provided by DAERA in conjunction with Industry. The factors could be comparable quantities (+/-2%) of each material stream sent for closed loop recycling; and comparable quantities (+/- 5%) of each material stream sent for open loop recycling.

2.8 Establishing Common Service Standards to Ensure Recycling Quality

Proposal 8: The quality of recyclate for reprocessing is important and needs to be improved through changes to collections and clear measures should be set to describe quality.

The co-mingled collection of some materials may result in environmental benefits similar to those observed for separate collection of the four recyclable streams (Proposal 5). Potential costs and technical feasibility notwithstanding, views are sought on material streams that could be co-collected and effectively still generate output material for recycling of a quality comparable with separate collection. Four options are set out for consideration.

Expanding the core set of materials collected for recycling will make more secondary material available for local reprocessors. This expansion cannot be to the detriment of recyclate quality. More restrictive export markets for dry recyclables in recent years have highlighted the need to improve the quality of recyclable materials collected to ensure access to suitable outlets. Higher quality secondary materials enables more closed-loop recycling, as part of our transition to a more Circular Economy.

2.9 Other Forms of Partially Separate Collections of Recycling

Proposal 9: Commingled collection of plastics and metals should be exempt from requirements to collect these materials as separate fractions.

Most UK Local Authorities that operate multi-stream recycling collections mix the metal and plastic streams in one compartment on the collection vehicle. These materials can be sold to reprocessors as one commodity or can be separated at a depot/transfer station or at a MRF. Co-mingled collection of plastics and metals in this manner is accepted by reprocessors as not having a significant impact on the quality of output material.

DAERA proposes to allow an exemption from the regulations where only plastic and metal is co-collected.

2.10 Food and Garden Waste Collections from Households

Proposal 10: Revisions to household food waste collections to increase capture rates and improve the diversion of food waste from disposal should be introduced, ensuring all householders, including those living in flats, can recycle more and in time have access to separate, weekly food waste recycling collections.

Annual waste statistics indicate that a significant amount of food and garden waste from households continues to end up in landfill, despite a comprehensive organics collection service being in place to approximately 98% of households in NI. This percentage is based on council's data supplied to WRAP.

If collected separately from residual waste, food and garden waste can be sent for in-vessel composting (IVC) or anaerobic digestion (AD). When treated at an AD plant, food waste breaks down in a controlled way and the methane can be converted into gas (biomethane) that can be fed into the national gas grid, used to generate electricity and/or heat, or used as a vehicle fuel. IVC can be used to treat food and garden waste mixtures where the organic matter breaks down into a material suitable for use as a soil conditioner. DAERA regards the move to AD for the treatment of separately collected food waste as an integral part to the greening of NI's energy infrastructure.

Improvements to food and garden waste collections and the diversion of more of this type of waste from landfill represents one of the biggest opportunities for decarbonising the waste sector and contributing to NI's net zero by 2050 target.

Currently, all councils in NI offer a collection of food and garden waste separately from residual waste. [UK research](#) shows that collecting food waste mixed with garden waste fortnightly can lead to lower yields compared to a weekly separate food waste collection when accounting for comparable residual waste collection systems and comparable levels of deprivation.

Where food and garden waste are collected separately, it is not necessary for garden waste to be treated at an IVC plant and in most cases, it is treated via Open Windrow Composting, a lower cost form⁸ of treatment compared to IVC. DAERA is keen to build upon the existing infrastructure and well-established consumer behaviours for dealing with food and other organic wastes from households.

A key challenge for many NI councils is the range of pre-existing long-term contracts that may preclude a change in the short term to separate food waste collections. Taking account of these factors and the current starting point, DAERA is keen to hear views on a range of scenarios for separate food waste and other organic waste collections. Further waste composition analysis is being undertaken to check total quantities and capture rates of food waste.

⁸ WRAP's Gate Fee survey does not collate prices for OWC which remain relatively stable at £25-£30 per tonne as quoted in letsrecycle.com

2.11 Mechanisms to Ensure Recycling is Undertaken Correctly by Households

Proposal 11: Through collaboration with Councils, we will set out proportionate and robust guidelines for compliance and enforcement that enable Councils to enhance their waste and recycling services.

Most of us want to do the right thing when we recycle. Even with greater consistency of what can and cannot be recycled, sometimes people will make mistakes. Feedback on when wrong items have been placed in containers is vital to improve the quality of recycling and to reduce contamination. Effective communication with people when they're not recycling correctly will ultimately lead to more interventions from, and potentially more resource requirements for, Councils. Therefore, DAERA wishes to understand more on what appropriate enforcement mechanisms might look like.

Through dialogue with DAERA, Councils have highlighted potential challenges with [current regulations](#) and sought further clarification concerning how proportionate and robust enforcement can support them with service improvements. We are proposing to amend these regulations to set out clear circumstances in which councils can take action against people who continually fail to recycle correctly.

2.12 Tools to Expand the Opportunities to Recycle More Materials with the Aim of Standardising Services

Proposal 12: Non-Statutory Guidance will be provided to councils to expand the opportunities to recycle more materials and to embed best practice in existing services.

DAERA wishes to provide Councils with a framework on good practice for collections from kerbside and communal dwellings, HWRCs and bring sites as Statutory rules and Non-Statutory Guidance. It is intended that the Non-Statutory Guidance would cover a broad range of waste streams which may include hazardous waste, textiles, batteries, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), cooking and engine oils and AHPs (absorbent hygiene products such as nappies and incontinence pads).

3. Part 2: Proposals to Improve Recycling of Non-Household Municipal Waste

3.1 Municipal Waste - the New Definition

Municipal waste is defined as waste from households and waste from other sources, such as retail, administration, education, health services, accommodation and food services, and other services and activities, which is similar in nature and composition to waste from households. .

3.2 Non-Household Municipal Recycling

Proposal 13: The scope of the revised definition of municipal waste would include mixed waste and separately collected waste from other sources, where such waste is similar in nature and composition to waste from households. Specifically, wastes from production, agriculture, forestry, fishing, septic tanks and sewage network and treatment, including sewage sludge, end-of-life vehicles or waste generated by construction and demolition activities, are excluded.

Although many businesses already recycle a lot of their waste, there are a large proportion of organisations (hereafter, NHM sector) that have the potential to significantly increase the quality and quantity of recycling by utilising recycling collection services, as found in the [Municipal Recycling Potential in NI](#) report.

To grow the Circular Economy, it will be necessary to increase the collection for recycling of dry recyclables and food waste from the NHM sector. In the absence of reliable NHM sector data, WRAP carried out extensive research in 2019 to estimate the quantity of NHM sector waste in NI. WRAP have updated the key data findings from the report, which are highlighted in the box below.

Updated data gathered by WRAP on the [Municipal Recycling Potential in NI](#) report

- A wide range of private and public sector organisations were identified as generating municipal waste. Within the proposed definition of NHM obligated organisations are various sectors and we are focusing on the sectors producing waste most similar in nature to that produced by households. The sectors in focus are Hospitality, Retail & Wholesale, Transport & Storage, Food Manufacturing, Education, Healthcare (not including clinical waste), Offices and other services (cinemas, libraries, sports centres, tourist information, etc).
- Indicative assumptions suggests 57,920 businesses appear to be generating waste as defined. Around 767,044 tonnes of waste is estimated to be generated each year from the obligated NHM sectors.
- From these 767,044 tonnes, it is estimated that 341,529 tonnes could be collected as dry material recyclates (including glass), c.176,898 tonnes represent total food waste available for recycling with an estimated 124,308 tonnes of non-recyclable materials.
- While some large businesses are already collecting a significant proportion of their waste for recycling, the majority of small business are either recycling small quantities of waste or none at all, with a calculated average NHM recycling rate of 40.6% across all NHM sectors.
- We are also aware that some small businesses take home their waste for recycling or waste disposal, which contravenes [Duty of Care requirements](#) that apply to businesses.

3.3 Options to Increase the Amount of Recycling from the Wider NHM Sector

Proposal 14: Businesses and the wider non-household municipal (NHM) sector will be required to segregate from residual waste a core set of dry recyclables, to improve recycling behaviour and activity and ensure consistency between what people can recycle at home, at school and at work.

Alongside the separate collection of food waste from all businesses, DAERA is proposing that all organisations that generate municipal waste be required to segregate a core set of dry recyclables from residual waste for collection. This core set of dry recyclables will include glass, paper and card, metals, and plastics as set out for household dry recycling. It mirrors that which we propose to collect from households, ensuring commonality between what people can recycle at home, at school and at work.

[Responses to the Discussion Document](#) found that 95% of respondents agreed that all organisations that produce municipal waste should be required to segregate dry recyclable material from residual waste so that it can be collected and recycled. 64% of respondents to the Discussion Document indicated that it should be practicable for businesses to segregate waste for recycling in all circumstances.

Additional responses showed that 89% of respondents agreed with the proposal for the core set of materials collected at the kerbside to be regularly reviewed and possibly expanded, provided certain conditions are met.⁹

3.4 Flexible Plastic Packaging Recycling from Businesses and the NHM Sector

Proposal 15: Subject to the costs being covered by packaging EPR (pEPR) and confirmation that the material can reasonably be collected for recycling, additional materials will be added to the core set over time, with businesses and NHM producing premises to be required by legislation to segregate flexible plastic packaging for recycling no later than March 31st 2027.

Changes for business and NHM sectors are required as a result of agreed and emerging EPR policies for packaging materials. The addition of new materials to the core set of recyclables should only be made when supported by evidence which demonstrates that the material can reasonably be collected for recycling and can reasonably be recycled.

For flexible plastic packaging to be added to the core set of recyclables, the costs of collection and sorting will need to be covered by producer payments under pEPR, which is required from 31st March 2027. We are seeking views on timelines, practical solutions, and barriers to segregating flexible plastic packaging from residual waste for recycling from business and NHM sectors. Flexible plastic packaging, more commonly known as plastic film, refers to the lightweight material used mostly in food packaging to extend the life of fresh food products, reducing food waste.

3.5 Non-Household Municipal Waste - Food Waste Collections

Proposal 16: The Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 will be revised to require all NHM premises which generate food waste, to be required to segregate food waste from their residual waste for recycling. An additional two years to implement such changes will be granted for small and micro sized businesses.

In the Discussion Document, DAERA sought views on a range of proposals designed to increase recycling in the NHM sector. This included a proposal to review [The Food Waste Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) to ensure obligated businesses segregate food waste for separate collection. The proposal also sought views on extending the Regulations to all

9 No respondents disagreed with the proposal, 1 respondent was not sure and 5 respondents didn't not answer this question. Thus in total, across all respondents to the question, 98% answered "yes".

business categories, not just food businesses. [88% of respondents](#) agreed that The Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 should be reviewed to ensure that obligated businesses segregate their food waste for collection. Currently, the Regulations only place an obligation on food businesses producing more than 5kg of food waste per week to present it for separate collection. DAERA is now proposing that the Regulations be extended to include all businesses, regardless of size and amount of food waste generated.

DAERA proposes to provide any newly obligated businesses with a notification of at least two years for the statutory requirement to segregate their food waste for recycling and are consulting on whether micro-firms and small firms should be exempt from such requirement or phased into the requirements a further two years later, providing them with four years to implement the required changes. Alternatively, the quantity of food waste produced by a business could be used to determine if the Regulations apply and we are also seeking views on this approach.

Anaerobic Digestion as the Preferred Method of Food Waste Treatment

Proposal 17: For separately collected food waste from businesses and the wider NHM sector, anaerobic digestion is our preferred method of treatment.

If collected separately from residual waste, food waste can be sent for in-vessel composting (IVC) or anaerobic digestion (AD) as described in section 2.10. As food waste will be collected separately from businesses and the wider NHM sector, we propose that AD is the preferred good practice treatment for food waste from the NHM sector. Your views on this proposal are welcomed.

3.6 Justifying Why Collections of Dry Recyclables from Businesses and the NHM Sector Cannot be Separated While Ensuring Good Quality and Positive Environmental Outcomes

Proposal 18: Recyclables produced by businesses and the NHM sector should be collected separately from residual waste, and separately from each other, unless comparable quality is achieved through commingled collection of materials beyond plastics and metals only, and separate collection is not technically feasible, incurs disproportionate economic costs or does not deliver the best environmental outcome; or if a permitted exemption to this requirement is set out in legislation.

Requirements set out on separate collections for household waste in The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 apply equally to carriers of controlled waste¹⁰ as they apply to district Councils as set out in section 20 of [The Waste Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#).

¹⁰ Controlled waste includes NHM waste, but is a broader term encompassing agricultural waste and construction and demolition wastes, for example.

As we [set out in our proposals for household recycling](#), to achieve the high-quality recycling necessary for a Circular Economy and to ensure we can reprocess as much of it as locally as possible, the core set of dry recyclables must be collected separately from each other, except where comparable quality is achieved through co-mingled collection of materials beyond plastics and metals only and separate collection is not technically feasible, would entail disproportionate economic costs or does not deliver the best environmental outcome.

3.7 Details on the Exceptions to the Separate Collection of Dry Recyclables (QualiTEE) from Businesses and the NHM Sector

Proposal 19: Proposals on conditions where an exception may apply, and two or more recyclable waste streams may be collected together from businesses and the wider NHM sector, which would be required two years following a requirement in legislation to collect NHM recycling separately. In the interim, waste carriers would be encouraged to have regard to the principle of QualiTEE.

As set out for household recycling collections in sections 2.8 and 2.8, DAERA wishes to see materials reprocessed as close to their place of production and collection as possible. The details of where there may be exceptions to the separate collections of dry recyclables (QualiTEE) are included in The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, which amends the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, are set out below:

Disproportionate Economic Costs

Disproportionate economic costs refer to separate collection which does not cause excessive costs in comparison with the holistic cost of collecting and sorting of a co-collected recyclable streams, taking into account the cost of dealing with contamination and the added recyclate value likely to be observed for separately collected fractions.

DAERA considers that while it is up to an individual NHM obligated organisation to decide if economic cost differences between separate or mixed recycling collection schemes are disproportionately higher, this should not result in some NHM organisations paying unnecessary additional costs. This is particularly pertinent in the case of NHM organisations that are hard to reach, or that generate waste in such small quantities that collections may be uneconomic for waste carriers to operate services.

Councils have a duty to offer services to NHM organisations that request waste and recycling collections (article 2 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997). Where Councils are requested to provide separate collections of recycling to NHM organisations that are costly to operate, we would be interested to hear your views on the economic impacts of separate recycling collections. We need to understand from stakeholders what contextual factors will create disproportionate economic costs to operate separate collections.

The contextual factors for consideration are distance of an organisation from other NHM obligated organisations is more than 3 miles, quantity of all core recyclable materials is less than 3 kg per week - roughly equivalent to average yields for an individual household; and use of survival sacks¹¹ to be collected alongside residual waste.

Where the contextual factors indicate that the distance to travel and/ or the quantity of recycling is very low, we would be pleased to hear your opinions on whether the requirement for separate, or any, recycling collections could be waived, and councils could direct organisations to alternative facilities.

Expanding the breadth of materials collected for recycling will make more secondary material available for reprocessors. Yet just as pressing is the need to improve the quality of recyclate collected for reprocessing, ensuring that contamination levels from non-target or non-recyclables materials are reduced, and where possible, eliminated.

It is DAERA's aim to maximise the capture of recyclables, improve the quality of what is collected, and ideally process them back in the local economy. When considering significant environmental benefit and [comparable quality](#), the use of the resulting recyclate collected i.e., entering closed or open-loop recycling, process loss and contamination levels should be ideally considered as evidence factors. However, information on these factors is **not** currently required to be gathered for NHM recycling, although plans [for future UK-wide digital waste tracking](#) set out to address this. Therefore, waste carriers are encouraged to consider the broader principles of environmental benefit and comparable quality when determining collection systems for NHM recycling.

Technically Feasible

A range of circumstances are included and excluded by DAERA as [Technically Feasible](#). Some factors may present technical issues in the short term, for instance depot space or availability of suitable containers.

Note that the following issues are not considered by DAERA within the scope of 'technically feasible' for the separate collection of waste:

- NHM sector or collector preferences; and
- Rurality - this should be considered in terms of the quality or environmental factors where relevant.

As data on two of the four QualiTEE factors are not yet available, we propose that for the first two years of implementation of requirements for separate collections of NHM recycling, that waste carriers have regard to the principle of QualiTEE. It is proposed that waste carriers would conduct QualiTEE assessments after this two-year period if they wished to collect two or more recyclable materials mixed.

¹¹ A survival sack is often brightly coloured and easy to pull out from other materials at a MRF or other facility. It will contain materials targeted for collection that are exceptions from the normal collected set.

3.8 Written assessments from Waste Collectors for Recycling Collected from Businesses and the NHM Sector.

Proposal 20: Written assessments should be completed by waste collectors that co-collect dry recyclables from NHM premises, evidencing why separate collections are not practicable and that commingled collection delivers recyclable materials of comparable quality to those collected as separate fractions. Collectors must ensure that where they deviate from a standardised template, their output information attains the same evidential threshold. Regular reviews of such assessments should be undertaken to ensure that they remain accurate and up to date.

At present however, there is no standardised template, nor a legislative requirement for waste collectors to assess **QualiTEE** compliance and provide details in a written document. NIEA is responsible for enforcing compliance with the duties set out in [The Waste Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#). DAERA wants to ensure that written assessments for the NHM sector are consistent and avoid unnecessary burden on waste collectors and the NIEA. Additional guidance could also be provided on what criteria may be included in the written assessments based on the regulations.

To provide guidance to waste collectors on the type of assessment required, we have provided a template for a written assessment in Appendix 3 of the main document, which waste collectors could adapt where appropriate. We anticipate that this template could include default values provided by DAERA, for example on greenhouse gas emissions, to allow standardised calculations to be made.

Collectors can choose to use the provided template written assessment or choose to use an adapted version; however, they must ensure an appropriate level of evidence-based detail is provided, to justify why dry recyclable streams cannot be separately collected.

Where collection circumstances change, which may be more commonplace for recycling collections from businesses, written assessments should be regularly reviewed. Waste collectors should also complete one version of the written assessment form for each set of premises for which they intend to rely on one of the exceptions (comparable quality, technical feasibility and best available environmental outcome), to set out why the exception applies.

3.9 Establishing NHM Service Standards to Improve Recycling Collections

Proposal 21: To introduce, or where existing, improve NHM recycling collections.

In the Discussion Document, [63% of respondents](#) indicated mixed dry recycling, separate food waste recycling and separate glass collection as their preferred option (as opposed to 7% in favour of mixed dry recycling, separate food waste recycling, no glass recycling). In addition, 23% of respondents favoured options that were not neatly described, with some suggesting fully mixed collections of dry materials or a combination of no glass, separate glass, or a commingled collection.

Positive responses to options in the Discussion Document, warrant your further views, namely:

(i) mixed dry recycling and separate food waste

This option would require all businesses and public sector organisations to separate the following streams from residual waste: a) food waste; and b) dry mixed recycling comprising plastics, paper & card and cans.

It was estimated this could deliver a recycling rate of over 70% for the NHM sector as calculated in the [Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) (Annex C).

(ii) mixed dry recycling, separate glass, and separate food waste

In this option, all businesses and organisations would be required to collect separately from residual waste: a) food waste; b) dry mixed recycling comprising plastics, paper & card and cans; with c) glass collected as a separate fraction where this material is generated in quantities above the capacity of a 120 L wheeled bin per week¹².

It was estimated that this option could deliver a four-percentage point uplift in recycling performance where glass is required to be collected separately from residual waste and other dry recycling streams, but in all other respects is unchanged from option (i).

3.10 Reducing Barriers to Recycling for Non-Household Municipal Waste Sector

Proposal 22: We will continue to review and investigate options to reduce costs for businesses and NHM premises where possible to maximise their recycling behaviour and activity.

DAERA recognises the challenges faced by some businesses and the barriers that exist to achieving higher recycling rates, particularly for small and micro-firms. We want to improve access to recycling, reduce the costs for businesses as far as is feasible and remove or reduce these barriers. Such barriers might include:

- financial constraints;
- binding contractual terms preventing changes to a service, in that contracts are usually a minimum of 1 year in length and changes are not usually possible;
- space for segregation of waste, particularly at smaller premises;
- lower levels of staff engagement and knowledge to segregate waste; and
- limits to services offered by waste contractors.

¹² The maximum weight of material that can be accommodated in [one manufacturer's example](#) of a 120l wheeled bin is 48 kg. The bulk density, [estimated by WRAP](#), of uncompacted glass in a box is 276kg/m³. Thus, the weight of uncompacted glass in a 120l bin would be approximately 33kg. With the weight of an empty bin at 8kg, we feel that 120l provides appropriate containment for glass than can be safely handled and well within the quoted tolerance of 48kg.

There may also be additional barriers to recycling faced by businesses in rural locations, businesses based in homes and non-domestic premises. Understanding legislative changes and requirements can also be more difficult for some types of businesses.

In the [Discussion Document](#), DAERA sought views on options to maximise business recycling whilst alleviating the cost burden on businesses where possible. DAERA has hosted a series of workshops with local councils, waste sorters, collectors and reprocessors, trade bodies and business support organisations to outline potential changes to waste collections.

We would like to hear views on the type(s) of business support that would be most useful for obligated businesses, public bodies, and other organisations to ensure they understand their obligations and enable them to recycle more of their waste.

A key learning point from responses to the Discussion Document was a call for more information on recycling in workplace or NHM settings. Whilst DAERA recognises the challenges that exist, there are opportunities through networks that can be used to disseminate information on planned future reforms to waste collection services. DAERA will continue to engage with these networks and explore dissemination routes with stakeholders.

3.11 Arrangements for Micro Firms or Small Firms

Proposal 23: Businesses and the NHM sector will be provided with a minimum two-year notification of a statutory requirement to collect dry recyclables as separate streams, segregated from residual waste, with a further phasing of such legislative requirements for small and micro businesses producing NHM waste.

Recognising that greater barriers may exist for small firms and micro firms with further barriers to recycling potentially faced by those businesses operating in rural locations, businesses based in homes and non-domestic premises, we wish to receive views on options which could exempt micro or small firms from the changes or provide them with additional time to prepare. We wish to receive your views on these two options: **Option 1** Micro and small firms/producers of NHM waste should be exempt from the requirement and **Option 2** where micro and small firms/producers are phased into the proposed recycling commonality requirements.

We are also consulting on the barriers to waste collectors' abilities to collect the required dry recyclable streams from all of the NHM sector, including from small and micro firms, in the time frame proposed.

3.12 Waste Franchising / Zoning: To Review Collection Zoning and Franchising for Businesses and NHM Premises

Proposal 24 - to review collection zoning and franchising to reduce costs to businesses and NHM premises.

Franchising or zoning of waste or recycling collection services could be used as an approach to alleviate cost on businesses, where partnerships or local councils would collect waste from businesses and other similar organisations in particular areas of a defined geographic area (e.g., town), through an awarded contract.

DAERA proposes to continue to explore options to potentially reduce the cost burden for NHM waste producers and are seeking further views on waste zoning/franchising and collaborative procurement options. We continue to develop these and other cost reduction options consulted on previously.

In the Discussion Document, we asked for views on regional procurement of services to enable economies of scale and potentially reduce charges levied on businesses. [75% of respondents](#) said that regional procurement would be very likely or likely to reduce charges levied on businesses.

If a franchising/zoning scheme were to be introduced, we are interested in your views on the recyclable streams that should be included under a potential franchising/zoning scheme available for NHM.

Similarly, opinions are sought for the types of zoning, the sizes of zones and/or collaborative procurement options.

As part of the consultation on franchising and zoning, we wish to know what the roles of stakeholders could be. We see the stakeholder groups as being DAERA, NIEA, BIDs, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), waste producers, Councils, and trade bodies, although there may be other groups too.

3.13 Options to Provide NHM Waste Bring Sites and/or Access to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for Businesses and the Wider NHM Sector

Proposal 25: To establish commercial waste bring sites and/or to increase the access to HWRCs for businesses, public bodies, and other organisations to encourage more recycling and better waste management.

As well as dedicated collections from business or NHM premises, extending the range of facilities where waste or recyclables could be taken for disposal or recycling could help small or micro firms to recycle more, whilst increasing convenience, reducing costs and any space

issues. Such facilities could be developed for small firms to deposit high quality recyclables or could be attached to other waste management facilities such as HWRCs.

By allowing smaller businesses access to HWRCs, councils may be able to limit the operational challenges of providing collections to smaller businesses. Good practice information can be found in [“drop-off” guide](#). The opportunity to implement charges is in line with existing legislation and waste classifications as detailed in [The Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations \(NI\) 2013](#).

The Department would also like to receive views on the viability of commercial waste bring sites, to facilitate an increase in recycling for businesses and the NHM sector. We are seeking to explore the types of barriers regarding the creation and operation of commercial waste bring sites, such as lack of suitable location(s), access restrictions and risks of misuse of sites or contamination of recycling.

3.14 Non-Household Municipal Waste - Compliance & Enforcement

Proposal 26: Amendments will be made to Article 5 of The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to ensure compliance with the post-consultation requirements to segregate a core set of dry recyclables and food waste by obligated businesses and the wider NHM sector.

We propose to extend Article 5 of The [Waste and Contaminated Land \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1997](#) to ensure compliance with the requirements that will be set out subsequent to this consultation, to segregate a core set of dry recyclables and food waste by obligated businesses, public bodies, and other organisations. The Article relates to the Duty of Care of waste producers and requires DAERA, following consultation, to prepare and issue a code of practice. We are seeking your views on this. We are also interested in opinions on the appropriate level of penalty for non-compliance. By comparison, the fixed penalty on a waste carrier or producer for not supplying documents is currently set at £300.

4. Responding to the Consultation

4.1 Responses

You can find a copy of the questions associated with this consultation at Annex A. It is **not** essential for everyone to answer every question, rather, we would prefer you to **only** answer the questions you feel are relevant to you or the organisation you are responding on behalf of.

You can respond to this consultation online by accessing the consultation at the following link:

<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/rethinking-our-resources>.



We are encouraging everyone to respond to this consultation through our Citizen Space website as this makes analysing the responses and any future decision making more consistent and provides better data outputs.

Written responses should be sent by email to: wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk

Or to postal address: Resources & Waste Strategy Team,
Environmental Resources Policy Division,
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,
Jubilee House,
111 Ballykelly Road,
Ballykelly, Limavady,
BT49 9HP

When responding, please state whether you are doing so as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of its members were assembled.

4.2 Closing Date

Responses should be submitted by **5pm on Thursday 30th May 2024**.

4.3 Confidentiality

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, the Department in this case. This includes information provided in response to this consultation.

The Department will publish a synopsis of responses to the consultation. This will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.

The Department cannot automatically consider information supplied to it in response to a consultation, to be confidential. However, it does have a responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to a consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public, please include an explanation in your response. Please be aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, it won't count as a confidentiality request.

Should you respond in an individual capacity the Department will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties should you request confidentiality.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioners Office (see its website at [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#)).

Resources and Waste Strategy Team
Environmental Resources Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
BT49 9HP

Email: wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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We invest in people Standard

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Subject:	Social Supermarket Fund 24/25
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer Community Provision

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 														
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>		After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>		Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>		Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>													
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>													

Is this report eligible for call in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to advise members on the outcome of the recent open call for applications to the Social Supermarket Fund. Members are asked to note;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome of the recent open call process for 24/25

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is no current budget available to support applications to the Social Supermarket Fund as this is funded 100% from the Department for Communities. • Grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of quality scores as budget becomes available through the Community Support Programme or other sources. • Note that a paper on the outcome of the open call process 24/25 will also be provided to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee so that it can be considered by the Cost Of Living working group should any underspends/ additional funding for the Hardship Programme be identified in year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the outcome of the recent open call process. • Note that there is no current budget available to support any applications as the Social Supermarket Fund is 100% funded by the Department for Communities. • Grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of quality scores as budget becomes available through the Community Support Programme or other sources. • Note that a paper on the outcome of the open call process 24/25 will also be provided to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee so that it can be considered by the Cost Of Living working group should any underspends/ additional funding for Hardship programme be identified in year.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	<p>In response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report, the Department for Communities (DfC) has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot programme since October 2017. Following positive evaluation of the Social Supermarket Pilot Programme, funding was made available through the CSP in 20/21 to expand the concept to all council areas.</p>
3.2	<p>The aim of a social supermarket is to offer a sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than simply provide food. This is achieved by providing, in addition to food support, a referral network for wraparound support. The overriding aim should be to support and work towards holistic, flexible and sustainable social supermarket type approaches to food insecurity/food poverty addressing both the underlying cause and the immediate need. Food supply should ideally come from donations, surplus, or purchased at a discount, however, funding can also be used towards the purchase of food vouchers.</p> <p>The key principles that models should take account of are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support 'beyond food', such as, access to wraparound support services which transition people out of food poverty and respect the dignity of clients. • Maximising existing structures, services, and partnerships to provide wraparound support.
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Previously, Council has worked with identified partners to develop models for delivery. The People and Communities Committee granted approval on 9 November 2023 to operate an open call for grant applications to the Social Supermarket Fund in 2024/25. Members were</p>

	advised at this point that because activity is 100% funded by DfC, there was a risk that funding to support successful applications might not be in place from April 24.
3.4	However, on balance, it was agreed that it was preferable to undertake the application process so that funding could be issued as soon as it became available from the department. Members agreed that funding of up to £50,000 would be available for each individual project; this in line with other large grant funding programmes.
3.5	The Social Supermarket Support Fund was opened on 5 December 2023 for applications and council launched a campaign to advertise and promote the fund. Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers and were also promoted across Belfast City Council website and social media. During December 2023 and January 2024, three online information sessions were held to advise potential applicants on the process. This was administered through the Central Grants Unit.
3.6	<p>The 2024/25 Social Supermarket Support Fund received 28 applications totalling £946,619.70 by the closing date of 12 noon on Friday 26 January 2024.</p> <p>When an application is submitted, the following process is followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt and log of applications • Eligibility check of applications (allowing a 5 day response for omitted information) • Prepare and supply applications that have met eligibility criteria to Unit Officers to score against agreed set criteria • Score each eligible application against the set criteria as outlined in the guidance notes • Moderate applications between scoring officers to ensure fairness and consistency in scoring • An independent assessment panel to review a sample of applications. The role of the independent assessment panel is 'to ensure that the scoring of applications has been undertaken in an appropriate fashion and to provide verification or validation of sampled applications and the overall process' (Williamson Consulting, 2012).
3.7	The independent assessment panels were satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and agreed to recommend the unit's recommendations for awards as shown in Appendix 1 .
3.8	Funding for Social Supermarkets is primarily drawn from the DfC Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer, which includes a 100% DfC funded funding stream for this work. At March committee, members were advised that council has not yet received a Letter of Offer for 24/25 and that Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP. Council wrote to the Department at the end of February requesting an update but at the time of writing, no further information has been received.
3.9	In order to enable payments to organisations as quickly as possible, members are asked to grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of quality scores as budget becomes available from CSP or other sources. If the budget from the DFC is released on a 25% basis, officers will calculate the 100% allocation and issue indicative Letters of Offer and 25% payment to those projects which can be funded through the indicative total allocation.

3.10	Social Supermarkets also received an allocation of £150,000 from the Hardship Programme in 23/24 through the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. A paper advising of the outcome of the open call applications will be brought to April SP&R so that the potential to make an allocation for 24/25 can be considered by the Cost of Living Working group in the context of the Hardship Programme 24/25.
3.11	Members may wish to note that six organisations funded during 23/24 did not apply for the 24/25 funding, namely: Storehouse NI, Cara-Friend, The Parent Rooms, Greater Shankill Community Council, People's Kitchen and Foodstock. Of the 21 organisations recommended for funding, four are working with communities in north Belfast, four in south, three in east and six in west as well as four organisations working with specific communities of interest across the city.
3.12	<p><u>Financial implications</u></p> <p>Grants to the value of £785,744.70 are recommended should a budget be available. Current projections suggest that there will be available funding from DfC to fund the highest scoring 12/13 projects, which would require £460,508/£490,508.70.</p> <p>Council does not have a budget for this work at present, the 23/24 DfC award for Social Supermarket Fund was £418,744.00, this was an increase of £190,000 on the previous year (22/23).</p> <p>DfC have advised that they will include the balance of their funding to Footprints Women's Centre (funded directly through the DfC pilot) in the CSP contract. This is likely to be in the region of £50,000, which will create a potential contribution from DfC of £468,744, although this is not confirmed.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The 24/25 Social Supermarket Fund open call has been screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1: Application List, Scores & Recommended Awards

Appendix 1 - Social Supermarket Fund 24/25 (Application List, Scores & Recommended Awards)

	Organisation	Amount Requested	Score %	Amount Recommended
1	Footprints Women's Centre	£49,697.53	97.5	£49,697.53
2	Disability Action	£35,000.00	91.3	£35,000.00
3	Forward South Partnership	£49,500.00	88.8	£49,500.00
4	Southcity Resource & Development Centre	£50,000.00	80.0	£50,000.00
5	Vine Centre (NBAP)	£49,500.00	80.0	£49,500.00
6	Street Soccer NI	£22,000.00	76.3	£22,000.00
7	Ashton Community Trust	£50,000.00	76.3	£50,000.00
8	Upper Springfield Development Trust	£50,000.00	67.5	£50,000.00
9	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£37,112.00	65.0	£37,112.00
10	Grace Women's Development	£2,500.00	63.8	£1,250.00
11	HEReNI	£16,449.17	62.5	£16,449.17
12	In This Together	£50,000.00	61.3	£50,000.00
13	Hanwood Trust	£30,000.00	60.0	£30,000.00
14	West Belfast Partnership Board	£49,500.00	57.5	£49,500.00
15	LORAG	£44,000.00	57.5	£44,000.00
16	Glencolin Residents' Association	£10,000.00	55.0	£10,000.00
17	Loughview Community Action Partnership	£49,936.00	55.0	£49,936.00
18	Boring Wells (The Larder)	£50,000.00	53.8	£50,000.00
19	Compass Counselling	£11,800.00	52.5	£11,800.00
20	Belfast Women's Aid	£30,000.00	50.0	£30,000.00
21	Blackie River Community Groups	£50,000.00	47.5	£50,000.00
22	Phoenix Education Centre (NI)	£34,835.00	42.5	£0.00
23	Glentoran Social Partnership	£12,600.00	40.0	£0.00
24	Ag Togáil Clainne le gaeilge	£2,430.00	32.5	£0.00
25	Homeplus NI	£49,960.00	32.5	£0.00
26	EMSONI	£42,500.00	32.5	£0.00
27	Glor na Mona	£10,000.00	31.3	£0.00
28	University of Atypical	£7,300.00	27.5	£0.00
Total		£946,619.70		£785,744.70

Those organisations highlighted were funded by the Social Supermarket Funding 2023/24. Footprints Women's Centre was funded directly by DfC in 2023/24.

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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet & OSSS
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet & OSSS

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <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 Committee is asked to note that Council has received several requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2024 and these include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live at C.S. Lewis Square – C.S. Lewis Square • Outdoor Church Service – Waterworks Park, Woodvale Park & Marrowbone • Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager. Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. ➤ The promoter carrying out appropriate resident & community engagement ➤ The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	<p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.3	<u>Live at C.S. Lewis Square – C.S. Lewis Square – Thursday 25 to Monday 29 July</u>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Eastside Arts to host a two-day music event followed by a free family funday at C.S. Lewis Square in July. The events are due to be part</p>

	of this years upcoming East Side Arts Festival and will have a Live Band that will perform on the Friday night followed by an Electronic music event on the Saturday. Both of these events will be ticketed.
3.5	The funday on the Sunday will be a free event aimed at families to attend throughout the day. It will include arts & crafts along with market stalls.
3.6	<p>The Key Dates are as follows:</p> <p>Set up - Thursday 25 July 2024 – 8 am onwards.</p> <p>Live Band - Friday 26 July 2024 – 7pm to 11pm</p> <p>Electronic Music - Saturday 27 July 2024 - 3pm to 11pm</p> <p>Family Funday - Sunday 28 July 2024 – 12pm to 4pm</p> <p>De-Rig - Monday 29 July 2023 – 12pm</p>
3.7	<u>Outdoor Church Service – Woodvale 16 June, Marrowbone 23 June & Waterworks 23 June</u>
3.8	Belfast City Council has received a request from The Ark Church Belfast to host three separate outdoor services in Belfast parks in the month of June. These locations are Woodvale Park, Marrowbone & Waterworks Park. These services have previously taken place in 2022 but had not taken place last year. The group wish to be granted permission to allow them to take place again this year.
3.9	The services are expected to attract around 200 attendees at each service. The service will include live songs of praise that will be played over speakers. They plan on having gazebos in place at each park to use as a cover in the event of bad weather.
3.10	The purpose of their request is to be able to carry out their services outdoors in the hope that it will reach new people. Each event will have stewards at them to ensure no issues occur and the group will be providing their own bins to ensure all litter is removed from the site.
3.11	<p>The Key Dates are as follows:</p> <p><u>Woodvale Service 16 June 2024</u></p> <p>Set-up - 6pm</p> <p>Service - 7pm - 8.30pm</p> <p>De-Rig - 9pm</p>
3.12	<u>Marrowbone & Waterworks Service 23 June 2024</u>

	<p>Set-up - 6pm</p> <p>Service - 7pm - 8.30pm</p> <p>De-Rig - 9pm</p>
3.13	<u>Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne – Friday 27 September 2024</u>
3.14	Belfast City Council has received a request from 26 extreme to host their annual Twilight Walk at Barnetts Demesne on Friday 27 September 2024. The walk will be a circular route, starting and ending at the Belfast Activity Centre. After the walk ends, there will be music with food available to buy for the participants, the radio station U105 will be in attendance and a gazebo, all within the grounds of the Belfast Activity Centre. At the end of the evening there will be a speech by a Marie Curie nurse, and a firework display the fire work display will go over the grounds of Barnetts Demesne with the event coming to a close at 10pm.
3.15	The event organisers are anticipating around 1000-1500 walkers for this event, passing down past Malone House to the Lagan towpath, then back towards Mary Peters' Track, up around Queens' University's playing fields and back to the Belfast Activity Centre.
3.16	There is no formal charity collection on site, but Marie Curie will put out collection buckets should participants want to donate on the night. There is also a fee of £20 per person for participants in the walk. Marie Curie will pre-register participants for the walk, and registration will also be available on the night. This event has happened in previous years with no issues occurring due to this.
3.17	<p>The Key Dates are as follows:</p> <p>Set up - Friday 27 September – 8am to 4pm</p> <p>Event - Friday 27 September – 5pm to 10:30pm</p> <p>De-Rig - Friday 27 September – 10:30pm to 11:55pm</p>
3.18	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.19	There are no known financial or resource implications at this stage
3.20	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.21	There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	Static Park Warden Pilot update
Date:	Tuesday 9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Operational Director Stephen Leonard, Operational Director
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on an ongoing pilot static park warden initiative focused on addressing ASB in 3 park sites in the city.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and to agree subject to budget to extend the pilot until the end of the September 2024 and to agree that Falls Park is included as an additional site for the pilot.
3.0	Main report
	Background
3.1	Belfast City Council have the responsibility to maintain and keep our public parks safe for citizens and accessible for all.

3.2	Members will recall that a report on 'Anti-Social Behaviour within BCC Parks' was tabled at People & Communities Committee on 10 th January 2023 overviewing ASB in our Parks over a 3-year period (see Appendix 1). This report set out mechanisms and roles responsible for reporting ASB and highlighted factors contributing to an inconsistent capturing of data on ASB resulting in limitations on data available in determining patterns and hotspots.
3.3	At Member's request at this meeting a further report was tabled at P&C the following month (7 th February 2023, entitled 'Anti-Social Behaviour - update on previous interventions and initiatives in parks', exploring a number of approaches successfully undertaken in our parks to alleviate ASB for potential future implementation, budget and resources depending. This included dedicated warden/attendant and animation in Dunville Park and Divis Back Path which encouraged community ownership of these parks. (see Appendix 2)
3.4	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee on 24 th March 2022 agreed to the reallocation of £220,254 to made available for the delivery of a 'pilot project replicating model used in Dunville Park to reduce levels of ASB in parks'. It was further noted that the resources should be directed to those parks in the city already identified at January P&C Committee as having high levels of reported ASB – to include Dunville Park and Pairc Nui Chollan" with additional parks to be included.
	'Static' Park Warden Deployment
3.5	Members will be aware that Council's existing Park Warden Teams are located in each quadrant of the city and carry out an important role in our parks and open spaces which are not limited to addressing ASB issues. They are deployed, as required, to provide a targeted response in parks with identified ASB issues during their working hours which reflect the standard 'dawn to dusk' opening hours of our parks.
3.6	Following risk assessment for the new warden roles, and recognition that posts were for a specific initiative to tackle ASB – it was confirmed that the pilot 'static' wardens must work in pairs at all times and as a result of this that the employment of a total of 6x wardens was possible, limiting the pilot to 3x park sites citywide.
3.7	Woodvale Park was added to Dunville Park and Pairc Nui Chollain as the focus for the pilot initiative. Operational working hours for the new wardens were also agreed on the premise that an afternoon/evening and a weekend focus would allow them to better target ASB. Hours of operation at these 3 sites Wednesday to Sunday 3pm – 11pm each day, except Sunday with an earlier finish time at the earlier time of 10.30pm.
3.8	It was agreed that the newly recruited staff for the pilot would be operationally managed during the pilot period through OSS area teams. 6 Park Wardens began in August and following a short induction were placed in the 3 parks in September 2023. The pilot has now been in operation for 7 months.
	Key Findings – Pilot Period To Date
3.9	The Pilot has been operating since the start of September 2023 and ASB reporting statistics are now available for the 6 consecutive months of September through to end of February 2024. Key findings from data recorded over this period, based on an evaluation framework drafted at the Pilot's initiation, are set out below:
3.10	Since the start of the Pilot there has been a 26% decrease in ASB incidences reported overall at the 3 park sites when compared to the same months the year previous (Sept 22-Feb 23). 61 ASB incidences were reported during the September - February 'Pilot period' compared to the figure of 82 for same period the year previous. This includes a slight increase in figures for ASB reports for the Woodvale Park site.

3.11	ASB reporting trend for each park over the Pilot period when compared to same 6mth period the previous year (monthly average) was as follows:
3.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunville Park - monthly average reports decreased from 6.8 to 2.3 (41 previous year and 14 during Pilot period) Woodvale Park- monthly average reports increase from 1.2 to 1.8 (7 previous year and 11 during Pilot period) Pairc Nui Chollan monthly average reports decreased from 8.5 to 6. (<i>Note opened in November 2022 totals not comparable as data is available for 4 months in previous period only</i>)
3.13	Members should note that evening programming (midnight soccer and other diversionary activities) have also been taking place during the pilot period and have very likely have had a positive on ASB at these locations.
3.14	During the pilot period, members should note that there has been an increase in reported ASB in some park/playground sites in the vicinity of the pilot sites. Breakdown of reporting increase in each park as follows:
3.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls Park - ASB reports up from 51 to 66 (29 % increase) Ohio St playground - ASB reports up from 5 to 9 (80% increase)
3.16	Given the impact of the pilot at the 3 sites chosen and the ongoing issues particularly at Falls Park members are asked to consider extending the pilot to cover Falls Park and to note that if they agree to this the number of static wardens will increase by 3 to ensure operational requirements of the pilot at that site can be met.
3.17	Members should note that the Park Warden pilot has been supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Officers and the PSNI. Good working relationships have been developed which have ensured and improved response to ASB incidents at the sites.
3.18	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Based on forecast spend for the pilot initiative there are funds to continue until early June 2024. There is no available budget for the Pilot going forward beyond this time. Should members agree to the extension it should be noted that this will be funded from within existing budget estimates.</p>
3.19	<p>Members should note that subject to support from Continuous Improvement (CI) the City and Neighbourhood Services Department is planning to review the park warden function. This pilot will be used to inform this review.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - People & Communities Committee report, 10th January 2023 - ‘Anti- Social Behaviour within BCC Parks’</p> <p>Appendix 2 - People & Communities Committee report, 7th February 2023- ‘Anti- Social Behaviour - update on previous interventions and initiatives in parks’</p>



Subject:	Anti-Social Behaviour within BCC Parks
Date:	10 th January 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Jim Girvan – Lead Officer, Community Safety- CNS

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update members on levels of ASB within Belfast City Council Parks over a 3-year period from 20/21 – present.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers will liaise with Digital Services, the Customer Hub, Business Support and relevant CNS staff to develop a system to better capture ASB within BCC parks. In the interim period, we aim to train all staff who work within Parks to record ASB through the Flare system to ensure a more standardised recording system is in place from January 2023 with reports brought to Committee on a regular basis. This review

	<p>will also consider concerns around the under reporting of ASB and how this can be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work is also needed to review the roles of Park Wardens and Safer Neighbourhood Officers with regards to preventing and addressing ASB across the city. • When a more robust system for consistently capturing ASB data is in place, then it may be possible to use this information to develop and target Council interventions in problematic sites.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Belfast City Council have the responsibility of ensuring that our public parks are safe for citizens and accessible for all.</p>
3.2	<p>Members will be aware that Directors have highlighted several times at Committee during the Covid Response and Recovery periods that the CNS Department was under significant resource pressure – particularly from a staffing point of view in relation to the number of vacancies it was carrying alongside the ability to fill those posts. Within Community Safety and OSS over the last 3 years, there have been significant pressures upon resources with new staff (temporary and permanent) being appointed, further exacerbated by sickness absence and annual leave requirements. This has had an impact upon consistent recording of data.</p>
3.3	<p>In addition, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery phases, the limited OSS and community safety staff have been at the front line delivering essential services to the public. The redeployment of staff to cover essential services has impacted upon our services within parks and therefore, has contributed to an inconsistent capturing of data on ASB.</p>
3.4	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The APP-CivicaDatabase captures information collated by Council staff and complaints made by members of the public, elected representatives etc in relation to ASB in the city. The table below totals what has been recorded over the last 3 years across 52 parks:</p>

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	3 Year Combined
	169	769	291	1229
3.5	<p>However, Officers would ask Members to note that these figures may not provide an overall accurate picture of ASB within Parks and therefore, their usefulness in terms of determining patterns or hotspots is extremely limited for the following reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents complaining about ASB in Parks state that they don't always report every incident. The Capturing information on ASB within Belfast City Council parks lies within the responsibility of Park Wardens, ASB Officers, and Safer Neighbourhood Officers. However, Safer Neighbourhood and ASB Officers are not located within parks but are rather deployed in the city centre and neighbourhoods. A team of Park wardens is located in each quadrant of the city and each Park in the city is patrolled daily, with the more problematic parks receiving more targeted patrols than others. The Park Warden service operates within the current Parks closing times (Dawn to dusk). However the Department and PSNI do plan and carry out interventions outside these hours in response to large events in Parks, reports of ASB and underage drinking etc. 			
3.6	<p>Along with the resource pressures outlined above, Officers have identified that there has been a variety of ways in which our teams have captured data (if at all) which presents challenges in obtaining reports which have consistent and robust data and from which conclusions can be drawn.</p>			
3.7	<p>Members may wish to note that a short review of current recording of ASB within Parks will be completed by January 2023 to ensure there is a standardised approach to capturing ASB data across all parks. This will include a review of how members of the public report can report ASB in parks.</p>			
3.8	<p>Members may also be interested to note that the PSNI have reported the figures below relating to incidents of ASB across the city comparing April – September 22 to the same period last year. Members will note overall that there has been a reduction in recorded incidences in all areas.</p>			

		April – Sept 2021	April – Sept 2022	Change	% Change
	Lisburn Road	3571	2770	-901	-22%
	Strandtown	1781	1422	-259	-20.2%
	Tennent Street	2859	2265	-594	-20.8%
	Woodbourne	1804	1494	-310	-17.2%
	Belfast City	10015	7951	-2064	-20.6%
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> No financial implications at this stage.				
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> None				
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached				
	Appendix 1 - Spreadsheet – ASB in Parks Nov 22				



Subject:	Anti-Social Behaviour – update on previous interventions and initiatives in parks
Date:	7 th February, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Jim Girvan – Lead Officer, Community Safety- CNS

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members had requested that a report be brought to Committee to take consideration of successful interventions that have been previously undertaken in Parks, in particular Dunville Park, and how similar initiatives might be applied to other Council parks with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) problems.
1.2	In addition, Committee has asked for a further report to be brought to a subsequent meeting detailing the costs of undertaking repair works to parks damaged by ASB. This report will follow.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the range of interventions and services which have been previously used within BCC Parks to counteract issues of ASB.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 219 448 253">Background</p> <p data-bbox="164 271 1471 454">3.1 Belfast City Council have the responsibility to maintain and keep our public parks safe for citizens and accessible for all. In the December report to Committee, in response to requests from Members, BCC officers highlighted the amount of ASB reported within Parks over the last 3 years.</p> <p data-bbox="164 521 1471 1373">3.2 Officers would remind Members to note that the figures presented in the December report may not provide an overall accurate picture of ASB within Parks and therefore, their usefulness in terms of determining patterns or hotspots is extremely limited for the following reasons:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 723 1471 1373" style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents complaining about ASB in Parks state that they under report what is occurring. • The capturing of information relating to ASB within Belfast City Council Parks lies within the responsibility of Park Wardens, ASB Officers, and Safer Neighbourhood Officers. However, Safer Neighbourhood and ASB Officers are not located within parks but are rather deployed in the city centre and neighbourhoods. • A team of Park Wardens is located in each quadrant of the city and each Park in the city is patrolled daily, with the more problematic parks receiving more targeted patrols than others. • The Park Wardens service operates to the current Parks' closing times (dawn to dusk). However, the BCC and PSNI do plan and carry out interventions outside these hours in response to large events in Parks, reports of ASB and underage drinking etc. <p data-bbox="164 1440 1471 2045">3.3 Belfast City Council has previously used a variety of initiatives to tackle ASB in Parks. Each initiative is unique to the specific circumstances within our Parks. The measures have been based upon available resources on a short, medium or long-term basis.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1592 1444 1675">Belfast City Council have 3 teams which work across Parks, these include Park Wardens, SNO's and ASB Officers, their role includes:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1693 1436 1832">A team of 9 Safer Neighbourhood Officers work across the city centre, parks and neighbourhoods. SNOs are a frontline enforcement / engagement service whose primary role is to help address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) by:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 1850 1241 2045" style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a visible presence through high visibility foot patrols • offer guidance, support, and advice on community safety issues • challenge low-level anti-social behaviour • enforce laws relating to on-street drinking and environmental crime

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help to reduce crime and fear of crime
3.4	The SNO's are deployed across current hotspots which is updated on a daily basis depending on community safety issues across the city centre, parks and neighbourhoods.
3.5	<p>A team of 5 Anti-Social Behaviour Officers work across the city centre, parks and neighbourhoods. ASB Officers are a frontline engagement service whose primary role is to help address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating ASB Forums in partnership with PSNI, Housing Providers and Youth Justice Agency • Offer guidance, support, and advice on community safety issues • Central point of contact for the public to raise issues and redirect them to the most appropriate agency / organisation • Central point of contact for Public Utility Companies / Organisations to address issues / concerns raised • Challenge low-level anti-social behaviour • Support the removal of sharps • Support the delivery of the safer city coordinators action plan
3.6	The team service over 20 community safety forums across the city and will react to any ASB issue when they arise.
3.7	A team of 24 Park Wardens currently operate from within our Open Spaces and Streetscene (OSS) area teams (8 North, 4 West, 8 East and 4 South) carrying out an important role within our parks and open spaces including security, gate opening/closure, graffiti removal, supporting outreach, enforcing bylaws of the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2011 as well as addressing ASB issues. Park Wardens are also deployed as required to provide a targeted response to areas of identified ASB during their working hours which reflect the standard opening hours of our parks (dawn to dusk).
3.8	Belfast City Council have delivered a variety of initiatives over the last 12 years which have had a positive impact in tackling ASB within our parks. The detail on some of the successful initiatives are detailed below:
3.9	<p>Medium term Initiatives</p> <p><u>Partnership Agreement with the Community</u></p> <p>Department for Communities, Belfast City Council and the community identified a derelict site within the Divis area (west Belfast) which had suffered ongoing serious ASB issues</p>

	<p>over a number of years. This site was re-imagined over a 2 year period with investment to have an outdoor sports area to help support the health and well-being of the community. The site is owned by Belfast City Council and a partnership agreement was established with the local community groups to have a key holder responsibility for the facility which involved the opening/closing of the asset with Groups having the flexibility to use the facility and provide animation through an allocated budget of £15,000. The first year of operations has contributed to zero reported ASB incidents within the facility.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Dedicated Wardens and Animation</u></p> <p>Dunville Park (west Belfast) was redeveloped in 2013 with £2 million investment from Belfast City Council and Department for Communities. The Park was transformed into an animated space with investment in the first 2 years which included dedicated wardens who worked from 8am to 10pm throughout the entire year to maintain the site, engage with the public and to work with community organisations and engage particularly with young people. A small, dedicated animation budget was set aside to allow for seasonal events and weekend sports in the facility. This combination of dedicated staff and programmatic resources of investment contributed to very low levels of ASB reported within the Park over that period.</p>
3.11	<p>Short Term Initiative</p> <p><u>Reactive Response</u></p> <p>The Páirc Nua Chollann / Colin Park was opened in late 2022 after an investment of over £5 million from the TEO's Urban Village Programme. After the Park opened, a range of ASB involving young people occurred regularly which also created difficulties for the local area. Belfast City Council engaged with a number of stakeholders including community groups and Elected Members regarding the problems and 2 core issues were identified which were times when ASB occurred and the need for animation. To counteract these issues, the time for SNO's to patrol the park was altered from 7pm to an earlier time of 4.30pm and animation of the site was introduced to create a safe welcoming space. Belfast City Council provided a small budget of £15,000 toward animation which provided a short-term intervention which increased usage and helped reduce ASB within the facility. This budget came from a range of CNS services where animation could contribute to a range of mutually beneficial outcomes.</p>
3.12	<p>Future initiatives</p> <p>The above short, medium and long term solutions highlight the different approaches which has been taken by BCC to help alleviate ASB within Parks.</p>

	<p>A key element to gaining any resolution to ASB within parks is partnership working with key stakeholders (Residents, Community & Voluntary Sector, PSNI etc) to identify the core problems and develop joint solutions.</p> <p>Officers would highlight a variety of initiatives (budget and resources depending) which could be considered in the future to tackle ASB within Council Parks.</p> <p>The initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Wardens focussing on those parks which have the highest level of ASB. • Partnership Agreements drawn up with appropriate groups from the community and voluntary sector which would include allocating resources to manage the parks opening/closing, animation, and employment of wardens. • Safer Neighbourhood Officers to be utilised more when patterns of ASB are identified. • Animation and seasonal budgets to be allocated to Parks to create welcoming spaces which attract more citizens to use the facilities. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>The financial and resource implications for each initiative will vary depending on the size of the Park, issues presenting and the intensity and length of any programme. Members should note that any additional initiatives proposed within Parks would have to be considered and prioritised within the context of the current budgets being agreed as part of the rate setting exercise.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

AGENDA ITEM : PROPOSALS FOR DUAL LANGUAGE
STREET SIGNS

Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

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	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for nine existing streets within the city.																																		
2.0	Recommendation																																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, St Johns Avenue, Tullagh Park, Corrina Park, Sunningdale Park North, Orient Gardens, Brookvale Avenue, Benmadigan Park South, Oakhurst Avenue and Suffolk Crescent.																																		
3.0	Main Report																																		
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																																		
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																		
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>St Johns Avenue, BT7 3JE</td><td>Ascaill Eoin</td><td>Off Ormeau Road, BT7</td><td>72</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tullagh Park, BT11 8NB</td><td>Páirc na Tulaí</td><td>Off Rossnareen Avenue, BT11</td><td>66</td></tr> <tr> <td>Corrina Park, BT17 0HA</td><td>Páirc Corrina</td><td>Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17</td><td>77</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunningdale Park North, BT14 6RZ</td><td>Páirc Sunningdale Thuaidh</td><td>Off Ballysillan Road, BT14</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Orient Gardens, BT14 6LH</td><td>Gairdíní an Oirthir</td><td>Off Cliftonville Road, BT14</td><td>81</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brookvale Avenue, BT14 6BW</td><td>Ascaill Ghleann an tSrutháin</td><td>Off Antrim Road, BT14</td><td>132</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ben Madigan Park South, BT36 7PX</td><td>Páirc Bheann Mhadagáin Theas</td><td>Off Antrim Road, BT36</td><td>69</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	St Johns Avenue, BT7 3JE	Ascaill Eoin	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	72	Tullagh Park, BT11 8NB	Páirc na Tulaí	Off Rossnareen Avenue, BT11	66	Corrina Park, BT17 0HA	Páirc Corrina	Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17	77	Sunningdale Park North, BT14 6RZ	Páirc Sunningdale Thuaidh	Off Ballysillan Road, BT14	100	Orient Gardens, BT14 6LH	Gairdíní an Oirthir	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	81	Brookvale Avenue, BT14 6BW	Ascaill Ghleann an tSrutháin	Off Antrim Road, BT14	132	Ben Madigan Park South, BT36 7PX	Páirc Bheann Mhadagáin Theas	Off Antrim Road, BT36	69
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	Oakhurst Avenue, BT10 0PD	Ascaill Oakhurst	Off Blacks Road, BT10	316
	Suffolk Crescent, BT11 9JT	Corrán Suffolk	Off Suffolk Avenue, BT11	146
3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.			
3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.			
3.6	<p>St Johns Avenue, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 occupiers (23.61%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (6.94%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (4.16%) had no preference either way. <p>One resident who has no preference was concerned about the cost of the signs.</p>			
3.7	<p>Tullagh Park, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 occupiers (37.87%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (3.03%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 			
3.8	<p>Corrina Park, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 occupiers (51.94%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 			
3.9	<p>Sunningdale Park North, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 occupiers (22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 33 occupier(33%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1%) had no preference either way. 			
3.10	An initial assessment for Sunningdale Park North was carried out by officers and potential adverse impacts were identified. A draft equality screening was carried out to assess the application for equality and good relations issues. The screening identified that the carrying out of the survey and the erection of the dual language street signs could cause community tension. An objection was also received by an elected member.			
3.11	The application was subsequently brought to committee on 5 th December 2023 where it was agreed that the survey would be carried out, ratified at council on 8 th January 2024.			
3.12	<p>Orient Gardens, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 occupiers (43.21%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 			

	<p>Brookvale Avenue, BT14</p> <p>3.13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 occupiers (23.48%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (3.03%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (1.51%) had no preference either way. <p>Ben Madigan Park South, BT36</p> <p>3.14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 occupiers (23.18%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 18 occupiers (26.08%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. <p>One resident who does not support the dual language street sign has stated that the street name is already an Irish name, meaning the hill of the dogs.</p> <p>3.15</p> <p>Two residents from one household who do not support the dual language street sign are concerned at the apparent lack of consultation with residents and that the threshold of 15% seems low. They are also concerned that the dual language signs may introduce uncertainties that could impact on property values and that the signs could become targets of vandalism and the safety and security of the community could be compromised. This could detract from the area's appeal and cohesion. The residents also enquired if a 15% quota would apply if residents wanted any decision reversed. Officers advised that there is no mechanism in the policy to remove the dual language street signs once they are approved.</p> <p>3.16</p> <p>Oakhurst Avenue, BT10</p> <p>3.17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153 occupiers (48.41%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (1.58%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupier (0.63%) had no preference either way. <p>Suffolk Crescent, BT11</p> <p>3.18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 occupiers (52.05%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (2.05%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.68%) had no preference either way. <p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>3.19</p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> <p>3.20</p> <p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
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<p>3.21</p> <p>3.22</p> <p>3.23</p> <p>3.24</p>	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £4,500 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for eight of the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p> <p>Sunningdale Park North had been identified as having potential adverse impacts if the surveys were carried out and if Irish language street signs were erected. Approval for the survey of Sunningdale Park North to proceed was agreed by Council on 8th January 2024.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Proposal for naming new streets
Date:	9th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

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	To consider applications for the naming of five new streets in the city.												
2.0	Recommendation												
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of applications for naming five new streets in the city: Blackthorn Place, Blackthorn Grove, Blackthorn Crescent, Black Ridge Drive and Black Ridge Grange</p> <p>The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant the applications, or• Refuse the applications and request that the applicants submit other names for consideration.												
3.0	Main Report												
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>												
3.2	<p>Members are asked to consider the following applications for naming new streets in the city. The applications particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council's Streets Register and do not duplicate existing approved street names in the city.</p> <p><u>Blackthorn streets</u></p>												
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Blackthorn Place</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area</td><td>The McGinnis Group</td></tr><tr><td>Blackthorn Grove</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area</td><td>The McGinnis Group</td></tr><tr><td>Blackthorn Crescent</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area</td><td>The McGinnis Group</td></tr></table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Blackthorn Place	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group	Blackthorn Grove	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group	Blackthorn Crescent	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group
Proposed Name	Location	Applicant											
Blackthorn Place	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group											
Blackthorn Grove	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group											
Blackthorn Crescent	Off Monagh By Pass, BT12 area	The McGinnis Group											
3.4	<p>The McGinnis Group are developing a vacant site at the base of Divis and Black Mountain. The site includes three new streets with a total of 122 residential properties.</p>												
3.5	<p>The developer is proposing Blackthorn Place, Blackthorn Grove and Blackthorn Crescent as their first choice for the three new streets as the area was historically open lands and the blackthorn bush is found in the hedgerows and scrub within the boundary of the site. The site is also opposite the entrance to Gort na Mona GAC and close to Gortnamona Way. The developer has also taken inspiration from a poem, Gortnamona by William Percy French, that makes reference to the Blackthorn tree.</p>												
3.6	<p>The second choice street names proposed by the developer are Skylark Place, Skylark Grove and Skylark Crescent because of the skylark, whose natural habitat is on the site of the new development.</p>												
3.7	<p>The third choice for the new street names is Greensward Place, Greensward Grove and Greensward Crescent as Greensward is another name for turf and the surrounding area of the development contained turf according to the historic maps.</p>												

	<u>Black Ridge streets</u>									
3.8	<table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Drive</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Grange</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr></table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Black Ridge Drive	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Grange	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association
Proposed Name	Location	Applicant								
Black Ridge Drive	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association								
Black Ridge Grange	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association								
3.9	Apex Housing Association have advised that Black Ridge Drive and Black Ridge Grange are derived from Divis (from Irish Dubhais ‘black ridge’). The Divis mountain is situated north of the development.									
3.10	The second and third choices for Black Ridge Drive are Black Ridge Avenue and Black Ridge Parade. The second and third choices for Black Ridge Grange are Black Ridge Lane and Black Ridge Mews.									
3.11	These streets contain 94 residential properties and are part of the overall housing development that is known as Glenmona. The entire Glenmona site is a new mixed use urban development which will contain over 650 social and affordable homes.									
3.12	Applications for the erection of dual language street signs have been received from the developer for these two streets. Members are asked to note that at the March People and Communities Committee it was agreed, subject to Council ratification on 8 th April 2024, that delegated authority be given to the City Solicitor in relation to the approval of the erection of dual language street nameplates for this development.									
3.13	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.									
3.14	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct Equality implications.									
4.0	Appendices									
	None									

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