

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



Belfast
City Council

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall and remotely via Teams on Monday, 27th January, 2025 at 9.30 am, 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
- (d) Request to present Linen hall Library (in relation to Item 7 (b)) - Restricted

2. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Revenue Estimates 2025/26 & Medium-Term Financial Planning (Pages 1 - 16)
- (b) Update on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 17 - 32)
- (c) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 33 - 38)
- (d) Update on Review of the Property Maintenance Service (Pages 39 - 58)

- (e) World Irish Dancing 2027 bid (Pages 59 - 62)
 - (f) Requests for Funding (Pages 63 - 86)
 - (g) Irish Football Association - Blanchflower Park (Pages 87 - 90)
 - (h) Newington Football Club (Pages 91 - 94)
 - (i) Update on External Funding – UK Shared Prosperity Fund and proposed approach to recouped capital funds (Pages 95 - 98)
 - (j) Crematorium Fees (Pages 99 - 102)
 - (k) Provision of pest control in Council estate (Pages 103 - 106)
3. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**
- (a) Notice of Motion - Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community (Pages 107 - 112)
 - (b) Notice of Motion – Armed Forces Covenant (Pages 113 - 116)
4. **Governance**
- (a) Revisions to Scheme of Allowances (Pages 117 - 146)
 - (b) Appointment to Outside Body - Belfast Hills Partnership Board (Pages 147 - 148)
5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
- (a) Planning Update report (Pages 149 - 162)
 - (b) Response to Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (Pages 163 - 168)
 - (c) Proposal for Belfast to join UK Network of Learning Cities (Pages 169 - 172)
 - (d) Response to Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget (Pages 173 - 176)
 - (e) Community Recovery Fund (Pages 177 - 192)
 - (f) Review of Illuminate Policy (Pages 193 - 202)
 - (g) Pest Control - moved to restricted
 - (h) Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update (Pages 203 - 206)
 - (i) Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2025-26 (Pages 207 - 214)
6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
- (a) Physical Programme (Pages 215 - 228)

- (b) Assets Management (Pages 229 - 232)

7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 233 - 242)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 13th January 2025 (Pages 243 - 266)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 267 - 270)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 271 - 276)
- (c) Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition in June 2025 (Pages 277 - 290)
- (d) Use of City Hall Grounds - Multiple Events in 2025 (Pages 291 - 294)
- (e) Minutes of the Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Working Group 07.01.25 (Pages 295 - 296)

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community
Date:	24th January, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to the Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 7th January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.
2.2	At this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications. However, the Council has already agreed to consider potential for rates relief as set out in paragraph 3.3. Therefore the Committee is asked to note that this work is ongoing and agree to close the notice of motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 7th January, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 9th January:</p> <p><u>Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community</u></p> <p>“That this Council recognises the difficulties that small businesses in Sandy Row are facing since the closure of the Boyne Bridge and the crisis that some find themselves in due to loss of trade. Agrees to look into a rates break to try and help them through the testing time of the Boyne Bridge closure and recognises that some will not survive without this Councils intervention.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tracy Kelly</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Sarah Bunting</p>
3.2	The motion calls upon the Council to look into a rates break for Sandy Row businesses - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for finance matters and the setting of the rate and in the first instance the motion has been referred to this Committee.
3.3	As pointed out above, at this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs

	<p>implications. However, it should be noted that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 4 December, already considered a motion on Retail Business in Sandy Row (an extract of the minute is appended to the report). In agreeing that a report to be submitted to a future meeting, that Committee also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses be investigated as part of that report. This decision was ratified by the Council on 9th January. It should be noted also that, as the Council does not the power to grant rates exemptions, the report to come back to Committee will look at the possible options available to LPS</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Extract of minute of City Growth and Regeneration of 4 December.

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Extract from minute of:

CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

4th December 2024

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Notice of Motion – Retail Business in Sandy Row

The Committee considered the following motion which had been referred by the Standards and Business Committee held on 21st November, and proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brooks:

“That this Council recognises the importance of small businesses and the creation of a thriving economy in communities across our city; accepts that changes to infrastructure can have a significant impact on local businesses in the surrounding area; agrees that businesses in Sandy Row have been disadvantaged by the closure of the Boyne Bridge as part of the Grand Central Station development and recognises the struggle of business owners in the area to survive given the reduction in footfall; and calls on this Council to look at options of re-opening the Boyne Bridge, create a Taskforce, alongside the Department of the Economy, Department for Communities, Translink and local business owners, to explore how businesses can be urgently supported.”

During discussion, Councillor Kelly highlighted the urgent need for an emergency plan and stakeholder group, together with animation and Christmas lights for the area.

Members also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses was investigated and the economic impact of business closures was considered as part of the report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed the motion and that a report, outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications and economic impact would be submitted to a future meeting.



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Notice of Motion – Armed Forces Covenant
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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 type="checkbox"/></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: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><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"/>
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After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant which was agreed by Council at its meeting on 9 th January 2025, subject to equality screening pursuant to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the contents of this report and determine whether it wishes to adopt the Notice of Motion to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will recall that Alderman Lawlor, seconded by Alderman McCullough, proposed the following Notice of Motion at the Standards and Business Committee on 21st November 2024:</p> <p>“That this Council recognises the unique skills that are held by Armed Forces service leavers; recognises that many veterans can face disadvantages compared to the general population, arising from military life, when accessing services and as such, this Council commits to signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant immediately.”</p>
3.2	Pursuant to Standing Order 13 (n), the Standards and Business Committee referred the Notice of Motion directly to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in order for officers to ascertain what is involved and to ascertain what, if any, the Council’s commitments may be in signing the Covenant. At its meeting on 13 th December 2024, the Committee rejected the notice of motion.
3.3	At Council on 8 th January 2025, this decision was overturned and Council agreed to adopt the notice of motion, subject to equality screening. In accordance with Standing Orders, this report sets out detail of the commitments in the Armed Forces Covenant, to include any financial implications, together with outcome of the draft equality screening exercise.
3.4	<p>The Armed Forces Covenant can be found at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/</p>
3.5	The Covenant sets out two principles. The first is that those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. The second is that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.
3.6	The intention of the Covenant primarily relates to issues around housing, education or healthcare. The Armed Forces Act 2006 is a UK wide Act which imposes a statutory duty

3.7	<p>upon specified bodies to have due regard to principles of the Covenant. Specified bodies are those authorities responsible for certain relevant housing, education or healthcare functions.</p> <p>The draft equality screening report concludes that the signing of the Covenant is likely to have a minor impact on the basis of religious belief and political opinion on both the promotion of equality of opportunity grounds and good relations grounds. This is on the basis that the legacy of the conflict is still very much evident in some areas throughout Belfast and the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant may be a divisive issue.</p>
3.8	<p>As such the decision has been screened out at this time. However any future decisions about resource allocation based on signing the Covenant would require an updated screening exercise to be undertaken.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>None associated with this report as the Motion only commits to signing the Armed Forces Covenant.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>These are set out above.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Revisions to Scheme of Allowances
Date:	24th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
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After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider amendments to the Council's Scheme of Allowances to increase the rates of Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and Dependents' Carers' Allowance.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consider whether it wishes to increase the Basic Allowance paid to each Councillor from £15,486 per annum to £17,456 with effect from 1st April, 2024; 2. consider whether it wishes to increase the total maximum Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) from the current £117,774 per annum to £132,751, with the allocation as set out in Appendix 2, with effect from 1st April, 2024; and 3. Approve the increase to rate of Dependents' Carers' Allowance in line with the National Living Wage for 2025-2026
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, Part 2, paragraph 3 states that the Council must agree a new Scheme of Allowances for each year in which allowances are paid.</p>
3.2	<p>Paragraphs 4(2) and 5(2) further state that the amount of basic allowance and special responsibility allowances shall be determined by the Council.</p>
3.3	<p>The Department for Communities has issued a circular, LG 15/24 dated 9th December, 2024, which sets out revised maximum limits for basic and special responsibility allowances with effect from 1st April, 2024.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Basic Allowance</u></p> <p>The Committee is requested to consider whether it wishes to increase the rate of basic allowance paid to each Councillor from the current £15,486 per annum to £17,456 per annum.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Special Responsibility Allowance</u></p> <p>The Committee is further requested to consider whether it wishes to apply the increase to the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) budget, with effect from 1st April, 2024. For a number of years, the Council has agreed a split in the special responsibility allowance budget so as to pay both the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and the Party Officers (Party Leader, Deputy Party Leader and Party Secretary – depending upon Party size). The current division of SRAs is set out in Appendix 1. If the increase in the overall budget is agreed, a suggested split is set out in Appendix 2.</p>

3.6	<p>The Committee will note that the Council has not increased either the Basic Allowance nor the Special Responsibility Allowance since March, 2021, which was for the financial year commencing 1st April, 2020.</p> <p><u>Dependants' Carers' Allowance</u></p>
3.7	<p>The Department for Communities determines the maximum hourly rates of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for both standard care and specialised care. The rate for standard care is based on the hourly National Living Wage for age 23+, which will increase on 1st April, 2025 from the current rate of £10.42 per hour to £11.44 per hour. The rate for specialised care is double the rate for standard care. In addition, the Department for Communities sets the maximum monthly amounts for standard care and specialised care, capped at the equivalent of 52 hours per month.</p>
3.8	<p>Accordingly, in line with the increase in the National Living Wage, the Committee is requested to agree to following amendment to the Scheme of Allowances:</p> <p><u>"(iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standard Care £11.44 per hour limited to £595.00 per month</i> • <i>Specialist Care £22.88 per hour limited to £1,190.00 per month"</i> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>The increase to the maximum rates of each of the allowances can be met through existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.10	<p>There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Current division of SRAs</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Proposed division of SRAs</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Proposed Scheme of Allowances 2025-2026</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Local Government Circular LG 15/24</p>

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Current allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance – as approved March, 2021

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons

Position	Allowance	Number of Positions	Total
Chairpersons	£5,500	8	£44,000
Deputy Chairpersons	£2,750	8	£22,000
Total			£66,000

Political Party Officers

Party Officer Basic Allocation	£3,625
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Deputy Leader/Secretary Basic Allocation	£3,250
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Remainder allocated to Political Party Leaders £184.64 per Member of the Party

Position	Number of Members	Allocation per Party Member	Allocation per Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
SF Party Leader	22	£184.64	£4,062.08	£3,625	£7,687.08
SF Deputy Leader				£3,250	£3,250
SF Secretary				£3,250	£3,250
DUP Party Leader	14	£184.64	£2,584.96	£3,625	£6,209.96
DUP Deputy Leader				£3,250	£3,250
DUP Secretary				£3,250	£3,250
Alliance Party Leader	11	£184.64	£2,031.04	£3,625	£5,656.04
Alliance Deputy Leader				£3,250	£3,250
SDLP Party Leader	5	£184.64	£923.20	£3,625	£4,548.20
SDLP Deputy Leader				£3,250	£3,250
Green Party Leader	3	£184.64	£553.92	£3,625	£4,178.92
UUP Leader	2	£184.64	£369.28	£3,625	£3,994.28
Total	60				£58,350.57

Total	£124,350.57
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Proposed Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons

Position	Allowance	Number of Positions	Total
Chairpersons	£6,200	8	£49,600
Deputy Chairpersons	£3,100	8	£24,800
Total			£74,400

Political Party Officers

Party Officer Basic Allocation £4,086

Deputy Leader/Secretary Basic Allocation £3,663

Remainder allocated to Political Party Leaders £208.01 per Member of the Party

Position	Number of Members	Allocation per Party Member	Allocation per Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
SF Party Leader	22	£208.01	£4,576.22	£4,086	£8,662.22
SF Deputy Leader				£3,663	£3,663
SF Secretary				£3,663	£3,663
DUP Party Leader	14	£208.01	£2,912.14	£4,086	£6,998.14
DUP Deputy Leader				£3,663	£3,663
DUP Secretary				£3,663	£3,663
Alliance Party Leader	11	£208.01	£2,288.11	£4,086	£6,374.11
Alliance Deputy Leader				£3,663	£3,663
SDLP Party Leader	5	£208.01	£1,040.05	£4,086	£5,126.05
SDLP Deputy Leader				£3,663	£3,663
Green Party Leader	3	£208.01	£624.03	£4,086	£4,710.03
UUP Leader	2	£208.01	£416.02	£4,086	£4,502.02
Total	60				£58,350.57

Total

£132,750.57

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Scheme of Allowances

Payable to Councillors 2025/2026

This Scheme is made under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and will take effect from 1st April, 2024.

Councillors' allowances

Councillors' allowances are governed by statute and provision is made for the following types of payments:

(a) Allowances:

- (i) Basic Allowance
- (ii) Special Responsibility Allowance
- (iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance
- (iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- (v) District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Allowances (DPCSP)
- (vi) Renunciations
- (vii) Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor

(b) Expenses

- (i) Travel
- (ii) Subsistence

In issuing the payment of allowances to elected members the Council follows the instructions set out by the Department of Environment in 'Guidance on Councillor Allowances' March 2012 and further circular updates.

Information regarding other provisions for Councillors is also included:

(c) Additional Information

- (i) IT/Phone Package
- (ii) Councillors' Support Services

(a) Allowances

(i) Basic Allowances

A basic allowance is intended to recognise the time commitment of all Councillors, including such inevitable calls on their time as meetings with officers and constituents and approved duties. Basic allowance is also intended to cover incidental costs incurred by Councillors in their official capacity, such as the use of their homes and the cost of any telephone calls, including mobile phone calls.

The maximum annual allowance with effect from 1st April, 2024 is £17,456 payable monthly.

This allowance will be paid in equal monthly instalments via the Council's Payroll and is subject to tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable.

If a Councillor ceases to be a Councillor before the end of his or her term of office, payment of the allowance will cease and a pro rata calculation will be made to ensure that the Councillor receives the correct amount of allowance. If necessary, an adjustment for under or over payment may be made to ensure that the final payment is correct, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of Basic Allowance.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall continue.

(ii) Special Responsibility Allowances

In addition to Basic Allowance the Council also pays Special Responsibility Allowances to those Councillors it considers to have significant additional responsibilities over and above the generally accepted duties of a Councillor. These special responsibilities are related to the discharge of the Council's functions.

The maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance is determined by the Department for Communities. The division of the Special Responsibility Allowance is based upon the positions held by individual Councillors as agreed.

- The Council agreed a special responsibility allowance threshold of £132,751 which may be paid to holders of positions of responsibility. No more than 50% of the Councillors can receive a special responsibility payment and no individual member can receive more than one special responsibility payment.

Special Responsibility Allowance is paid in equal, monthly instalments. Special Responsibility Allowances are liable for tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable

In the event of a Councillor ceasing to hold an office which entitled him or her to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance before the term of office is completed, payment of the Allowance ceases. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the final payment is correct, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of Special Responsibility Allowance.

Rates of Special Responsibility Allowances with effect from 1st April, 2024 are:

Position	Committee	Allowance
Chairperson's Allowance	Strategic Policy and Resources	£6,200
	City Growth and Regeneration	£6,200
	People and Communities	£6,200
	Licensing	£6,200
	Planning	£6,200
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£6,200
	Climate and City Resilience	£6,200
	Standards and Business	£6,200

Scheme of Allowances 2025/2026

Deputy Chairperson's Allowance	Strategic Policy and Resources	£3,100
	City Growth and Regeneration	£3,100
	People and Communities	£3,100
	Licensing	£3,100
	Planning	£3,100
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£3,100
	Climate and City Resilience	£3,100
	Standards and Business	£3,100

Position	Party	Allowance
Party Group Leader	Sinn Féin (22 Members)	£8,662.22
	DUP (14 Members)	£6,998.14
	Alliance (11 Members)	£6,374.11
	SDLP (5 Members)	£5,126.05
	GREEN (3 Members)	£4,710.03
	UUP (2 Members)	£4,502.02
Deputy Party Group Leader	Sinn Féin	£3,663
	DUP	£3,663
	Alliance	£3,663
	SDLP	£3,663
Party Secretary	Sinn Fein	£3,663
	DUP	£3,663

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

(iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance

Section 32 of the Finance Act provides that a council may pay to the Civic Dignitaries such allowances as it considers reasonable to meet the expenses of those offices and they should be considered totally separate from SRA arrangements.

The Civic Dignitary Personal Allowances are paid in equal, monthly instalments and are liable for tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable.

The entitlements, per annum, are:-

- Lord Mayor £34,800
- Deputy Lord Mayor £6,250
- High Sherriff £6,250

Where a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of Civic Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended will be withheld.

(iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance

Any Member who is the main carer of a dependant, where care is required to enable that Member to perform an Approved Duty (see page 9), may claim Dependent Carers' Allowance (DCA). The rate for Standard Care is based on the hourly national living wage for age 25 or over, and the rate for Specialised Care is double the rate for Standard Care. The rates from 1st April, 2022 are:

- Standard Care £11.44 per hour limited to £594.88 per month
- Specialist Care £22.88 per hour limited to £1,189.76 per month

A dependant is defined as:

- a child under 16 years old;
- a child 16 years old or older, where there is medical / social work evidence that full-time care is required;
- an adult with recognised physical/mental disability where there is medical / social work evidence that full-time care is required; or
- an elderly relative requiring full-time care.

For the purposes of this allowance, a carer is defined as a responsible person over 16 years old who does not normally live with the councillor as part of that household; and is not a parent/guardian of the dependant. A specialist carer is a qualified person who is needed where it is essential to have professional assistance.

Receipts must be obtained from specialist carers and must accompany the claim form. Councillors may claim only once for each occurrence of an approved duty (page 9) and only one Dependants' Carers' Allowance rate is payable, even if there are two or more dependants being cared for.

Councillors must disclose any financial support provided under this allowance when applying for other care services offered by another public body.

This allowance claim may also include the duration of essential travel time, up to a maximum of one hour before the approved duty starts and ending up to one hour after it finishes.

(v) District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Allowances (DPCSP)

This allowance is paid to councillors who are members of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership. Each councillor is entitled to claim £60 per attendance at each meeting and may claim for up to a maximum of 20 meetings a year. Each member can also claim for mileage for attending each meeting directly from the DPCSP secretariat.

Chairpersons of each DPCSP are entitled to claim for an additional 10 meetings per year of the DPCSP. In addition the Chairperson of the 4 DCPSPs also sit on the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and are entitled to claim for up to 20 meetings per year of this partnership.

(vi) Renunciations

Councillors may, if they wish, renounce their entitlement to basic, chairperson, vice chairperson or special responsibility allowances. They can do this by writing to the Chief Executive. A councillor can subsequently withdraw the renunciation. They can also amend a renunciation (for example, to limit it to one kind of allowance only). The withdrawal or amendment cannot have retrospective effect.

(vii) Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor

The Local Government Commissioner for Standards may impose sanctions on a Councillor who is found to have breached the Northern Ireland Code of Conduct for Councillors. Such sanction may be imposed at the conclusion of the Commissioner's adjudication process of the alleged breach or at the conclusion of an interim adjudication by the Commissioner.

For the purpose of this Scheme of Allowances, the following action will be taken upon receipt by the Chief Executive of a decision by the Commissioner which results in the disqualification or the suspension of a Councillor:

Disqualification

If a Councillor is disqualified, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of disqualification.

Suspension

If a Councillor is wholly suspended for a period, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of suspension.

(b) Expenses**Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

All claims for travel and subsistence should be submitted within three months. Any claims made outside of this time limit cannot be processed.

(i) Travel

- Motor Mileage Claims**

The rates of Travel and Subsistence Allowances, including motor mileage and pedal cycle rates, are reviewed annually by the Department for Communities, following consultation with the Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Claims can only be made where expenditure is incurred in relation to the Councillors undertaking Approved Duties.

Travel claims may be made through Democratic Services and it is a matter for each individual Councillor to ensure that the details contained in any claim are accurate and only include actual expenditure for which they are entitled to make a claim.

In some instances, mileage claims may be liable for tax and National Insurance deductions.

The following rates are currently in use, with most Councillors getting the maximum amount of 65.0p per mile:

	Motor Cars				Pedal Cycle	Motor Cycle (all engine capacities)
	450-999cc	1000-1199cc	1199 + cc	Electric Car		
0-8,500 miles	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p	45.0p	20p	24p
After 8,500 miles	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p	25.0p		
Passenger rate	5.0p					

- Public Transport**

Expenditure on public transport in relation to attending approved duties can be claimed back only when accompanied by proof of purchase. Any journeys made using public transport should be noted separately in any travel expenses claim.

(ii) Subsistence

If Councillors attend conferences, courses or undertake visits as representatives of the Council they are entitled to receive appropriate subsistence allowances.

Before a Councillor attends an event, they must obtain Committee approval. Councillors may also attend approved events as part of their Personal Development Plan (PDP).

Any accommodation or travel arrangements for conferences are made directly by the Council.

Councillors should take a careful note and keep receipts for any expenses they incur while they are away on Council business because they may be able to claim for these as part of their subsistence allowances or as incidental expenses. This relates to such things as meals, bus and taxi fares, necessary telephone calls, etc. Purchases of any alcoholic beverages may not be claimed for.

Within the UK

The rates for subsistence allowance are determined by the Department for Communities. The following table shows the current rates of subsistence which may be claimed for:

Maximum Subsistence Rates		
	BRITISH ISLES	LONDON
Accommodation Allowance	£100.70	£122.45
Meal Allowance		
Breakfast	£11.50	
Lunch	£13.50	
Tea	£4.70	
Dinner	£20.95	
Total Meal Allowance	£50.65	

Departments will assist Councillors in the completion of claim forms and Councillors should make contact with an appropriate officer immediately upon returning from the conference to give details of additional expenses incurred and to sign the necessary claim forms.

Claims without receipts should rarely happen. However, Councillors must use the '[Lost or Unobtainable Receipt Voucher](#)' to claim reimbursement for expenditure they have incurred when no receipt is available.

Outside the UK

For travel outside the United Kingdom, the Council will pay advanced subsistence at the rate of £75.00 per 24-hour period, or £45 per part 24-hour period.

Approved Duties

Under the existing Regulations Councillors are entitled to claim expenses in relation to an approved duty. An approved duty may be defined as:-

- (a) attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any of its Committees. Members may only claim travelling allowance for attending Committees to which they have been appointed. A Member, however, may claim mileage allowance for attending a meeting of a Committee to which he or she has not been appointed if he or she is attending at the invitation of the Committee concerned or has been sent by another Committee to state a particular case.
- Or
- (b) attendance approved by the Council for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council:
- attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of Advisory/Liaison Committees or Steering Groups/Working Groups;
 - attendance at approved conferences, courses, study visits or seminars as a representative of the Council;
 - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of PCSP's and DPCSP's;
 - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of community centre committees;
 - attendance on a Council or Committee deputation relevant to the functions of the Council;
 - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of outside bodies only if the functions of the Outside Body relates to the statutory functions of the Council, and where remuneration is not made by the Outside Body to which the Councillor has been appointed; and
 - attendance at training courses or briefing sessions provided by or through the Council

In addition, the Council's Chief Executive can authorise as approved duties certain miscellaneous functions.

Tax

Useful information on treatment of tax for councillors could be found at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website via <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/employment-income-manual/eim65900>.

Councillors' Pension Scheme

Councillors are automatically enrolled in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Scheme (NILGOSC). The main purpose of the scheme is to provide a pension in retirement for Councillors. The benefits paid under the Scheme are based on length of membership of the Scheme and career average pensionable pay.

The pensionable pay of a councillor consists of the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance payments only. The contribution rate depends on how much each Councillor is paid but will be between 5.5% and 7.5% of the pensionable allowances received.

If a Councillor no longer wishes to participate in the pension scheme, or has any queries regarding the scheme, NIGOSC should be contacted directly on 0345 3197 320

(c) Additional Information

(i) IT /Phone Package

Personal computer equipment can be provided by the Council to each Councillor on the basis that the Council owns the equipment and lends it to those Councillors who request it.

Councillors IT Package currently consists of the following:

- Tablet PC
- Smartphone, which includes a call, text and data allowance

- **Tablet PC**

Each Councillor is entitled to receive a tablet PC for their duration as a Member of Belfast City Council. The device is provided by the Council to assist Councillors in undertaking their role more effectively. The main benefits are having online access to the council minutes system and other Council provided software and to engage more effectively with constituents.

Where a Councillor has been provided with a tablet PC, hard copies of Council, Committee and Working Group report packs will not be provided.

- **Mobile Telephone costs**

Each Councillor will be offered the use of a mobile phone for the duration they remain a Councillor of Belfast City Council. The device is available for upgrade periodically.

The Council will cover the cost of line rental which includes:

- a. the cost of all phone calls to UK landlines or UK mobile phones whilst within the UK;
- b. the cost of all text messages to UK landlines or UK mobile phones whilst within the UK; and
- c. 3.75GB of data usage per month.

All costs incurred by calls, texts or data usage outside of that detailed above, are met by the Councillor and will be deducted the following month from the Councillor's basic allowance.

Hands free mobile phone equipment

The Council will contribute towards the cost of purchase and installation of hands free mobile phone equipment for use in the Councillors' cars on the following basis:-

- Reimbursement will be made in respect of the costs of installation of the equipment in the Councillor's own private vehicle and shall be subject to the submission of appropriate receipts
- The maximum amount of reimbursement on each occasion to be £250.00.

- **Home Telephone**

The Council may meet the costs of basic monthly/quarterly line rental of the home telephone of each Councillor. Councillors are required to pay the rental cost in the first instance and, having submitted the telephone bill, will then be reimbursed this amount, subject to any tax deductions being applied through the Council's payroll system.

The Department for Communities has determined that as the Councillor's Basic Allowance covers incidental expenses involved in being a Councillor, such as the use of a home telephone, it is therefore not possible to reimburse the cost of telephone calls made on a landline.

- **Broadband Internet Access**

In order to enable Councillors to use the Council's IT system remotely (from home or office), Councillors may claim part of their home broadband internet rental costs (maximum £25 per month).

As with phone line rental reimbursement, Councillors are required to pay the cost of the broadband in the first instance and, having submitted the appropriate bill, will then be reimbursed up to £25.00 per month, subject to any tax deductions being applied through the Council's payroll.

Access to the Council's systems is provided by means of a virtual private network (VPN). Councillors should speak to officers in Democratic Services to arrange to have the VPN set up on their computer.

- **Electronic Minutes System**

The electronic minutes system is accessible on the Council's website as well as the corporate intranet. The purpose of the system is to have a range of information relating to councillors and the Council's decision-making process in one place.

The system allows Councillors and members of the public to:-

- View the schedule of meetings;
- Access agendas, reports and minutes of Council, Committees, and Working Group Meetings; and
- Search for historical decisions.

The system is also used to alert Councillors that Committee summonses, agenda, minutes and reports have been published and, when any amendments or changes have taken place, Councillors can then access these electronically.

(ii) **Councillors' Support Services**

The Council provides Councillors with a wide range of support services to assist them in carrying out their work as Councillors. Support services include typing of correspondence, post, message and enquiry services, council stationery, research service, room bookings, Councillors training, travel arrangements, expenses and subsistence payments and general enquiries.

- **Members' Common Room**

The Members' Common Room is located at the reception area of the City Hall, adjacent to the Committee Rooms. Individual mail boxes and a kitchen are available for Councillors' use.

- **Party Rooms**

In addition to the Members' Common Room, the Council provides Party Rooms for each of the political party groups within the Council. These may be used for meetings, work or discussions with constituents.

All accommodation and facilities provided are for use in connection with Council or constituency business only.

In addition to a conference table, printer, scanner, television, tea/coffee making facilities and filing space, each Party Room has at least one PC in addition to docking stations for use with the Council provided tablet PCs.

- **Correspondence**

Items for typing may be left with Democratic Services, where a confidential secretarial service is available for letters, reports and all other correspondence related to Council or constituency work.

After typing, letters will be left in the Councillor's mailbox in the Members' Common Room or can be posted to the addressee.

- **Post**

A postal service is available for correspondence which relates to Council or constituency work.

Letters must be addressed to individuals living within the City boundary although letters to public bodies and government Departments with addresses outside the City will also be accepted.

Circularised mail will not be accepted.

Postal facilities are not available for party political issues.

- **Message and Inquiry Service**

Democratic Services staff act as a point of contact for all enquiries and telephone messages concerning Councillors from the general public, constituents and Council officers.

The telephones in the party rooms are set to divert to staff on no reply and telephone messages for Councillors will be taken. Urgent messages will be relayed immediately to Councillors, if contact is possible, and other messages will be emailed or left in their mail boxes.

- **Council Stationery**

Personalised headed-paper, compliment slips and business cards with the Council logo will be provided for each Councillor during their term of office. Standard Council stationery items are also available in the Members' Common Room.

- **Civic Gifts**

A limited range of Belfast City Council branded gifts is available for use by Councillors. The gifts are intended for VIP guests to City Hall or for special individuals or groups which a Councillor wishes to recognise. Councillors may also request civic gifts when visiting special individuals or groups when on Council business in other countries. When requesting Civic Gifts, the Councillor must sign a receipt of goods and a database of issued gifts is maintained.

- **Research and Information Service**

Democratic Services staff will be available to assist Councillors in obtaining information and carrying out research on items related to Council and constituency business.

- **Receiving Constituents**

Councillors may make arrangements to receive constituents or visitors in their party room if space is available. Councillors may also request to book a committee room to meet with a group of up to 3 visitors. Visitors will not be permitted access to party rooms or the committee rooms unless accompanied by a Councillor.

- **Car parking**

Councillors have 24 hour access to the City Hall car park. A pass for display in Councillors' vehicles will be provided by Democratic Services.

Car parking for guests of Councillors is limited. However, if this is required, please contact Democratic Services staff. The visitors' name and the registration number of the vehicle will be required for the purposes of admittance by Security staff.



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Depairtment fur
Commonities

Local Government and Housing
Regulation Division
Finance Branch
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG
Phone: 028 9082 9307
email: Gerard.murray@communities-
ni.gov.uk

Chief Executive of each District Council
Finance Officer of each District Council
Other Interested Parties

Our ref:CO1-24-496
09 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**CIRCULAR LG 15/24 - CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES CIRCULAR
(Updated December 2024)**

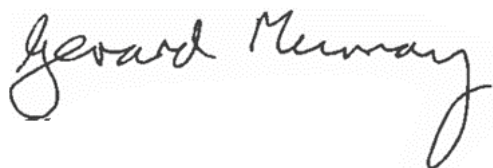
This Local Government Circular provides a consolidated record of all councillor allowances and supersedes Local Government Circular LG 23/23.

This consolidated circular is required to determine and reflect an increase in maximum rates for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance from 1 April 2024 and an increase in Dependants' Carers' Allowance from 1 April 2025.

All determinations are made by the Department under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.

If you have any queries on the content of this circular please contact Jeff Glass on 028 9082 3375 or Ian Lewis on 028 9082 3506 or by email jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk or ian.lewis@communities-ni.gov.uk .

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerard Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'G' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

GERARD MURRAY
Director
Local Government and Housing Regulation

1. Basic Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2024

Basic Allowance
Maximum £17,456 per annum ≠

≠ (The basic allowance includes an element for incidental and consumable costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity. In 2015/16 this element was £1,000 and each year this amount is uplifted in line with the increase applied to the basic allowance, therefore this element within the basic allowance is £1,229 from 1 April 2024.)

2. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum Monthly Amount
	£	£
Standard	11.44 [^]	595
Specialist	22.88	1,190

[^](Based on national living wage)

- valid from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum Monthly Amount
	£	£
Standard	12.21 [^]	635
Specialist	24.42	1,270

[^](Based on national living wage)

3. Travel Allowances

– valid from 1 April 2017

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile Pence	Rate per Mile Above 8,500 miles Pence	Rate per Mile Above 10,000 miles Pence
A pedal cycle	20.0p	20.0p	20.0p
A motor cycle (all engine capacities)	24.0p	24.0p	24.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p	13.7p	13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p	14.4p	14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p	16.4p	16.4p
An electric car	45.0p	45.0p	25.0p
Passenger rate (per passenger)	5.0p	5.0p	5.0p

4. Special Responsibility Allowance

Appendix 4

– valid from 1 April 2024

The following table states the maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance that a council may pay. The maximum rate is based on the size of the council population. Each council's population figures are updated each year by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and it is the duty of each council to operate within the total maximum rate appropriate to its population band. For ease the maximum any councillor can receive, within each band, is also provided.

Population of council	Maximum Special Responsibility Allowance £	Maximum (1/5th) for individual councillor £
Less than 120,000	61,459	12,292
120,000 to 199,000	86,043	17,209
200,000 +	132,751	26,550

5. Subsistence Allowances

– valid from 1 April 2015

The following table states the maximum rates for subsistence; however, where councils believe it is necessary there is flexibility for councils to increase these rates by applying a suitable measure of price inflation.

PERIOD/MEAL	British Isles Rates £	London Rates £
Accommodation allowance - An absence involving an overnight stay, away from the normal place of residence. This rate does not include any meal allowance.	100.70	122.45
Breakfast allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period before 11 am)	11.50	11.50
Lunch allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 12 noon and 2pm)	13.50	13.50
Tea allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 3pm and 6pm)	4.70	4.70
Evening meal allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period ending after 7pm)	20.95	20.95

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Subject:	Appointment to Outside Body: Belfast Hills Partnership Board
Date:	24th January, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from the Belfast Hills Partnership to increase the Council's representation on its Board to 2 Councillors.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request and to note that, if it is minded to agree, the nomination will be made in accordance with Committee's decision of 26th June, 2023 in relation to additional appointments to outside bodies.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Correspondence has been received from the Partnership Manager, Belfast Hills Partnership, indicating that its Articles of Association have been updated to allow for two Councillors from Belfast City Council to become Board members.
3.2	The Council currently has one position, and this is held by the Sinn Fein Party following the selection process for appointments to outside bodies under the St. Lague Order of Choices which was agreed at the Committee meeting held on 26th June, 2023.
3.3	Also at that meeting the Committee <i>"agreed a process to deal with any additional requests from outside bodies for Council representation during the Council term, in that the Party or Parties who would have had the next available choice(s) under the Saint Lague table would be asked to nominate a representative(s)"</i> .
3.4	Accordingly, if the Committee accepts the request the position will be offered in the first instance to the next Party on the list, namely, the Alliance Party.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Planning Information
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

Restricted Reports	
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 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> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-top: 20px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-top: 20px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-top: 20px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-top: 20px;"></div> </div>	

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 provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The report is for notation.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Committee received an update on Planning Performance at its meeting on the 27 th August 2024. At that meeting and previously, the Committee sought a regular update on Major applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee, especially those where a Decision Notice has yet to be issued.
3.2	All Major applications must be determined by the Planning Committee. The Key Performance Indicator (given in weeks) is calculated from when an application is considered to be valid to when the Decision Notice ("Green Form") is issued. This means that any delays either pre- or post- committee will impact on the KPI. The target for determining a Major application is 30 weeks.
	<u>Major applications</u>
3.3	Appendix 1 sets out the Major applications that are currently with the Council to determine. Details are given on the location, proposal, the validation date and target date for determination (using the 30 week target set out in the Key Performance Indicator) as well as a status update.
	<u>Applications determined by Committee</u>
3.4	Appendix 2 sets out the applications that have been determined by Committee since February 2022 which are yet to issue. For completeness information is also given on those applications determined by Committee which have had their Decision Notice issued. Details are given on the time taken (in weeks) to bring the applications before Committee and where decisions are yet to be issued, information is given relating to the main reason for the delay.
	<u>Conclusion</u>
3.5	This report will be brought to each Planning Committee and to each Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for information on an ongoing basis
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at January 2025 Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at January 2025

Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 15.01.25

Number	Application No.	Category	Location	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date	Status
1	LA04/2022/0809/F	Major	Lands to the south and west of Woodland Grange to the north of Blacks Gate and to the east of Moor Park Mews Belfast.	Amendments to approved schemes ref. Z/2008/0993/F (erection of 53 No. dwellings) & ref. Z/2013/0120/F (erection of 46 No. dwellings); to reduce overall density from 99 No. dwellings to 94 No. dwellings and associated and ancillary works.	21-Apr-22	17-Nov-22	UNDER CONSIDERATION
2	LA04/2023/2633/F	Major	St Teresa's GAC, 2 Glen Road Heights, Belfast BT11 8ER	Proposed extension to existing clubhouse to provide indoor sports hall, changing rooms, reception, and fitness suite. Proposed relocation of grass pitch and new 4G training pitch with integrated ball walls. Proposed annex building with club store and matchday shop. Site works including increased parking, fencing, catch nets, floodlighting, dugouts, paths, and other associated amenities.	14-Mar-23	10-Oct-23	UNDER CONSIDERATION
3	LA04/2023/3799/F	Major	Vacant lands (partial site of the former Wolfhill Flax Spinning Mill) located to the south, of Wolfhill Manor, north of Wolfhill Grove and west of Mill Avenue, Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8NR	New single storey 10-class based primary school, separate nursery school accommodation and school meals accommodation to facilitate the relocation of St. Vincent De Paul Primary School and Nursery from existing site on Ligoniel Road, Belfast. Proposal includes new pedestrian and vehicular accesses onto Mill Avenue, car parking, covered cycle storage area and hard play areas. Hard and soft landscaping including wildlife walkway, fencing, retaining walls, underground drainage system to include the reinstatement of underground storm sewer and headwall into adjacent DFI River wayleave. Includes temporary contractors compound and all associated site works.	09-Oct-23	06-May-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
Page 354	LA04/2023/4181/F	Major	Lands comprising the existing Sydenham Wastewater Pumping Station west of Park Avenue, Connswater River and King George V Playing Fields, to the south of the Sydenham By-Pass, east of The Oval football stadium, north and east of Parkgate Gardens and north of Parkgate Crescent, Parkgate Parade and Mersey Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS) with reinstatement of site as a landscaped area. Construction of a replacement WwPS including associated control building and hardstanding, the raising of site levels, in-channel works, provision of new rising main, other ancillary buildings, the creation of an access road on lands within the King George V Playing Fields to serve the facility, landscaping and other ancillary works. Provision of a temporary working area on lands within the King George V Playing Fields, the creation of a temporary access road from Mersey Street to facilitate construction traffic on lands to the rear of 1-35 Parkgate Gardens, the creation of a temporary footway adjacent to 88 Park Avenue and other ancillary development and landscaping restoration works.	14-Nov-23	11-Jun-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
5	LA04/2024/0015/F	Major	Lands at Cabin Hill, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4	Erection of 53 residential units (including 43 dwellings and 10 apartments) including creation of access, internal roads, landscaping and associated works (amended description and plans).	22-Dec-23	19-Jul-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
6	LA04/2024/0211/F	Major	Existing Football Stadium The Oval Parkgate Drive Belfast BT4 1EW.	Redevelopment of the existing stadium by way of demolition of both existing stands and construction of two new spectator stands with reconfiguration of existing standing terracing at goal ends, new turnstiles and associated siteworks including new floodlighting, additional car parking and improved circulation routes to provide an overall capacity for 6000 spectators on site.	15-Mar-24	11-Oct-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
7	LA04/2024/0285/F	Major	Ardoyne Youth Club, Old Beltex Mill, Flax Street, Belfast, BT14 7EJ	Demolition of existing building and erection of a new purpose-built youth facility including retention of existing chimney. (Renewal of planning permission reference LA04/2018/1998/F)	20-Feb-24	17-Sep-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION

8	LA04/2024/0429/F	Major	Lands bound by North Street, Royal Avenue, Rosemary Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street located approximately 400m west of Laganside bus station 300m northeast of City Hall and 1km northwest of Central Train Station.	Renewal of planning permission LA04/2017/2126/F (Phase 1B Tribeca) for redevelopment including the construction of a new six storey building on the existing surface level car park, part change of use to create a mixed use development comprising retail units, restaurants and cafes, residential units, offices, church and related community floor space, new streets and public realm works. Demolition of 53 Royal Avenue and 27-31 Rosemary Street and restoration of Central Halls (37-39 Rosemary Street), Masonic Hall (15 Rosemary Street), 43/43a Rosemary Street and retention of 30-34 North Street.	08-Mar-24	04-Oct-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
9	LA04/2024/0569/O	Major	STORMONT HOTEL 587 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD BALLYCLOGHAN BELFAST BT4 3LP	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for independent living and assisted living retirement apartments (Use Class C3), associated internal access roads, communal open space, revised access from Castlevue Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
10	LA04/2024/0570/F	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castlevue Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and Summerhill Park (nos. 37 & 39).	Change of use of from hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
11	LA04/2024/0675/F	Major	The Arches Centre 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5AA	Change of Use of first and second floor of The Arches building to provide 39 No. apartments; extension to second floor to provide a further 6 No. apartments and erection of new third floor to provide 19 No. apartments (all social housing dwellings, 64 No. in total), and ancillary/associated works.	13-May-24	09-Dec-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
12	LA04/2024/0714/F	Major	Units 2A and 2B at 38 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6HR.	Proposed development to create a private medical facility (a hospital within Class C3) comprising of the change of use of part of retail warehouse and the extension of the building to create a private medical facility with a significant element of overnight residential care together with all associated ancillary development.	14-Jun-24	10-Jan-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
13	LA04/2024/0910/F	Major	70 whitewell Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7ES Site at Hazelwood Integrated College	Redevelopment of Hazelwood Integrated College to include demolition of existing building and development of new school campus, new sports pitch, outdoor play areas, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and retention and refurbishment of the Listed Building (Graymount House) and other associated site works including a temporary mobile village during the construction process.	23-May-24	19-Dec-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
14	LA04/2024/1385/F	Major	Olympic House, Titanic Quarter, 5 Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9DH	Amendment to planning permission Z/2013/0931/F to permit occupation for Class B1(a) office and/or Class B1(c) research and development.	09-Aug-24	07-Mar-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
15	LA04/2024/1458/F	Major	Divis and The Black Mountain National Trust Site, Divis Road, Hannahstown, Belfast, BT17 0NG.	Alterations to the site include refurbishing and repurposing of 3no existing vernacular buildings and replacing 1 shed, a small garage and an agricultural structure with a new amenity building. Enhancements to the existing pond network, introduction of signage interpretation and a suite of site-appropriate furniture. Wider site improvement works are proposed including path enhancements and new routes, installation of site furniture and interpretation signage.	20-Sep-24	18-Apr-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
16	LA04/2024/1592/F	Major	Marlborough House, (no. 28-32 Victoria Street), and no. 8 Marlborough Street, Belfast BT1 3GG	Residential development comprising the demolition of no. 8 Marlborough Street, partial demolition of existing Marlborough House, and the refurbishment of existing Listed Building (Princes Court) (3 storeys), for the erection of 103 no. apartments (mix of 1-bed, 2-bed and 3 bed units) (7 storeys), with provision of private amenity, and internal and external communal amenity spaces; and associated site and infrastructure works.	20-Sep-24	18-Apr-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION

17	LA04/2024/1635/F	Major	Lands at Nos. 176-184 and No. 202 Woodstock Road and Nos. 2-20 Beersbridge Road, Belfast.	Section 54 application to vary condition 13 of LA04/2022/0209/F regarding vapour protection measures prior to occupation of approved development and refer to the updated Remediation Strategy of September 2024. The removal of the wording of part c of condition 13, which is no longer required.	27-Sep-24	10-Jan-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
18	LA04/2024/1761/R M	Major	Land forming Plot 9 of the Kings Hall development as approved by LA04/2020/0845/O.	Application for approval of reserved matters application for a medical facility in accordance with outline planning permission LA04/2020/0845/O, seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping details	15-Oct-24	13-May-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
19	LA04/2024/1836/F	Major	Lands between Ballygomartin Road and Upper Whiterock Road and to the west (rear) of Moyard Parade and New Barnsley Crescent, Belfast Co. Antrim BT13 3QZ	Proposed development of new walking trails linking Black Mountain Shared Space Project building (approved under LA04/2022/0853/F) on the Ballygomartin Road with the Upper Whiterock Road and Moyard Parade. Proposal to include gated accesses, stockproof fencing, seated areas, information signage, landscaping and associated site works.	25-Nov-24	23-Jun-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
20	LA04/2024/1837/F	Major	Lands north of 14 Mill Race and 15 Belfield Heights and south of 2-15 St Gerards Manor Ballymurphy Belfast Co. Antrim	Vary condition 20 from previous planning permission LA04/2022/0129/F	17-Nov-24	15-Jun-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
21	LA04/2024/2044/F	Major	Lands at 39 Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3BA	Erection of 895 room Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) across 9-20 storey building blocks with communal facilities, internal and external communal amenity space including landscaped courtyard and roof terraces and ancillary accommodation. With additional use outside term time (no more than 50% of the rooms) as short-term let accommodation and (no more than 50% of the rooms) accommodation for use by further or higher education institutions	26-Nov-24	24-Jun-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
Page 33	LA04/2024/2134/F	Major	Site of the former Dunmurry Cricket Club, Ashley Park, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0QQ, located north of 1-10 Ashley Park and south of 1-20 Areema Grove and Areema Drive, Dunmurry.	Mixed use scheme for new community recreational facilities, including basketball court, parkland and residential development comprising 40no social/affordable housing units with landscaping and associated works.	21-Dec-24	19-Jul-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION

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Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 15 Jan 2025

Decision Description	Totals
To be issued	32
Consent Granted	1
Consent Refused	
Permission Granted	4
Permission Refused	1
Total	38

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Category	Date Valid	Delegated Committe	Committee Date	Weeks between Valid date and Comm date	Weeks Since Committee	Weeks between Comm Date and Issued Date 2	Decision	Issue date	Todays Date	Reason decision not issued
LA04/2021/0547/F	Lands at 124-126 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 6AH	Demolition of the existing buildings and redevelopment of site for 2 no. commercial units on ground floor; 11 no. 1 & 2 bed apartments; landscaped communal courtyard; and all associated site works.	LOC	30-Mar-21	C	15/02/2022	46	152	No Issue Date	Decision to be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/2059/F	Lands south of 56 Highcairn Drive Belfast BT13 3RU Site located at junction between Highcairn Drive and Dunboyne Park	Proposed Social Housing Development Comprising of 12 no. 3p/2b semi-detached dwelling houses with incurtilage parking and associated site works. (amended description and site location plan)	LOC	04-Nov-22	C	29/06/2023	33	80	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1924/F	160-164 Kingsway Dunmurry BT17 9RZ.	Mixed-use proposal comprising 13 apartments (with 13 car parking spaces) and coffee shop.	LOC	19-Oct-22	C	29/06/2023	36	80	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2324/F	MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRE NORGLLEN GARDENS BALLYMURPHY BELFAST ANTRIM BT11 8EL	Proposed redevelopment comprising demolition of an extant building and development of two apartment blocks (12 units category 1 over 55s tenure) and change of use/alterations of existing retail unit to apartments (8 units private tenure), communal amenity, parking, site access alterations, landscaping and ancillary site works	LOC	13-Dec-22	C	17/10/2023	44	65	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2020/1858/F	Hillview Retail Park Crumlin Road Belfast.	Proposed residential development of 18 no. social housing units, comprising two terraces. Development includes associated car parking, gardens, landscaping, site access and all other site works. (amended plans uploaded to the Planning Portal on the 5th April 2023 that revise the proposed access and road layout, including the introduction of a traffic island).	LOC	08-Jan-21	C	14/11/2023	148	61	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2390/F	Lands West of Monagh By-Pass South of Upper Springfield Road & 30-34 Upper Springfield Road & West of Aitnamona Crescent & St Theresa's Primary School. North and East of 2-22 Old Brewery Lane Glanaulin 137-143a Glen Road & Airfield Heights & St Mary's CBG School Belfast	Section 54 application to vary a number of conditions to allow the removal of 21 lay-by parking spaces to facilitate the introduction of a new Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) to the southern side of the approved east-west spine road.	MAJ	22-Feb-23	C	12/12/2023	41	57	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2021/2016/F	21-29 Corporation Street & 18-24 Tomb Street Belfast.	Demolition of existing multi-storey car park and the erection of 298no. build for rent apartments (19 storey) including ground floor commercial unit (A1/A2), car/cycle parking provision along with associated development. (Further information received).	MAJ	26-Aug-21	C	16/01/2024	124	52	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1219/F	177-183 Victoria Street 66-72 May Street and 4-8 Gloucester Street Belfast	Demolition of existing building and erection of 11 storey building (May Street/Victoria Street) and 4 storey building (Gloucester Street) comprising 77 apartments with communal areas, ground floor retail services (A2) unit, cycle and car parking, and vehicular access via Gloucester Street	MAJ	21-Jun-22	C	16/01/2024	82	52	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2022/0097/F	22-30 Hopefield Avenue Belfast BT15 5AP	Proposed three and a half storey residential development comprising of 18no. units (3no. wheelchair apartments and 15no. Category 1 - Social Housing) and associated access, bin storage, boundary treatments, bike stands, car parking and site and landscaping works (Amended Drawings)	LOC	04-Apr-22	C	13/02/2024	97	48	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1384/F	Lands at 12 Inverary Avenue Sydenham Belfast BT4 1RN	Residential development of 10 no. apartments within a single building, including demolition of existing structures, car parking and relocation of existing access, and all other associated siteworks.	LOC	05-Aug-22	C	19/03/2024	84	43	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2017/1991/F	Land adjacent to Concourse Buildings Queens Road Belfast BT3 9DT.	Construction of a new 5 storey office development for science and I.T. based business and associated car parking and public realm works.	MAJ	20-Sep-17	C	19/03/2024	338	43	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2020/2105/F	1-5 Gaffikin Street Belfast BT12 5FH	Residential development comprising 55no. apartments comprising 12 no social, and 43 no private apartments and associated site works.	MAJ	21-Oct-20	C	19/03/2024	177	43	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/0612/F	Lands at the junction of Shankill Road, Lanark Way, and bound by Caledon Street, Belfast.	Residential scheme of 53 no. dwellings comprising 34 no. semi-detached and 4 no. detached) and 15 no. apartments (7 no. 2-bed and 8 no. 1-bed), amenity space, bin and bicycle storage, landscaping, access, car parking and all associated site works.(revised description & amended plans).	MAJ	15-Apr-22	C	18/06/2024	113	30	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/4215/F	141-147 Upper Dunmurry Lane, Dunmurry, Belfast, BT17 0EY	Proposed 3no. residential apartment blocks (19no. Cat 1 Elderly apartments and 2no. Wheelchair apartments, 21 units in total) Associated car parking, site works and landscaping.	LOC	16-Oct-23	C	17/09/2024	48	17	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2024/0483/F	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Proposed change of use from Office (B1) and restaurant (Sui Generis) to Hotel comprising of 88 no. bedrooms, two storey rooftop extension, restaurant and bar offerings, gym facilities, including new dormer windows on roof, internal and external refurbishment and alterations, and all associated site works.	MAJ	19-Mar-24	C	15/10/2024	30	13	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/0480/DCA	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Part demolition of existing buildings (stripping back of roof, shopfront and other external alterations to facilitate change of use and extension of buildings to hotel use.	LOC	29-Mar-24	C	15/10/2024	28	13	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/0393/F	ECIT Building Queen's Road, Queen's Island, Belfast, BT3 9DT	Proposed 5 storey extension to the East of the ECIT Building (Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology), and 3 storey extension to the West, to provide additional research and development space with associated landscaping and site works.	MAJ	21-Mar-24	C	12/11/2024	33	9	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/0369/F	Lands at Former Monarch Laundry site, and Broadway Hall Site, No's 451 - 457 Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 6HD.	Proposed Specialist Nursing and Residential Care Facility comprising approximately 158 no. beds, day/dining rooms, treatment rooms, staff rooms, office/store rooms, including car parking provision, cycle parking, refuse storage, landscaping, and associated site and access works.	MAJ	08-Feb-24	C	12/11/2024	39	9	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2022/1206/F	Glenwood Primary School 4-22 Upper Riga Street Belfast BT13 3GW.	Demolition of existing 1960s three storey block and caretakers house and erection of split level two-storey extension and refurbishment of original school building to provide 21no. classrooms, including 4no. support classrooms, a nurture suite and a school canteen. New boundary walls with railings, landscaping, car parking, new access from the Shankill Road and retention of existing access from Upper Riga Street. Works to include 4no temporary classroom units for the duration of construction work.	MAJ	05-Aug-22	C	12/11/2024	118	9	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing
LA04/2022/1458/LBC	Glenwood Primary School 4-22 Upper Riga Street Belfast BT13 3GW	Demolition of existing 1960s three storey block and caretakers house and erection of split level two-storey extension and refurbishment of original school building to provide 21no. classrooms, including 4no. support classrooms, a nurture suite and a school canteen. New boundary walls with railings, landscaping, car parking, new access from the Shankill Road and retention of existing access from Upper Riga Street. Works to include 4no temporary classroom units for the duration of construction work. (revised description and plans)	LOC	08-Jun-22	C	12/11/2024	126	9	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing
LA04/2020/0568/F	21 Queen Street Belfast BT1 6EA.	Demolition of building and structures at rear, refurbishment and alteration of frontage building and erection of 9 storey extension to rear to form hotel (74 bedrooms) with associated restaurant, bar & ancillary facilities and works (amended description).	LOC	04-Mar-20	C	10/12/2024	248	5	1	Permission Granted	20 Dec 2024	15/01/2025	

LA04/2024/0122/F	Former Belfast Metropolitan College Campus, Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PG	Proposed mixed use development comprising of 62No. social housing units (mix of dwellings and apartments) and a new children's centre, car parking, landscaping, open space and all associated site and access works.	MAJ	19-Jan-24	C	10/12/2024	46	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/4405/F	Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE	Redevelopment of existing storage sheds, temporary office structures and yard area to provide new replacement Analytical Services Laboratories.	MAJ	20-Dec-23	C	10/12/2024	50	5	No Issue Date	Permission Granted		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing
LA04/2023/3691/F	Little Patrick Street and Little York Street, Belfast, BT15 1BH	Public realm scheme: Reconfiguration of Little Patrick Street to single lane carriageway, including localised shared space, traffic calming and restricted access to enable servicing / emergency access. Traffic calming measures provided to Little York Street. Other works to include installation of planters with integrated seating, tree planting, rain gardens, bespoke lighting pillars, catenary lighting and surface improvements. (Amended Plans and Information Received).	LOC	13-Jul-23	C	10/12/2024	73	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing
LA04/2024/1591/F	20 Deramore Park, Belfast, BT9 5JU	Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a two-storey replacement dwelling with accommodation in the roof, new garden store, widened site access, new gates and pillars and associated site works.	LOC	17-Sep-24	C	10/12/2024	12	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing
LA04/2024/1593/DCA	20 Deramore Park, Belfast, BT9 5JU	Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a two-storey replacement dwelling with accommodation in the roof, new garden store, widened site access, new gates and pillars and associated site works.	LOC	17-Sep-24	C	10/12/2024	12	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting issuing

LA04/2024/1623/F	49 Woodcot Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5JB	Change of use from 4 bed dwelling (C1) to 5 bed House of Multiple Occupancy (Sui Generis)	LOC	26-Sep-24	C	10/12/2024	10	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Deferred for Site visit
LA04/2024/1744/LBC	Belfast City Hall, 2 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS	Installation of metal gates to the Titanic Memorial Garden at the ground of Belfast City Hall	LOC	16-Oct-24	C	10/12/2024	7	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Deferred for Site visit
LA04/2024/2016/F	Ulster Hall 30 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF	Erection of a life-sized statue of Rory Gallagher on the existing patio area to the side of Ulster Hall	LOC	04-Dec-24	C	10/12/2024	0	5	3	Permission Granted	02 Jan 2025	15/01/2025	
LA04/2024/1141/DCA	Lands including and to the rear of 24-54 Castle Street, 2-6 Queen Street, 1-7 & 21 Fountain Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing buildings and construction of Purpose Built Multi Storey Managed Student Accommodation (821no. rooms) with heights of between 6-9 storeys and associated shared/ancillary spaces with ground floor retail/retail service units, resident's gym/cinema and ancillary development/uses	LOC	28-Jun-24	C	10/12/2024	23	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/1046/F	Duncrue Complex, Duncrue Road, Belfast BT3 9BP	Erection of a store to be used as a workshop for Eurobins.	LOC	29-Oct-24	C	10/12/2024	6	5	1	Permission Granted	23 Dec 2024	15/01/2025	
LA04/2024/0626/F	1 Havelock House Havelock Place, Ormeau, Belfast, BT7 1EB .	Erection of 104no. residential units across two detached blocks [ranging between 3 and 5 storeys] including 84 no. Social Rented Housing Units (comprising a mix of General Social Housing and Category 1 over 55's accommodation), landscaping, communal and private amenity space, ancillary cycle and car parking provision, and other associated site works	MAJ	17-Apr-24	C	10/12/2024	33	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/1020/F	6 Paxton Street, Belfast, BT5 4NU	Proposed change of use from dwelling (C1) to 3-Bedroom HMO (Sui generis) including partial demolition of existing rear extension to create new flat roof, fenestration changes and new roof light window to front.	LOC	11-Jun-24	C	10/12/2024	26	5	2	Permission Refused	30 Dec 2024	15/01/2025	

LA04/2024/0475/F	Ulidia Resource Centre, Somerset Street, Ballynafoy, Belfast, BT7 2GS	Renewal of planning permission ref: LA04/2018/1755/F. New 7 classroom primary school and single unit nursery on the former site of the now demolished Ulidia Primary School. Existing site entrances to be retained and used for site access with proposed car parking, bus parking and drop off, footpaths, boundary treatment, and hard and soft play areas.	MAJ	18-Apr-24	C	10/12/2024	33	5	4	Permission Granted	10 Jan 2025	15/01/2025	
LA04/2023/2557/F	Lands East of Meadowhill, North of Glencolin Court, North and East of Glencolin Rise, East of Glencolin Grove, North and West of Glen Road Rise, and North of Glen Road Grove. Belfast.	260 no. dwellings, children's play area and other ancillary and associated works.	MAJ	24-Feb-23	C	10/12/2024	93	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2020/2325/F	Lands at Former Maple Leaf Club 41-43 Park Avenue Belfast.	Proposed erection 21no. dwellings (social/affordable housing units comprising 17no. townhouses and 4no. semi-detached), car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (Amended drawings, additional information)	LOC	06-Nov-20	C	10/12/2024	213	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2019/0081/F	Lands at former Maple Leaf Club 41-43 Park Avenue Belfast.	Erection of 12No. apartments (social/affordable housing units comprising 3No. one bed & 9No. two bed) with provision of community pocket park, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (Amended site location plan / site layout)	LOC	04-Oct-24	C	10/12/2024	9	5	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		15/01/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2020/0569/LBC	21 Queen Street Belfast.	Demolition of building and structures at rear, part demolition to internal features, refurbishment and extension to listed building (amended description).	LOC	17-Feb-20	C	10/12/2024	251	5	1	Consent Granted	20 Dec 2024	15/01/2025	



Subject:	Response to Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

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)
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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

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission to the Department of Communities (DfC), subject to any comments or amendment provided.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	After reforming public service pension schemes in 2014 and 2015, the Government introduced transitional protections for older members. However, in December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled that younger members of the judicial and firefighters' pension schemes had been unlawfully discriminated against because the protections did not apply to them.
3.2	This ruling is called the 'McCloud judgment'. As a result of the ruling, changes have been made to the Local Government Pension Scheme(LGPS) to remove the age discrimination. These changes are known as the 'McCloud remedy'.
3.3	In 2015, the LGPS in NI changed from a final salary scheme to a career average scheme. Older members who were closer to retirement were protected from these changes. Members were protected if they met these conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • born before 1 April 1957 • joined the LGPS before 1 April 2012 (or another <u>public service pension scheme</u>) • under age 65 and an active member between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022 • took their pension straight away when they left the LGPS.
3.4	When a protected member retired, their pension fund compared the career average pension they built up before age 65 with the pension they would have built up in the final salary scheme. If the final salary pension was higher, the difference was added to their pension. This protection is called the underpin.
3.5	The LGPS rules changed from 1 October 2023 because of the McCloud remedy. The changes are backdated to 1 April 2015, when the career average scheme started. If a

	member qualified for underpin protection, they will be protected even if they have already left the LGPS or taken their pension.
3.6	<p>The McCloud remedy means two main changes for LGPS members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualifying younger members are now protected by the underpin too. This removes the discrimination found in the McCloud judgment. 2. The new underpin rules are much more detailed. This means that the underpin works fairly and consistently for all protected members. If you were protected by the 'old' underpin rules when you took your pension before 1 October 2023, your pension might increase under the 'new' rules.
3.7	In 2020/21 and 2023 DfC consulted on proposals to remove unlawful discrimination found by the courts in the "McCloud" case.
3.8	Members are advised that on 11 th December 2024 DfC issued a further consultation and are now seeking further views on draft statutory guidance to implement the McCloud remedy in LGPS (NI). It outlines the topics the draft statutory guidance should cover.
3.9	<p>Members should note that the closing date for responses is 19th February 2025. A copy of the draft response to the consultation is attached as appendix 1 and a summary of the key issues are outlined below.</p> <p>A Link to the Consultation is detailed below.</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-statutory-guidance-implementation-mccloud-remedy-local-government-pension-scheme-northern-ireland</p>
3.10	<p>DfC are seeking consultees' comments on the content of the guidance, but in particular on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether you agree with the approaches proposed • Whether the guidance is clear and contains sufficient information on each topic • Whether there are any other topics that should be covered in the guidance
3.11	<p>In summary the key areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall Approach to McCloud Remedy 2. Technical Matters 3. Compensation
3.12	The draft guidance is intended to support the Scheme Manager in the implementation of the LPGA (NI) McCloud remedy in the following ways:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing the Department's view on the approach that should be taken for a number of key issues in order to achieve a consistent application of the remedy across the LGPS(NI). • By providing additional guidance on how certain technical issues that may arise should be approached. • By providing an overview of the legal framework for McCloud compensation.
3.13	The Key issues identified in the draft guidance cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Data Collection and verification • Identifying members in scope • Qualifying scenarios • Case prioritisation
3.14	In relation to the technical issues, these have been identified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers – Issues regarding retrospection • Multiple sets of underpin figures • Unpaid additional pension contributions • Deaths of beneficiaries before payment made
3.15	In relation to Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the conditions that must be met for direct or indirect compensation to be possible • examples of where compensation may be payable in the context of the LGPS(NI)
3.16	Members are asked to consider the draft response in Appendix 1 and approve its submission to the Department for Communities.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.17	There are no implications associated with this report
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.18	There are no implications associated with this report.
3.19	Members are advised that DfC have undertaken an equality screening assessment on the proposed guidance and this is available on their website.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Draft consultation response

Appendix 1: Draft Consultation Response

The Council notes the significant administrative impact the McCloud remedy is currently placing on pension and payroll administrators and welcomes the guidance to be issued by the department.

The council agrees with the proposed approach to be taken in the guidance and whilst acknowledging that certain areas of the guidance will, by necessity, be technical in nature. Due to the specialised nature of pensions, and specifically in relation to the McCloud Remedy, the Council believes the guidance to be clear and containing sufficient information on each topic, with examples to aide understanding, however, it would note the guidance needs to be kept under review, especially during the McCloud Remedy implementation phase and updated if further topics come to light.

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Subject:	Proposal for Belfast to join UK Network of Learning Cities
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty
Contact Officers:	Patricia Magee, Policy and Performance Analyst

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	<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
1.1	To seek approval for Belfast Learning City to join the UK Network of Learning Cities, following an invitation from Swansea Learning City, and to endorse attendance at the network's inaugural meeting and launch in late January 2025, coinciding with International Day of Education.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and agree that Belfast joins the emerging UK Learning Cities Network. Consider and agree that officer representation (maximum of 2) from the Belfast Learning City's Network attend the inaugural meeting and launch of the UK Learning Cities Network to be held in Swansea in late January 2025. Members to note the meeting takes place in advance of February Council ratification.
3.0	Key Issues
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Belfast joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2018 in recognition of the City's commitment to promoting lifelong learning for all. This aligns with the vision of the Belfast Agenda, to promote Belfast as a great place to live and work for all.</p>
3.2	<p>Since joining the UNESCO network, Belfast has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Strengthened partnerships with local education, community and business stakeholders: Under the auspices of community planning, a cross-sectoral 'Learning Cities Leadership Group' currently exists and comprises representatives from QUB, UU, BMET, BHSCT, PHA, Education Authority, Libraries NI, community partners and Council. Other key partners, including the Open University and Belfast Healthy Cities, are engaged and plan to join the Leadership Group.</p> <p>Strengthened partnerships with Learning Cities across the island (Dublin, Derry and Strabane, Limerick, Cork and Waterford): These relationships have been formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), enabling collaboration, exchange of best practices and access to joint funding opportunities to deliver shared projects that have directly benefited Belfast's learning programmes particularly in areas such as community engagement and skills development.</p> <p>Delivered annual Belfast Learning Festivals: These festivals have provided a platform to celebrate and showcase formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities across the city, with participation from schools, businesses and community groups helping reinforce the city's commitment to narrowing educational inequalities and fostering a culture of lifelong learning. The city has also administered grant funding to enable not-for-profit organisations to host a learning event as part of this celebration.</p> <p>Supported initiatives that enhance skills development and community wellbeing: For example, Belfast Learning City recently funded the Aisling Educational Bursary Awards which supported individuals from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds to access further or higher education.</p> <p>Strengthened partnerships with Learning Cities across the globe: This has included informal learning exchanges with cities across Europe, South Africa and Australia.</p>

3.3	<p>The Irish Network of Learning Cities</p> <p>In 2019, Belfast joined the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC), with the Lord Mayor signing a Memorandum of Understanding between participating cities including Derry and Strabane, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Belfast. The MOU was renewed and re-signed in May 2022.</p>
3.4	<p>The INLC meets several times a year to share knowledge, experience and support each other on their learning city journey. The network recently secured and implemented a Shared Island funded initiative which enabled and encouraged learning exchanges and joint initiatives across the INLC.</p>
3.5	<p>UK Network of Learning Cities</p> <p>There are 7 designated learning cities across the UK (including Bristol, Derby, Glasgow, Kirklees, Manchester, Swansea and Wolverhampton). Reflecting on the approach adopted by the all-island Irish Network of Learning Cities (UNESCO promotes the collaborative approach as an exemplar), Swansea are leading an initiative to create a UK network of Learning Cities. Swansea has invited both Belfast and Derry and Strabane Learning Cities to join the Network.</p>
3.6	<p>Joining the UK Network will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster further collaboration with many UK Core Cities, enabling and encouraging the sharing of good practice and amplifying impact of lifelong learning on a national scale. • Showcase Belfast's achievements and ongoing work, enhancing our city's profile both nationally and globally. • Position Belfast as a leader in lifelong learning, increasing opportunities for external funding and partnerships. • Provide a collective platform to influence regional and national policies in support of learning initiatives.
3.7	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Subject to the consideration and approval of the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the proposed next steps are set out below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belfast Learning City Steering Group will confirm its intention to join the UK Network of Learning Cities. 2. Representatives of the Belfast Learning Cities Steering Group will attend the inaugural meeting and launch event of the UK Network of Learning Cities in Swansea in late January 2025. 3. Opportunities for collaboration within the network will be identified and reported to future meetings of the Committee.
	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p>
3.8	<p>There are no membership fees for joining the UK Network of Learning Cities and participation in network activities will align with ongoing Learning City Work.</p>

3.9	Attendance at the inaugural meeting and launch of the network in Swansea, if agreed, will incur travel and subsistence costs which can be funded through existing budget assigned for Belfast Learning Cities.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.10	There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Response to Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

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.

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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

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission to the Department of Finance (DoF), subject to any comments or amendment provided.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Draft 2025/26 Budget sets out the proposed departmental allocations for the incoming financial year.</p> <p>The Executive is encouraging people to get involved in the Draft Budget consultation and have their say on how to prioritise the finite funding available.</p>
3.2	<p>Members should note that the closing date for responses is 13th March 2025. A copy of the draft response to the consultation is proposed in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 below. A summary of the key issues are outlined below.</p> <p>A Link to the Consultation is detailed below.</p> <p>https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-budget-2025-26-consultation</p>
3.3	<p>DoF are seeking consultees' comments on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you agree with the prioritisation of funding within the 2025-26 draft budget document? 2. What services should be prioritised in the 2025-26 budget? 3. Are there any services that no longer need to be delivered or can be reduced in 2025-26? 4. Do service charges need to be considered for some services? 5. Should Public Sector pay be prioritised? 6. And have you any other views?
3.4	The information provided is at a very high level. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult to make an informed response to the questions posed. On that basis it is recommended that the Council does not respond to questions 1-5.
3.5	Within the written ministerial statement issued with the consultation documents, dated 19 th December 2024, there is reference to the Autumn budget and the increase in employers' National Insurance and the potential cost to local government.

3.6	Prior to this in a statement from government on 18 th December they have confirmed £515 million in support for local authorities in England to mitigate the additional impact of the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. As members will be aware, this funding will then come through the block grant as a result of the Barnett Consequentials.
3.7	Members will be aware that additional funding received by the Executive via the block grant is unhypothecated and as such it is at the discretion of the executive as to how that funding is allocated. It is proposed that the Council provides a response to Q6 – Any other views – as follows:
3.8	Belfast City Council fully understands the serious financial pressures across public services and local government is committed to doing its bit in addressing those pressures. We do believe in the benefit though of a joined up and ‘whole of government’ approach to public services in Northern Ireland and would encourage us both to work together to protect essential local services. By doing this, we can avoid just transferring the financial pressures public services are experiencing from one part of the public sector to another part of the public sector and instead put our collective efforts into the transformation needed to put all our public services on a sustainable footing.
3.9	On that basis, it is imperative, that additional funding received through the block grant as a result of the Barnett Consequentials is passed onto Local Authorities to ensure the continued delivery of core services.
3.10	Members are asked to consider the draft response above and approve its submission to DoF.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.11	There are no implications associated with this report
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.12	There are no implications associated with this report. Members are advised that DoF have undertaken an equality Impact assessment on the draft budget and this is available on their website.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Community Recovery Fund
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Following a meeting of the Strategy Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee on the 22 nd November 2024, members requested Officers to consider the Area Based Facet of the

	Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Action Plan, which the Deputy Prime Minister is making available to support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place between July and August 2024, including Belfast. In England this will be issued under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, and in Northern Ireland funds will be released to the Department of Finance, to support those communities most affected.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree that Officers Progress the Community Recovery Action Plan under the following 4 themes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration • Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau • Theme 3 Community Integration and Inclusion • Theme 4 Resource Recoupment
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to Belfast City Council, to be committed and commenced before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.</p> <p>Expenditure is eligible under this scheme if it is in response to the violent disorder that took place between July and August 2024 and is on, or in connection with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immediate action to safeguard life or property. b. To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience. c. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future. d. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.
3.2	The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances. Previous reports have detailed examples of projects which are designed to support Community and Voluntary Activity.
3.3	<p>Officers have considered members feedback in relation to the original area-based approach and are recommending a number of changes to the Community Recovery Action Plan, which will assist bolstering support directly to Communities within Belfast City. The Changes can be summarised as follows: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CRF002 – Integration and Inclusion has been realigned to £35,000. 2. CRF003 - Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out) has been realigned to £30,000. 3. CRF008 – Community Resource Integration and Inclusion has been increased from £180,000 to £330,000.

3.4	<p>This will still leave sufficient budget to develop and target cultural competence and capacity within communities, as there will be opportunity to couple this with Council's Good Relations Action Plan 25/26. However, it also means more investment can be provided directly into Communities in Belfast to improve Integration and Orientation.</p> <p>CRF008 will be divided into two parts: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted Intervention £160,000 – Proposals will be sought and developed through an open call for 4 areas in Belfast which have been directly impacted by Racist Attacks, Officers will work with Community Organisations in the following 4 locations, and ensure Community Led proposals to increase Integration and Inclusion of the Migrant population are developed and progressed: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sandy Row/Donegal Road b. Woodvale c. Connswater d. Greater Falls 2. The remaining £170,000 under this theme; Council will support Projects led by Constituted Community Organisations in Belfast City up to a value of £20,000, through an open call, that support a proactive approach to integration and inclusion of the Migrant population in Belfast City. <p>3.5 Council will invite projects that specifically address some or all the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals that are innovative and do not duplicate the work of other services. • Proposals that engage host communities and people from the migrant community. • Proposals that foster contact and connections with host communities to improve the welcome that people from the migrant community. • Proposals that encourage and support groups to involve migrant population to get involved in the life of their communities through participation in local activities, networks, sports and organisations. • Proposals that are delivered in areas where, to date, there has been limited infrastructure / funding for interventions supporting the inclusion of people from the migrant community. • Proposals that provide orientation and advocacy support <p>It should be noted that this fund does not support one - off events / festivals, and the said criteria applies to both parts of CRF008.</p>
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3.6	<p>The outcomes from the above programme should provide the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Projects which provide Increased Integration, Inclusion and Orientation for the Migrant Community in Belfast • A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate. • Increased Community Leadership and Competence
3.7	<p>Further to the above it is anticipated that the direct outcomes and data attained from the said projects will inform the core work of Council's Good Relations Action Plan and Strategy.</p>
3.8	<p>The Action Plan attached has been submitted and agreed in principle with the department. Officers have been in discussions with the relevant department in Westminster and providing programmes are committed Council will have the ability to deliver into the Financial Year 25/26. That said, members should note that the Good Relations Manager will have to agree the said changes with the Department of Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.</p>
3.9	<p>Following members comments in November at SP&R Officers have reviewed the fund criteria above and amended the four main themes of the action plan for delivery as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration • Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau • Theme 3 Community Integration and Inclusion • Theme 4 Resource Recoupment <p>Full Detail of the Community Recovery Action Plan can be seen in Appendix 1</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All the budget detailed within the report is at 100%, the biggest implication is that of resource to design, implement, manage and monitor the programmes, however Council will be able to recoup this under Theme 4.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All the above aligns with Council's Good Relations Strategic Framework, which seeks to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Revised Community Recovery Action Plan</p>

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Appendix 1 DRAFT COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND – ACTION PLAN 24-25

Background

the recently launched Community Recovery Fund (CRF), which the Deputy Prime Minister is making available to support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place between July and August 2024, including Belfast. In England this will be issued under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, and in Northern Ireland funds will be released to the Department of Finance, to support those communities most affected.

The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to each eligible local authority, to be spent before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.

Expenditure is eligible under this scheme if it is in response to the violent disorder that took place between July and August 2024 and is on, or in connection with:

- a. Immediate action to safeguard life or property.
- b. To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- c. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
- d. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances.

Belfast City Council has designed a high-level Action Plan to utilise the Community Recovery Fund and optimise its impact to the City. This will be delivered under four main themes: -

- Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration
- Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau
- Theme 3 Anti Racism and Hate Crime Community Initiatives
- Theme 4 Resource Recoupment

THEME	Ref	Project Title	Project Outline	Alignment to CRF Priority		Project Outcomes	Project Budget
Good Relations	CRF001	Restore the Physical Environment	<p>To work with Open Spaces and Street Scene Department and the Department for Infrastructure to restore the physical environment back to its original form pre–August Riots.</p> <p>Increase on Street Engagement through the Safety Neighbourhood Officer Team</p>	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p>		Public Property and Space returned to pre riot condition	£20,000
	CRF002	Integration and Inclusion	<p>Commission projects to support key stakeholders such as teachers, youth practitioners and community leaders to work with young people and adults to prevent the threats from new and evolving harmful ideologies, that sow division, and spread hate and intolerance.</p> <p>Projects may include the development of Programmes which Develop: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Capacity and Cultural Competence within host communities and organisations. • Integration and Orientation • Trauma Services in School and/or the wider Community • The development of a toolkit resource <p>Make Provision to develop the capacity of the Migrant Forum.</p>	<p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>		<p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>An increase in integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£35,000
	CRF003	Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out)	This programme is designed to enable Council Owned Community Centres and 8 Independently Managed Community Centres to create programmes within their	To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.		<p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Centres of Sanctuary</p>	£30,000

		<p>area to connect with Asylum seekers, Refugees and BAME community. The Programmes will be designed to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Centres of Welcome and Sanctuary • Foster local connections • Provide Opportunities for engagement. • Signpost to other Services both Internal and External 	To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.	Increased Community Connections	
CRF004	Challenging the Narrative	<p>Every year, people move to Northern Ireland to live, work and study, and others leave Northern Ireland to live in other countries.</p> <p>Migration is normal and has been increasing on a Global Scale. Northern Ireland is benefitting from migration, on several different levels.</p> <p>This programme is to develop a resource that clearly presents the facts in relation to migration, and the process of immigration. This will include, but is not exhaustive: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Facts - Who can come here and how, Migration in numbers, Migration, our economy, and services. • The Immigration System Explained • Integration and Community Supports • Accommodation Support • Misinformation - They're Taking our Jobs, what they Receive, They're Here Illegally, Migrants Bring Crime, Migrants are given Preferential Access to Social 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Factual Resource	£35,000

			Housing, what do Migrants Contribute to the Economy			
	CRF005	Supporting Education – Expansion of Schools of Sanctuary and Drop-in Support Programme	<p>The Schools of Sanctuary programme is an award scheme currently available in the Urban Villages areas of Belfast.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at helping schools to further the concept that schools are welcoming places where every child feels safe and accepted regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like; places where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.</p> <p>The Intercultural Education Service and Urban Villages have worked closely with Belfast City of Sanctuary to develop a customised Schools of Sanctuary resource pack - 2nd edition for schools.</p> <p>Selected schools follow 7 steps online, along with school clusters, which help them to follow the Schools of Sanctuary programme in bite-sized, manageable chunks. This provides advice and support to enhance the experience for children, parents, staff, and those in the wider community. This proposal will see the Schools of Sanctuary Programme expanded to 8 other schools across Belfast, which are not in the Urban Village areas. The schools will be identified by the Education Authority based on the enrolment statistics.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Development of 8 Schools to become Schools of Sanctuary across Belfast NSEW</p> <p>Expansion of Drop in Support</p> <p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Increased Community Connections</p>	£20,000

			The EA Drop-in Programme to be expanded and will be hosted X number of evenings per week and will be hosted by the Educational Authority and partners to provide advice, guidance through interpreters to assist integration. This is currently running in 2 Royal Avenue which is an accessible central location for families to visit.			
Wider University and Lower Ormeau Page 187	CRF006	Business Mentoring, Engagement, and Integration Programme	<p>A number of drop-in clinics could be organised in the areas where businesses have suffered in the context of Hate Crime and racist attacks.</p> <p>It will be in a business/building from 9-5 (or a recommended time to ensure engagement) and people can call in at their leisure to hear more about support.</p> <p>People can also arrange a one-to-one meeting in the area at their business premises.</p> <p>From this engagement Officers will establish what the needs are of individuals and help to identify common themes for workshops, mentoring and support.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	8 Businesses Receive Mentoring and Engagement Support	£20,000
	CRF007	Wider University and Lower Ormeau Support Programme	<p>This programme will be designed around Migrant Support Programmes and Council's commitment to, and interest in the diverse community within the WULO area of the city.</p> <p>It aims to strengthen the integration and inclusion of the migrant population.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Number of Key Organisations supported in the WULO area	£40,000

			<p>Through this programme Council wants to support projects that will have a clear and identifiable impact on supporting and building integration and inclusion of the migrant population within the wider university and lower Ormeau area of Belfast.</p> <p>The most recent Good Relations Audit seeks to build on the work undertaken by the Council on supporting the participation and inclusion of minority ethnic residents over the last number of years. In making recommendations on how to progress this work further the Audit highlights the following as being key components: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop initiatives to address anti-Muslim hate. 2. Develop a programme focusing on minority ethnic leadership. 3. Examine and explore the response of Council's and communities in Britain, Ireland and further afield regarding managing diversity and tackling systemic racism. 			
Community -Integration and Inclusion	CRF008	Community Resource	<p>CRF008 will be divided into two parts: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted Intervention £160,000 – Proposals will be sought and developed for 4 areas in Belfast which have been directly impacted by Racist Attacks, Officers will work with Community Organisations in the following 4 locations, and ensure Community Led proposals to increase Integration and 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>A Number of Community Projects which will provide outcomes as follows: -</p> <p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>Increase integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£330,000

			<p>Inclusion of the Migrant population are developed and progressed: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Row/Donegal Road Woodvale Connswater Greater Falls <p>2. The remaining £170,000 under this theme; Council will support Projects led by Constituted Community Organisations in Belfast City up to a value of £20,000, through an open call, that support a proactive approach to integration and inclusion of the Migrant population in Belfast City.</p> <p>Council will invite projects that specifically address some or all the following, this criteria will apply to both parts of this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that are innovative and do not duplicate the work of other services. Proposals that engage host communities and people from the migrant community. Proposals that foster contact and connections with host communities to improve the welcome that people from the migrant community. Proposals that encourage and support groups to involve migrant population to get involved in the life of their communities through participation in local activities, networks, sports and organisations. 		Increased Community Leadership and Competence	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals that are delivered in areas where, to date, there has been limited infrastructure / funding for interventions supporting the inclusion of people from the migrant community.Proposals that provide orientation and advocacy support <p>It should be noted that this fund does not support one -off events / festivals.</p>			
CRF009	Hate Crime Hardship Programme	<p>From research undertaken via PCSP Council envision this programme will be able to assist through the provision of the following which have been the most communicated by victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Security equipment to act as a deterrent to further crimes and better protect victims in their homes. Perpetrators do 'think twice' more often when there is more of a likelihood of them getting caught.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Security camerasRing DoorbellsEmergency door stops.AlarmsTemporary cover for clothing, personal care/hygiene products: Having to leave a property in an emergency will lead to victims needing to replace some everyday products they would have had more readily available. <p>We are not limiting what could potentially be covered by the programme to the list</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people who feel safe.</p> <p>Decrease in number of people affected by Hate Crime</p>	£20,000

			above – these are just <i>some</i> of the more common areas where victims of hate crime have little support and could positively impact their personal safety, confidence in public institutions and ease financial burdens. Again, the purpose of the programme would be to ease burdens that wouldn't otherwise be there were but for the unfortunate victims being targeted with hate crime.			
Resource Recoupment	CRF010	Associated costs	<p>Belfast City Council will need additional resources to ensure the Community Recovery Fund Action Plan is implemented and achieves the desired outcomes. This will be in the form of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Staff Resource • Additional Hours from existing members of the Team • Additional Administrative Support 	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	All the above.	£50,000
					TOTAL	£600,000

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Review of Illuminate Policy
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider the proposed updated criteria for illumination requests

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the recommendations made in regard to application and approval process. • consider the recommendations made in regard to updated criteria. • consider annual dates/ celebrations to be added to the illuminate calendar.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware the ILLUMINATE LED lighting system installed in 2013 on the north, east and west facades of the City Hall has been very successful allowing the council to mark significant dates, occasions or achievements using bespoke lighting scenes.</p>
3.2	<p>In September 2016 Members recognized the growing demand for illuminations and operational constraints and committee agreed to enhance the criteria and governance arrangements. A copy of the current criteria is in Appendix One.</p>
3.3	<p>In recent years, there has been an increase in illuminate requests and members have sought an updated report on Illuminate governance arrangements and recommendations for their consideration.</p>
3.4	<p>Additional illuminations approved – Committee approved 14 dates for inclusion in the annual illumination calendar (a copy is in Appendix Two). By way of illustration, 50 additional illuminations were approved in 2024; 69 in 2023; 56 in 2022.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Increasing Demand - There is an inexhaustible supply of deserving organizations and causes who seek to mark their own particular function, group or cause.</p>
3.6	<p>Operational and Resourcing Issues – The life expectancy of the luminaires system was 2023 so in due course the hardware will need to be replaced and upgraded if members seek to continue this service and feature of City Hall. Maintenance of the system to keep it operational is approximately £10,000 per year.</p>
3.7	<p>In addition, the increasing number of requests now being approved is also causing operational problems, both in terms of the overtime costs associated with creating the bespoke scenes and also because the hardware in use cannot now accept any further stored scenes as it is at full capacity. All new scenes must be manually created and switched on/off etc; each additional scene above the 14 annual dates, must be programmed by a trained member of staff at an estimated at £10,000 per annum.</p>

3.8	<p>Public Confusion – Due to increasing number of illuminations being approved and programmed, it is often the case that the general public do not understand why the City Hall is lit in a particular bespoke colour scheme on a given day, as the colours themselves are often only of significance to the adherents of the particular group requesting them. Council's Marketing and Comms team do list all illuminates on website and promote on socials where possible and appropriate, however 64 illuminations programmed and promoted in 2023 dilutes the impact and uniqueness of each illuminate.</p>
3.9	<p>Fairness – Officers are concerned that the increased number of approvals outside the criteria will lead to difficulties for the Council, from both an officer and Member perspective, where requests are refused. In addition, illumination requests are being presented for review by differing mediums and channels which limits the ability to review all requests against criteria in transparent and consistent procedure.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p>
3.10	<p>To address the points noted previously and to enhance the governance and management arrangements of this popular service, the Committee is asked to consider the recommendations noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of an application form • Enhancements to the current criteria • Additional dates to be added to the Illuminate Calendar
3.11	<p><u>AN APPLICATION FORM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated application form must be completed for all illumination requests. Information of the illumination process – form, timeframes and criteria will be promoted on the Council's website, with contact info to engage with the City Hall Functions Team; consistent with other processes such as function hire. • The criteria for the illumination programme will be promoted online. • The form must be submitted by the requestor 4 weeks before the preferred illumination date to allow time for review, processing and programming if approved. • The new form will enable more time control measures for requests to facilitate a review of the application against the criteria by officers – approval and programming if request meets the criteria. • The application form process will reduce the multi channels for requests and negate the need to bring Notices of Motion to deal with illumination requests.

ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CURRENT CRITERIA

- **Annual Dates**

Committee have previously approved 14 annual days for City Hall illumination as listed in Appendix 2. The following causes and dates have been requested and approved for the past number of years and Members are asked to consider if they wish to consistently support these and include in the Illuminate calendar.

- Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January
- Ramadan – *date tbc each year*
- National Day of Reflection (Covid) – 3 March
- World Fair Trade Day - May – date tbc
- Easter Sunday - *date tbc each year*
- Darkness into Light – May – date tbc
- International Day of Peace – 21 September
- Babyloss Awareness – 15 October
- Diwali Festival of Light – *date tbc each year*
- Recycle Week – *date tbc each year*
- World Mental Health Day- *October – date tbc*
- Organ Donation Week – September – date tbc
- Black History Month *October – date tbc*

- **Organisations only** - Applications only considered from a registered charity, public-sector, community or other non-profit making organisation. Illuminations applications from individuals and commercial organisations will not be approved.
- **Anniversary opposed to Annual Day** - Illumination applications will not be approved to mark an event/occasion that occurs repeatedly, for example an annual Day or Week, unless it is a significant anniversary of that event/occasion eg 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary.
- **Medical Causes** – applications only considered from registered medical charities and organisations to mark a significant anniversary rather than annual day.
- **Festive Programme** – due to the intricate programming required of the Building and LED system during the Festive Lighting programme, additional applications will not be approved during this festive period annually mid-November to 6 January.
- **1 in 3 year** - additional Illumination requests approved, delivered and promoted by council will be subject to “1 in 3 year approval” relating to any subsequent applications received by the same cause. This will enable a larger number of other charities,

3.13	<p>causes and organisations to have increased opportunity for their illumination application to be approved in calendar year.</p> <p><u>REVISED CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL</u></p> <p>Illumination will take place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the 14 agreed annual days, plus additional days noted in this report if approved. • any council-run events • one illuminate for each charity nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries in their term of office. • where a charitable, community or other non-profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a <u>significant anniversary</u>. • where a <u>sporting team or organisation</u> with a connection to Belfast has achieved a <u>significant accolade or anniversary</u> • where an <u>event</u> not organised by Belfast City Council, but which can legitimately be regarded as being of <u>significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective</u> is taking place; • no applications in respect of <u>medical or other support groups</u> will be accepted. • no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January. • where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (<i>e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc</i>). These requests should be made to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, who will review if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits. • Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a 'once-in-three-years' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly. (This rule will not apply to those charities which have been illuminated by virtue of being a civic dignitaries nominated charity).
3.14	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Committee should be minded that as each additional scene must be programmed by a trained member of staff, there will be additional staffing costs for each additional illumination approved beyond the Illumination calendar as set out in the report.</p>

3.15	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> <p>Equality or good relations implications may arise where significant numbers of requests are being facilitated outside of the agreed criteria, as is happening at present. The recommendations detailed above if approved would aim to address these concerns.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached <p>Appendix 1 - Current Criteria for illumination approved by Committee in September 2016 Appendix 2 - Current Annual Illuminate Dates</p>

Current Illuminate Governance Arrangements

The current governance scheme for the illumination system as approved by Committee in September 2016. Illumination will take place as follows

- a)** on the 10 agreed annual days, plus any council-run events, plus charities nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries.
- b)** where a charitable, community or other non profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary;
- c)** where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade;
- d)** where an event not organised by Belfast City Council but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- e)** no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted, and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component)
- f)** no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January
- g)** in other specific circumstances where approved by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

NB: in relation to requests falling under (b), (c) and (d) above the Committee has currently delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects (now Director of Legal and Civic Services) in these circumstances.

Internal member's requests

Members are reminded that where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (*e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc*) the request should be made to the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) who will see if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.

Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a '**once-in-three-years**' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly.

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Annual Illumination (2024) x 14

Date	Occasion	Colour
1 February	Chinese New Year	Orange and Red
14 February	Valentine's Day	Red
08 March	International Women's Day	Purple
17 March	St Patrick's Day	Green
31 March	Transgender Day of Visibility	Pink and Blue
2 May	May Day	Red
21 June	Day of Reflection	Yellow
12 July	Orangefest	Orange and Purple
1 August	Belfast Pride	Rainbow
11 November	Polish Independence Day	Red and White
13 November	Remembrance Sunday (Cenotaph only)	Red
14 November	King Charles Birthday	Red, White and Blue
24 December	Santa Siren	Red siren on City Hall dome
31 December	New Year's Eve Countdown	Multicoloured

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Subject:	Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Mark McCann, City Innovation Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="text"/>	
<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
1.1	To update Members on plans for an Inclusive Innovation workshop to take place at the Titanic Hotel on January 28 th and on Council's application to the Bloomberg Mayoral Challenge competition 2025.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the details of the Inclusive Innovation workshop and the invitation to Members. 2. Note that Belfast City Council has applied to the Bloomberg Mayoral Challenge competition to support work on re-imagining city alley-ways.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Smart Belfast Urban Innovation programme encourages collaboration between government, industry, SMEs, academia, and communities. The aim is to harness digital innovation to address public policy challenges, while at the same time encouraging greater investment in innovation to stimulate economic growth. The following update outlines two initiatives that contribute to these aims:</p>
3.2	<p>Inclusive Innovation Workshop</p> <p>Members had previously approved a city partner workshop to be held to explore the opportunities for ‘inclusive innovation’; what it means; why it’s important; and how it can help to unlock more local economic and social value from innovation investments such as Belfast Region City Deal and planned major investments by UK Government in innovation over the next four years.</p>
3.3	<p>Invitations have been extended to all Members, community organisations, industry, public and university partners (with 70 participants currently confirmed). It will take place on 28th January at the Titanic Hotel from 9:15am. The agenda has been developed with the Belfast Innovation Commissioner, Adrian Johnston, who will chair the event. It will feature local and national speakers who will share their experiences and perspectives on inclusive innovation. This will include the Council’s own four-year Hubs of Innovation project with the Maritime Belfast Trust; research by King’s College who have been working with Catalyst on measuring inclusive innovation; Newcastle Upon Tyne’s i30 research programme (which are looking at practice in Newcastle, Belfast, Medellin, and Pittsburgh); and Queen’s University’s Communities & Place programme.</p>
3.4	<p>This workshop, which is mainly funded by Horizon 2020, will help inform a future programme of work led by the Innovation Commissioner and the City Innovation Office. Members are encouraged to come along.</p>
3.5	<p>‘Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayoral Challenge’ competition</p> <p>This global innovation competition opens every few years and provides city governments with up to \$1 million and multi-year support to transform an essential, city-wide public service.</p>

3.6	The competition is delivered in two stages: Phase 1 provides up to \$50,000 to 50 cities to refine and test their initial ideas (March 2025.) While Phase 2 will provide 25 of these cities with a further \$1 million to bring their ideas to life. (Phase 2 awards will be made in October 2025.)
3.7	The deadline for submission was 20 December, giving Council officers very little time to prepare an application that would meet Bloomberg's detailed criteria and not affording time to submit this first iteration of the application to committee in advance. Officers therefore focused on areas that aligned to areas of work already agreed by Members. Following an ideation process, that included discussions with the Bloomberg team in New York, the Belfast application focused on re-imagining the city's alley-ways. The idea is to develop a mechanism that would allow Council and other bodies, including social enterprises, to work directly with communities to sustainably manage city alleyways to promote biodiversity, cultural activities, to encourage active travel, and by doing so crowd out anti-social behaviour. This builds on an existing priority of Members and the existing work of the Parks Outreach Team, the Climate team and others.
3.8	Members are asked to note the application, and that any decision on whether Belfast has made it through to the first phase is expected in March 2025 at which point, if selected to progress to the next stage, the proposal will be brought back to Members for further consideration.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.9	Resources for the initiatives have been identified within the existing City Innovation Office budget. The Inclusive Innovation workshop is primarily funded from Horizon 2020.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.10	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2025-26
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Karen Anderson-Gillespie, Strategic Performance Manager Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy and Planning Manager

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: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval of the draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions for 2025-26 (Appendix 1) and to approve their issue for public consultation.

2.0	Recommendation														
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. consider and agree the Council's proposed 2025-26 draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions (Appendix 1), subject to minor edits based on feedback. ii. agree that the proposed 2025-26 draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions (Appendix 1) are issued for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks. The draft performance improvement objectives are summarised below for Members: <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Draft performance improvement objectives 2025-26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Our services</td><td>We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Our people and communities</td><td>We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Our place</td><td>We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).</td></tr> <tr> <td>Our planet</td><td>We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Our economy</td><td>We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Compassionate city</td><td>We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. note the next steps, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 below. 	Draft performance improvement objectives 2025-26		Our services	We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.	Our people and communities	We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.	Our place	We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).	Our planet	We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.	Our economy	We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.	Compassionate city	We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.
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Compassionate city	We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.														
3.0	Main Report														
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that Councils have a statutory performance improvement duty that requires them to develop and consult on an annual Performance Improvement Plan, which must be published by 30 June each year.</p>														
3.2	<p>Council departments have been identifying areas for inclusion in the 2025-26 Performance Improvement Plan through the work that has been ongoing since early September 2023 to develop the Council's new Corporate Plan 2025-28 and the annual Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-26. The draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions for 2025-26 were identified</p>														

3.3	<p>following a review of the evidence base and ongoing internal engagement and are set out in full in Appendix 1.</p>												
	<p>We will formally consult on the draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions using the online YourSay Belfast platform for a period of 8 weeks and will use a range of other communication methods to help raise awareness and encourage participation/ reach. Members will note that during the public consultation period (February – April 2025), the Performance Improvement Plan for 2025-26 (including actions, performance indicators and targets) will be refined and brought back to Committee in May for approval.</p>												
3.4	<p><u>Next steps and timeline</u></p> <p>To ensure the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26 is published before the statutory deadline of 30 June 2025, the table below sets out the timetable for finalising the plan:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 757 1493 1272"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action</th><th>Deadline</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Commence public consultation, following council ratification - 8-week public consultation on draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions.</td><td>12 February – 9 April 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>The Strategy, Programmes and Partnership team will work with departments to refine actions and measures of success.</td><td>February – April 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>SP&R Committee agree the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26.</td><td>23 May 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Council ratify Committee decision to agree the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26.</td><td>2 June 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26 and submit to the NIAO.</td><td>12 June 2025</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Deadline	Commence public consultation, following council ratification - 8-week public consultation on draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions.	12 February – 9 April 2025	The Strategy, Programmes and Partnership team will work with departments to refine actions and measures of success.	February – April 2025	SP&R Committee agree the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26.	23 May 2025	Council ratify Committee decision to agree the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26.	2 June 2025	Publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26 and submit to the NIAO.	12 June 2025
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	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p>												
3.5	<p>All priorities agreed will form the basis of the rate setting process. All agreed activity and performance targets will be reflected within Committee Plans, Departmental Plans, and programme plans, thereby ensuring that they are resourced and managed and improvement is embedded within our planning, performance, and delivery processes.</p>												
	<p>Equality of Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p>												
3.6	<p>There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.</p>												
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>												
	<p>Appendix 1: Draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions 2025-26.</p>												

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Appendix 1: Draft Council performance improvement objectives and indicative actions 2025-26 – for public consultation.

Draft improvement objectives 2025-26 (subject to consultation and engagement)	What we will deliver – proposed indicative actions 2025-26 (subject to consultation and engagement)
<p>Our services</p> <p>We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Customer Focus Programme to build organisational capacity to enhance our services and customer experience.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver the Planning Service Improvement Plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a street cleansing programme to create a cleaner and greener city.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate daily bin collections of household and commercial waste through the deployment of adequate and efficient resources.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver phase two of the kerbside glass expansion programme to enhance customer service and improve recycling rates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate the development of an overarching Asset Management Strategy to set out how Council owned and managed land and property assets will be used to support service delivery and the delivery of objectives in the Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda.
<p>Our people and communities</p> <p>We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance our playgrounds, to ensure that we continue to provide high quality facilities and equipment across the city.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people using our leisure centres, to participate in sport and physical activity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver animation and outreach activities in community, play and leisure development programmes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver and facilitate a range of events and community programmes within our parks and open spaces.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver improvements to parks and open spaces to improve people's health and wellbeing through multimillion pound transformational schemes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the development of capital projects aligned to the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and Pitches Strategy to enhance the quality and accessibility of sports and physical activity provision in Belfast.
<p>Our place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver the Vacant to Vibrant Programme 2025-26 to address city centre vacancy rates.

<p>We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Greenways Programme to improve the connectivity of the city. • Progress the development and delivery of the Council's Physical Programme to enable needs led investment across the city. • Support and progress the delivery of neighbourhood tourism physical projects, improving the city's local tourism facilities and infrastructure. • Progress infrastructure works at the North Foreshore to support the development of the site. • Work with the developer on emerging development specifications for the 250-acre Giant's Park site as set out in the Master Development Agreement.
<p>Our planet We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the planet section of the Belfast Agenda, which aims to create a sustainable, nature positive city, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a pipeline of investable local energy projects arising from the Local Area Energy Plan, with a focus on a head network and solar PV. ○ Develop a demonstrator site in Botanic Gardens and test nature-based solutions through the UPSURGE project to strengthen climate resilience. ○ Complete the Horizon Europe funded UP2030 project which aims to embed net zero in urban planning. ○ Support the development of a neighbourhood retrofit pilot (led by social housing providers) through the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub. • Commence delivery of the Council Corporate Climate Action Plan to increase the climate resilience of Council assets and services and progress towards Council net zero emissions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a Sustainable Food Policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions and an events protocol. ○ Complete energy audits of 5 Council buildings (4x leisure centres (Andersonstown LC, Lisnasharragh LC, Templemore Av LC, Brook LC) and the Waterfront Hall). ○ Launch a phased metering and retrofitting programme across the Council's top energy users based on the findings of the building level audits of Adelaide, Cecil Ward, City Hall and Duncrue. ○ Launch a Climate Data Platform. ○ Prepare Climate Mitigation Report (Oct 2025) and Climate Adaptation report (March 2026) for submission to DAERA in line with Public Body Reporting requirements. • Deliver an effective waste management service across the city.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver year three of the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape across the city.
<p>Our economy We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Enterprise Support Service to deliver 'Go Succeed' to increase the number of new business starts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver employment and upskilling academies in priority sectors in line with industry demand.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Smart Belfast urban innovation programme to enhance Belfast's capacity for collaborative innovation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver an enhanced Learning City Festival to promote and encourage lifelong learning for people of all ages across Belfast.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the delivery of Belfast Business Promise (BBP) initiative to support the provision of good jobs and a sustainable local economy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support our suppliers by helping business cashflow through the prompt payment of invoices.
<p>Peace and compassionate city We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver local community actions plans as part of the Peace PLUS programme, to fund community activities and infrastructure project that help build peace and reconciliation in Belfast.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Anti-Poverty Network in Belfast to support and facilitate a co-ordinated approach to tackling poverty across the city.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend delivery of the Hardship Programme to ensure that support is available for those most impacted by poverty and the cost-of-living crisis.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a programme to help end violence against women and girls.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of action for the community recovery fund to assist integration and inclusion for migrant population in Belfast.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress delivery of up to 5 capital projects across the city as part of the PEACE PLUS Local Action Plan to promote inclusive and shared spaces across Belfast.

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Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

Restricted Reports									
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: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><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"/>
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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
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1.1	<p>The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents requests for approvals under the Capital Programme, approval to procure as required for the Physical Programme along with updates on UKSPF, Belfast Bikes, capital letters of offer and contracts awarded.</p>
2.0	<p>Recommendations</p>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme – Folder Inserter Equipment – Note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £69,000 be allocated. ○ City Hall Stained Glass Windows - Agree that 'City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community' is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i>; note that a satisfactory tender return has been received for the LGBT window, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £35,000 be allocated to each of the windows, a total allocation of up to £70,000. ○ Belfast Bikes - Note that a satisfactory tender return has been received for a new Belfast Bikes operator, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council; and note that capital costs can be met via an existing reserve along with either external funding or a growth proposal as part of the Revenue Estimates 2025/26 & Medium-Term Financial Planning report. ○ EV Charging Network - Agree that 'EV Charging Network' is added to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i>, arising from the agreed LEV Strategy, to allow a business case to be developed. ○ Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26 – Note the agreed fleet programme for 2025/26 at Appendix 1 including the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official car. ○ North Foreshore Development Site - Infrastructure Works – Note the cost increase for this project since the original budget was allocated in 2016, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and can be met via capital receipts from the North Foreshore site as previously agreed by Members; and agree to a budget increase of £1.8m.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme – Corporate HR/Payroll System - Note the cost increase for this project since the original budget was allocated in 2016 and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree to a budget increase of £93,000 up to a maximum total allocation of £486,000. ● Procurement process for 2025/26 Non-Recurrent Programme, Fleet Programme and Externally Funded Projects - agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2025/26 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. ● UK Shared Prosperity Fund – to note the update provided and the proposed additional local capital schemes as a consequence of the UKSPF funding and that a further update will be brought to the AWGs for consideration. ● Capital Letters of Offer – to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q3 2024/25. ● Contracts awarded – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded in Q3 2024/25.
3.0	Main report <u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<u>Physical Programme</u> <p>Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Local Investment Fund (LIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF), as well as numerous physical programmes and standalone projects that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include National Lottery Heritage Fund, SEUPB PeacePLUS, the Executive Office, DfC, DfI including the Living with Water Programme, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages, Levelling Up Fund (LUF), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and others. When appropriate, the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.</p>
3.2	<u>Capital Programme - Proposed Movements</u> <p>Members are aware of the scale of the Council's Physical Programme via a range of internal and external funding streams. Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members</p>

to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
IT Programme – Folder Inserter Equipment	Folder inserter equipment is hardware used for automated mailing processes within Digital Services. It is required for large volume communications processing for NIHE and the Council.	Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of up to £69,000
City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community	The creation of two new stained glass windows at City Hall, in recognition of the Health Service in Belfast and the acknowledgement of the positive role of the LGBT community in Belfast	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of up to £70,000
EV Charging Network	The development of a publicly accessible electric vehicle charging point network on Council owned assets	Add at Stage 1 - Emerging

3.3 IT Programme – Folder Inserter

A new folder inserter is required to continue to provide a high volume enveloping service for NIHE mandated via a Service Level Agreement, and internally for council departments. Members will recall that in August 2024 this project was moved to *Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk* pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return. An update was to be brought back to Committee along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. **Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of £69,000 be allocated.**

3.4 City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community

Members will recall that in September 2022 this project was moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted*. Due to the bespoke nature of this project, a procurement exercise for the LGBT Community window has been carried out to inform the business case process. The design for the LGBT window has been agreed by Members and work on the Health Service window will be progressed this year. **Members are asked to agree that ‘City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community’ is moved to Stage 3 – Committed; note that a satisfactory tender return has been received for the LGBT window, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £35,000 be allocated to each of the windows - a total allocation of up to £70,000.**

3.5 Belfast Bikes

The Belfast Bikes scheme was launched in April 2015 with a network of 30 docking stations and 300 bikes. NSL Limited has operated the scheme (under contract) on behalf of the Council since its inception, and it uses bikes and supporting infrastructure provided by ‘Next bike by

	<p>TIER'. Currently, the network comprises of 60 docking stations and 560 bikes. The contract with NSL Limited expired in March 2024. It was extended initially to December 2024 and then on a rolling extension up to maximum period to 9 months.</p> <p>Members will recall that in October 2024, the Council approved a new operating model and revenue structure for the Belfast Bikes Scheme. It was agreed that after conclusion of the procurement exercise, Members would be updated about the outcome and clarity around any costs associated with the transition. The procurement exercise has now concluded and a preferred operator has been identified. Operational costs will be managed as part of annual revenue budgets. Members are advised that a bid has been submitted to DfI Active Travel for capital funding to support this phase of Belfast Bikes and a decision is awaited. If the Council is unsuccessful in securing external funding, then it is proposed that the remaining potential capital costs related to this project will be met via a growth proposal. Members will be aware that this proposal, if required, is part of the Revenue Estimates exercise. Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has been received for a new Belfast Bikes operator, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that it is within the affordability limits of the Council; and note that capital costs can be met via an existing reserve along with either external funding or a growth proposal as part of the Revenue Estimates 2025/26 & Medium-Term Financial Planning report.</p>
3.6	<p>EV Charging Network</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Strategy was approved by Council in September 2024. This project arises from the strategy and will see the development of a publicly accessible electric vehicle charging point network on Council owned assets, working with a commercial partner. The switch to LEVs, and particularly to Electric Vehicles, alongside a significant shift away from private car use, will be critical to Council's success in meeting its net zero targets. Action will also demonstrate leadership and provide a service to residents, visitors, and businesses. Members are asked to agree that 'EV Charging Network' is added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging, arising from the agreed LEV Strategy, to allow a business case to be developed.</p>
3.7	<p>Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2025/26 - including replacement of the Lord Mayor's car</p> <p>Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. There is a rolling allocation of £2.2m towards the Fleet Programme for 2025/26. The Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation, and there are ongoing issues caused by the high age profile and condition of the fleet operating well beyond its recommended operational life cycle. The agreed Fleet Programme for 2025/26 is attached at Appendix 1. Members are</p>

	<p>advised that this includes the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official car, last considered by this Committee in February 2020, the lease contract for which ends in October 2025. As previously, the Fleet Unit have engaged with the Lord Mayor's Unit to ensure that the requirements, duties and obligations of the Office of the Lord Mayor are considered along with mileage requirements and capability. In keeping with the Council's previous decision the replacement car will be fully electric. The replacement car will be a four door executive saloon type vehicle with higher range than the existing vehicle, considered to be more in keeping with the operational requirements of the role. Due to delivery lead times it is anticipated to take a minimum of six months to acquire the new replacement lease/hire vehicle once ordered.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2025/26.</p>
	<p><u>Project Updates</u></p>
3.8	<p>North Foreshore – Development Site Infrastructure Works</p> <p>This project was moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> on the Capital Programme in March 2016 and a total budget of £6.9m was allocated in September 2016 to be met by capital receipts from the site as well as the Landfill Closure provision. The project involves the development of a gas ring main and edging gas membranes, storms drains, access ramps and associated landscaping as a pre-requisite to the development of individual sites and to ensure that the economic, regenerative and social impacts of the North Foreshore site are maximised. Substantial works on this project have already been completed. One of the most significant elements to deliver is an NIE substation and overall NIE upgrade connection to meet greater capacity power needs on the site. This is required now given the significant developments on the North Foreshore including the completion of Phase 2A of the Film Studios and the commencement of the works on the commercial led development sites. Engagement with NIE to move this element forward has been ongoing for a number of years, and NIE have now confirmed that the specification required and the passage of time since the initial agreements means that costs have increased. Legal Services have advised that the terms and conditions set out initially mean that any further challenge on this matter from the Council would be difficult given the pandemic and other mitigating factors. Members are asked to note the cost increase related to the NIE substation since the original budget was allocated in 2016, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and can be met via capital receipts from the North Foreshore site as previously agreed by Members; and agree to a budget increase of £1.8m.</p>
3.9	<p>IT Programme – HR/Payroll Replacement HR/Payroll/Time and Attendance System</p> <p>Members are reminded that in August 2016 it was agreed to move the Replacement HR/Payroll/Time and Attendance system to <i>Stage 3 - Committed</i> on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £328,910 allocated, with a further allocation of £64,000 in April 2020. This project is nearing completion and due to additional system requirements an</p>

	additional £93,000 is requested. Members are asked to note the cost increase for this project since the original budget was allocated in 2016, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree to a budget increase of £93,000 up to a maximum total allocation of £486,000.
3.10	Approval to Procure 2025/26 <p>Members are asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2025/26 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.11	UK Shared Prosperity Fund update and additional schemes <p>Members will recall that the Council secured £1,787,615 from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for 2024-25, covering both revenue and capital projects. The capital funding is targeted at pitch and playground improvements and delivery of these now externally funded projects is well underway with several already completed on site. As previously highlighted, a total of £1.1m of capital budget has therefore been recouped and can be directed towards a range of additional small scale local capital schemes.</p> <p>The proposals for the additional schemes as a consequence of the successful bid to UKSPF are now brought forward as follows: upgrades to basketball provision – west, east, south; a modular changing and flexible space facility at Loughside, and a series of inclusive and accessibility projects including a mobile Changing Places facility, Makaton communications boards in playgrounds and sensory garden schemes. An update will be brought to the next series of Area Working Groups with more details on the list of projects for consideration.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the update provided on the proposed additional local capital schemes as a consequence of the UKSPF funding and that a further update will be brought to the AWGs for consideration.</p>
3.12	Capital Letters of Offer <p>Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer accepted in Q3 2024/25 at Appendix 2.</p>
3.13	Contracts Awarded <p>Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q3 2024/25 at Appendix 3.</p>
3.14	Financial & Resource Implications <p><i>Financial Implications –</i></p>

	<p>IT Programme – Folder Inserter Equipment - a maximum of £69,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p>City Hall Stained Glass Windows – a maximum of £70,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p>Belfast Bikes - The Director of Finance has confirmed that the new operator contract is within the affordability limits of the Council - capital costs can be met via an existing reserve along with either external funding or a growth proposal.</p> <p>Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26 – this is an existing rolling allocation of £2.2m on the Capital Programme.</p> <p>North Foreshore Development Sites – Infrastructure Works – a maximum of £8.7m is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and can be met by capital receipts from the site.</p> <p>IT Programme – Corporate HR/Payroll System - a maximum of £486,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications</i> – Officer time to deliver.</p>
3.15	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Fleet Replacement Programme 2025-2026</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Capital Letters of Offer in Q3 2024/25 – October to December 2024</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Contracts Awarded in Q3 2024/25 – October to December 2024</p>

Appendix 1 - Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26

The proposed vehicle replacement of fleet assets for 2025/26 is made up as follows:
Total Budget £2.2m.

Item	No.
Lease/Hire of official corporate cars annually on 4yr contract	3
RCV 6x2 26t n/track, r/s, twin bin-lift	4
RCV 4x2 26t n/track trade bin-lift	2
RCV 4x2 18T n/track open back	1
Compact cleaning sweeper 5t	5
TOTAL	£2,174,000

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Appendix 2

Capital Letters of Offer 01 October – 31 December 2024

Project	Funder	Amount
<i>BCC Cleansing Fleet Enhancement Project – Phase II (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£50,000</i>
<i>Coffee Culture (Amendment)</i>	<i>TEO</i>	<i>£763,302</i>
UKSPF - Communities & Place Project	MHC&LG	£1,787,615
<i>Donegal Pass Community Centre Solar Panels (Amendment)</i>	<i>CCAF</i>	<i>€46,620</i>
<i>Girdwood ICT (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£127,088</i>
Complex Lives - Case Management System	NIHE	£21,929

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Appendix 3**Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation
(October – December 2024)**

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
Tender for the provision of independent quantity surveying reviews of planning viability appraisals	Naylor & Devlin	07/10/2024
NRF_ACT Initiative - Interpretive fit out design & installation	Redhead Conference & Exhibition Ltd	10/10/2024
NRF_Integrated Consultant Team for Dundela FC Community replacement pitch	Michael Herron Architects	17/10/2024
Term Contract for PAT Testing at all Council Properties	ICSS Ltd	11/11/2024
Main Contractor for Strand Arts Centre	Martin & Hamilton	22/11/2024

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Subject:	Asset Management: i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number ☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

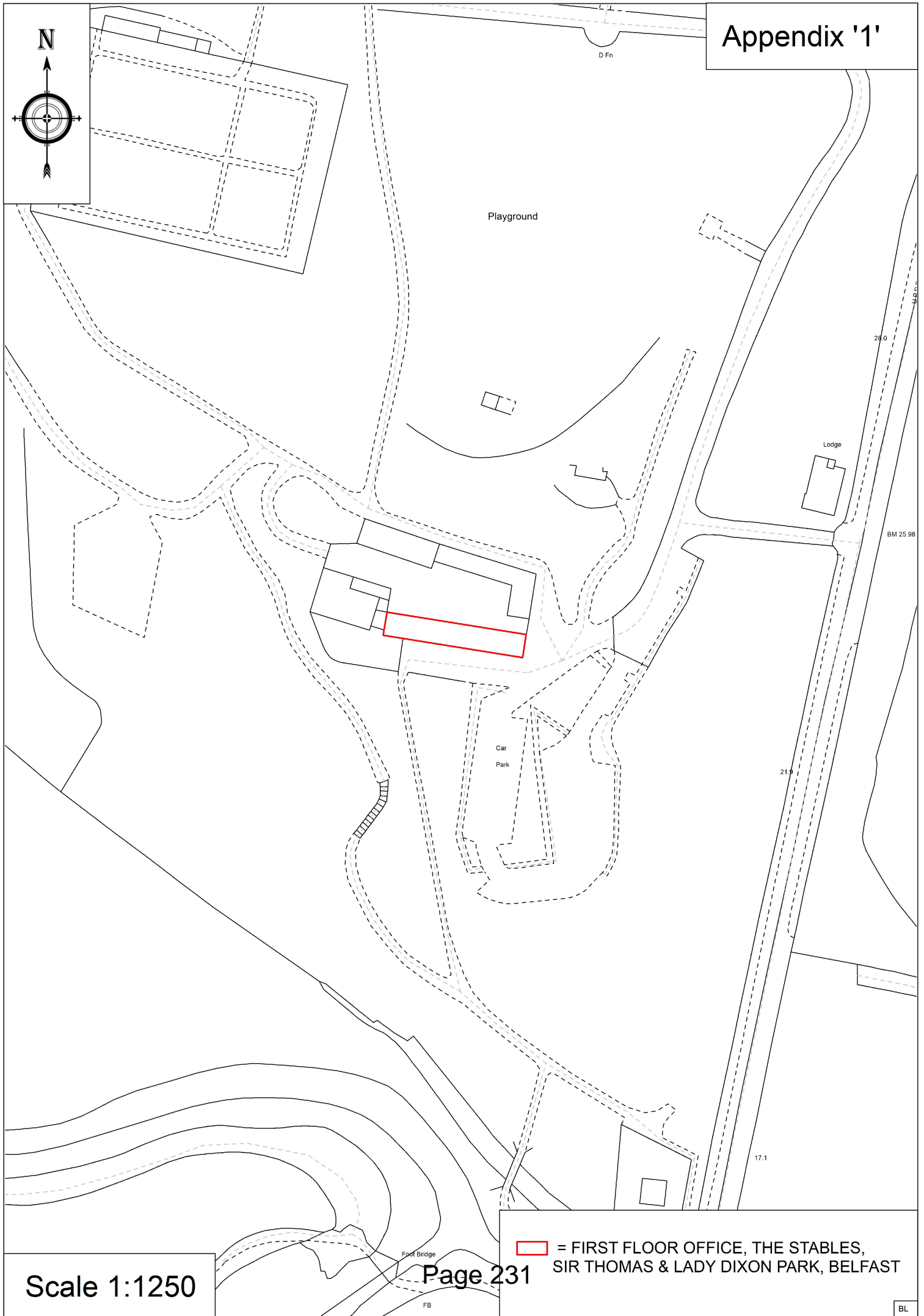
☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve a new lease being entered into between the Council and Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland for use of the First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park.
3.0	Main Report
	<p>i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland have held a 5-year Lease which commenced on 2nd March 2020 at an annual rent of £15,000 per annum for use of the First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park. The net internal area of the subject office is c. 1,334 ft².</p> <p>3.2 Based on comparable evidence it is proposed that the rent is reviewed to £17,500 per annum and, subject to Members' approval, a new 5-year lease commencing on 2 March 2025, will be entered into between the Council and Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.3 The Council will receive a rent of £17,500 per annum if approved by Members. Legal Services will prepare a new lease on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.4 None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – showing First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park delineated red.



Scale 1:1250

Red outline = FIRST FLOOR OFFICE, THE STABLES,
SIR THOMAS & LADY DIXON PARK, BELFAST

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Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Restricted Reports									
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%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><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
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) • Note the process improvements recommended to Chief Management Team (CMT), following member feedback related to approval of retrospective STAs at SP&R December 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) • Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2) • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Note the process changes detailed in Section 6.0 Procurement Governance – retrospective STAs
3.0	Competitive Tenders
	<p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender.</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1).</p>

4.0	Single Tender Actions (STAs)
	<p>The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 'PCRs' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the PCRs setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1).</p> <p>To support Officers understanding and to build capability CPS also offer STA Process training on a regular basis.</p> <p>In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to approve the award of the following STAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract for up to £78,818, for up to 3 years, awarded to Service Level Management Ltd, for Publisure annual license. Publisure provides a secure email and consolidation platform (including test/backup server). Service Level Management Ltd are the only supplier who provide Publisure. • Contract for up to £40,000, for up to 10 months, awarded to Festival of Fools, for Belfast Maritime Festival. The 'Festival of Fools' brand has an established brand identity with exclusive rights that will complement the 'Belfast Maritime Festival' and enhance the visitor experience. • Contract for up to £63,489, for up to 1 year, awarded to Softworks Limited for provision of the Clockwise system. The replacement HR/payroll/time management system is in implementation stage and continued use of Clockwise is required. Softworks Ltd are the only supplier who provide Clockwise. • Contract for up to £197,828, for up to 2 years, awarded to Civica for the provision of a case management solution. There is no other supplier who can offer the license and support requirements for this case management solution. 2 year STA is required to ensure continuity of service whilst a comprehensive procurement exercise is conducted for a new case management solution. <p>Further details on these STAs are set out in Appendix 1 (Table 2).</p>
5.0	Modification to Contract
	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to an additional 3 months and £40,000, awarded to Cromwell Polythene Limited for the supply and delivery of paper and plastic sacks (T2014). A 3 month extension of existing contract to help facilitate a re-tender exercise. Work is underway on the re-tender exercise with a pre-market engagement exercise started to help with specification revisions and address current supply performance issues. Up to an additional 4 months and £30,000, awarded to R D Mechanical Services Ltd for the supply and delivery of mechanical sweeper brushes (T1978). A contract modification is required to allow for a new tender process to be completed. Work is underway to review and update the current specification in line with departmental requirements. Note - Reporting retrospectively. Up to additional 2 months and £3,000 income based, awarded to USEL for the provision of catering at the Stables Café at (T1998). The evaluation of the replacement tender is underway and a 2 month contract extension is required to ensure continuity of service and sufficient time for potential handover to a new service provider (depending on the outcome of the evaluation process). <p>Further details on these contract modifications are set out in Appendix 1 (Table 3).</p>
6.0	Procurement Governance (retrospective STAs)
	<p>The Councils' Procurement Governance Framework has been continually improved over the last 5 years since the re-constituting of the Commercial and Procurement Service team. Governance introduced is based on legislative requirements, policy requirements and best practice procurement. Our governance approach prioritises meaningful compliance over routine box checking, ensuring comprehensive oversight even under time constraints. This governance, including putting in place Single Tender Action (STA) contracts, ensures we have security of supply, agreed rates, and formal terms and conditions of contract.</p> <p>In consideration of feedback given by Members at SP&R Committee on Friday 13th December 2024, CPS reviewed governance arrangements, specifically processes that could be impacted in the scenario that SP&R reject or query an item submitted for approval in the monthly Contracts Report and recommended the following process improvements to CMT.</p> <p>Competitive Tenders</p> <p>When Members request additional information or options on procurement activity, Chief Officers will respond promptly. Responses will include the existing provisions end date and outline any interim requirements, such as a STA contract, to ensure continuity of service as well as compliance with Delegated Authority.</p>

	<p>STAs / Retrospective STAs</p> <p>In line with Standing Orders – 56. Exceptions, Chief Officers have been reminded of the need to comply with the Councils’ STA process and that a retrospective STA contract must not be entered into without approval from the Chair of SP&R ahead of the upcoming committee meeting.</p> <p>Going forward, for requests involving retrospective STAs, CPS will submit two separate requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One addressing the retrospective period • Another seeking approval for the upcoming contract period <p>For example, if a STA is requested for a 6 month period, of which 2 months will already have passed prior to Members receiving the request, CPS will submit 2 separate requests, one to note the retrospective aspect and a separate STA seeking approval for the upcoming period.</p> <p>Pipeline planning</p> <p>To evaluate whether service needs could be met through enhanced in-house capacity versus external contracts, Chief Officers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify upcoming relevant contracts using the Monthly RAG Report or the Tender Pipeline. • Seek timely SP&R approval for relevant contracts to allow for Member queries. <p>Pest Control Services (SP&R Meeting Friday 13th December)</p> <p>A separate paper is being brought to Committee today with respect to the future provision of pest control services.</p> <p>To clarify the arrangement brought to the Committee on 13th December, i.e. on-going provision with a pest control supplier for a further six months; the amount stated in the report relates to a maximum possible spend which can be terminated at any stage. Should service not be required whether as a result of a service delivery decision or by Committee direction, spend would not be incurred.</p>
7.0	STA and Contracts <£30k Reporting
	<p>At SP&R in October 23 the Committee agreed that 'the quarterly finance report should, in future, include information on expenditure on Single Tender Actions and on the number and value of contracts under £30,000'.</p>

	<p>Information on expenditure broken down by individual STA contract records is not readily available from the Council's current financial system.</p> <p>However, CPS centrally record the number and maximum total value of STA contract records. Quarter 3 2024/25 is provided below:</p> <p>STAs awarded FY 24/25 Qtr 3</p> <table> <tr> <th>Number of STA contracts</th><th>Total value of STA contracts</th></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>£482,132</td></tr> </table> <p>Records for contracts (including title; supplier name; value; duration etc) valued below £30,000 are not centrally held by CPS and are maintained on departmental registers. Below is a quarterly return by all departments on contracts awarded valued below £30,000 during FY 24/25 Qtr 3.</p> <p>Contracts <£30k awarded FY 24/25 Qtr 3</p> <table> <tr> <th>Number of <£30k contracts</th><th>Total value of <£30k contracts</th></tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>£534,612.60</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Number of STA contracts	Total value of STA contracts	29	£482,132	Number of <£30k contracts	Total value of <£30k contracts	30	£534,612.60		
Number of STA contracts	Total value of STA contracts										
29	£482,132										
Number of <£30k contracts	Total value of <£30k contracts										
30	£534,612.60										
8.0	Financial & Resource Implications										
	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets										
9.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment										
	None										
10.0	Appendices – Documents Attached										
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 - Competitive Tenders • Table 2 – Single Tender Actions • Table 3 – Modification to Contract 										

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Soft floor coverings including installation and repair services	Up to 5 years	£500,000	S Grimes	Recurring measured term contract to ensure soft floor coverings continue to meet standards across the Council estate. Specialist service.
Swimming pool filtration and ozone generator installations including callouts, repairs and planned maintenance	Up to 5 years	£2,300,000	S Grimes	Recurring measured term contract to ensure swimming pool filtration and ozone generator installations remain operational across the Council estate. Specialist service
Asbestos analyst services including inspection, testing and certification	Up to 5 years	£125,000	S Grimes	Statutory duty to manage asbestos containing materials across the Council estate. Specialist service.
Small tools contract	Up to 3 years	£36,000	S Leonard	Operational requirement to ensure all tools within the Fleet Management Unit are regularly inspected and repaired/replaced as required.
Strategic support programme for the VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel and citywide network	Up to 4 years	£120,000	J Tully	The VCSE Panel plays an important role in driving the Belfast Agenda forward through articulating the voice of VCSE sectors in strategic planning; supporting the development of cross-sectoral relationships and improved partnership working and promoting ongoing and effective community engagement. Specialist support required.
Asylum Support and Community Link Advisor Project	Up to 2 years	£170,000	D Sales	To support services to asylum seekers
Asylum Support and Organisational Development and Capacity Programme	Up to 1 year	£100,000	J Girvan	To support organisations providing services to asylum seekers

Appendix 1

Traffic management services at Council events and emergency works related to dangerous buildings	Up to 2 years	£200,000	D Martin	To support the delivery of large-scale BCC led public events that require traffic management provision to close roads, manage traffic and when applicable give access to public transport. Building control also have a requirement for this service and will utilise this contract in respect of traffic management around emergency works. Specialist service.
Receipt, stock control and delivery of waste containers	Up to 4 years	£780,000	D Sales	To support waste management operations with the supply of waste containers to households for recycling.
Procurement of external Security Operations Centre (SOC) Services to augment the security team in Digital Services Previously approved Dec 2024 for 3 years at £500,000. Duration and value updated following review.	Up to 5 years	£1,000,000	S McNicholl	There is an increasing risk of a serious cyber security attack or a significant data breach that cannot be managed by the security team in Digital Services. This has the potential to severely disrupt the operational delivery of all council services for a sustained period.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Publisure Annual License	Up to 3 years	£78,818	P Gribben	Publisure provides a secure email and consolidation platform (including test/backup server). Service Level Management Ltd are the only supplier who provide Publisure.	Service Level Management Ltd	3. Technical reasons
Belfast Maritime Festival presents 'Festival of Fools.'	Up to 10 months	£40,000	D Martin	The 'Festival of Fools' brand has an established brand identity with exclusive rights that will complement the 'Belfast Maritime Festival' and enhance the visitor experience.	Festival of Fools	4. Intellectual property

Appendix 1

Provision of Clockwise System	Up to 1 year	£63,489	P Gribben	The replacement HR/payroll/time management system is in implementation stage and continued use of Clockworks is required. Softworks Ltd are the only supplier who provide Clockworks.	Softworks Limited	3. Technical reasons
Provision of a Case Management Solution for C&NS	Up 2 years	£197,828	S McNicholl	There is no other supplier who can offer the license and support requirements for this case management solution. 2 year STA is required to ensure continuity of service whilst a comprehensive procurement exercise is conducted for a new case management solution.	Civica	3. Technical reasons

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T2014 – supply and delivery of paper and plastic sacks	Up to 4 years & £620k	Additional 3 months and £40,000	S Grimes	3-month extension of existing contract to help facilitate a re-tender exercise. Work is underway on the re-tender exercise with a pre-market engagement exercise started to help with specification revisions and address current supply performance issues.	Cromwell Polythene Limited
T1978 – supply and delivery of mechanical sweeper brushes Reporting Retrospectively	Up to 4 years & £410k	Additional 4 months and £30,000	D Sales	A contract modification is required to allow for a new tender process to be completed. Work is underway to review and update the current specification in line with departmental requirements.	R D Mechanical Services Ltd

Appendix 1

T1998 (3) - Provision of catering at the Stables Café.	Up to 61 months (Income based contract)	Up to 2 months	S Leonard	The evaluation of the replacement tender is underway and a 2 month contract extension is required to ensure continuity of service and sufficient time for potential handover to a new service provider (depending on the outcome of the evaluation process).	USEL
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STA/ Direct Award Reasons

Reason Code	Reasons in line with Public Contract Regulations
1	No response following advertised procurement exercise
2	Creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance
3	Competition is absent for technical reasons (no reasonable substitute exists)
4	The protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights
5	Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by BCC, the time limits for a procurement cannot be complied with.
6	Products manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experimentation, study or development
7	Additional deliveries which are intended either as a partial or extended replacement of supplies or installations where a change of supplier would result in supplies of different technical characteristics causing incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance
8	Supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market
9	Supplies or services on particularly time-limited advantageous terms e.g. supplier winding up its business activities
10	New works and services consisting of the repetition of similar works or services, provided that the possibility of a direct award is disclosed during the original tender process
11	Other – Reason not in line with Public Contract Regulations (PCR 2015)



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 13 th January 2025
Date:	24 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any 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	To report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 13 th January 2025.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 13 th January 2025 including:
2.2	<p><u>Good Relations Action Plan 24/25 Quarter 3 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report, including the reallocation of £7,500 from BCC9 into BCC7 to support the Christmas Interface Events as well as the allocation of the additional funding from TEO.
2.3	<p><u>PEACE IV – Secretariat Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership notes the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.
2.4	<p><u>PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan – Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members note the contents of the report and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer.
2.5	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed to undertake a walking tour of the Forth Meadow Greenway on either Thursday, 27th March, at 13.30, or Wednesday, 30th April, at 13.30, Officers to progress.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the 13th January 2025 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Papers of 09th December 2024 Good Relations Action Plan 24/25 Quarter 3 Update Peace IV Secretariat Update PEACEPLUS – Theme 1.1 – Local Action Plan Update AOB – Proposal for Members to walk and experience Forth Meadow Greenway

3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the following minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1 Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 13th January 2025; Appendix 2; Summary of 24/25 Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3 and in Appendix 3; Peaceplus Letter of Offer for Belfast City Council's Local Action Plan</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets, and the Good Relations Action Plan is included in the current estimates process.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 13th January 2025</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Summary of 24/25 Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Peaceplus Letter of Offer for Belfast City Council's Local Action Plan</p>

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 13th January, 2025

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY AND IN THE CONOR ROOM

Members present: Councillor Duffy (Chairperson); and
Councillors Abernethy and I. McLaughlin.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. Briggs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Father M. Magill, Faith Representative;
Ms. T. Mimna, The Executive Office;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apology

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Independent Members Mr. J. Donnelly and Mr. M. McBride. Apologies were reported also on behalf of Mr. J. Girvan and Mr. D. Robinson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13th December.

Declarations of Interest

In respect of item 6, 'PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update' declarations of interest were reported by the Chairperson (Councillor J. Duffy) and Independent Members Ms. B. Arthurs, Mr. M. Briggs and Mr. W. Naeem, in that they worked for organisations which were in receipt of funding under the terms of the fund. The Members retired from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

Good Relations Action Plan - Quarter 3 Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To update the Shared City Partnership on the delivery of the Council’s Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 3 which covers the period October – December 2024.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report, including the reallocation of £7,500 from BCC9 into BCC7 to support the Christmas Interface Events as well as the allocation of the additional funding from TEO.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council receives 75% of funding from The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of its annual Good Relations Action Plan. The original total value of the Action Plan is £493,079.59. Within this the 75% contribution from TEO consists of £369,809.69 with the remaining 25%, or £123,269.90 being contributed by the Council. Of this overall total, £365,000 was allocated towards programmes.**

- 3.2 In December, TEO offered the Council an additional resource of £38,170, at 100%. While this was less than was initially suggested, Officers have allocated all of this additional resource to programme costs as follows:**

- 1. The costs for the new Good Relations Audit, Strategy and a 3-year Action Plan to cover 2026 – 2029, to be included into BCC9, enabling a reallocation from BCC9 into the Christmas Interface Events programme.**
- 2. Support for the East Meets West Community Centre Programme for activity in the New Year, to be included in BCC9.**
- 3. Resources to offset the costs for the 2024 Beacons Programme in BCC3**

- 3.3 The new Action Plan total for programme costs is therefore £403,170 and the additional resource will be allocated in Q4 and reported on then, once a confirmation letter of offer has been received by the Council. It should also be noted that the Council contributes more to Good Relations work than merely its 25% match funding to the Action Plan, contributing a total of £413,320.10.**

- 3.4 Delivery of the Action Plan continued during quarter 3. In Q1, £181,714.48 was allocated. In Q2, a further £109,420 has been allocated. During Q3, £58,473 was further allocated, giving a total allocation thus far of £349,607.48.**

3.5 Members should also note that the Action Plan does not include the £128,700 allocated to the Council for work on refugee integration, or the Asylum Dispersal allocations totalling £406,228, all from TEO. These funds are in addition to the Action Plan.

3.6 The following is a summary progress update on activity and allocations during Q3:

Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 3	Total allocated
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£155,000	43 projects awarded funding for Good Relations projects.	£0 (all allocated)
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	£20,000	Programme workshops underway	£20,000
BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	£20,000 (Plus an additional £13,170)	Beacon Programme delivered. 16 Beacons deployed on 11 July.	£0 (all allocated)
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£20,000	2 projects allocated support: - EID celebrations - Visit My Mosque prog	£3,000 £850
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme	£60,000	December meeting of migrant forum took place. DiverseCity Event	£300 £3,000
BCC6	Embedding Good Relations Programme	£0	This programme didn't proceed as a result of budget shortfall	£0
BCC7	Interface Engagement & tackling sectarianism and racism	£60,000	6 Christmas Interface Events supported	£8,823
BCC8	Shared Education Schools Programme	£20,000	Programme agreed and being delivered in Q3 and Q4.	£20,000
BCC 9	Strategic Connections and Support Programme	£10,000 (Plus an additional £25,000)	Reallocation of £7,500 towards Christmas Interface programme events East Meets West Community Centre Programme	£2,500
	TOTAL	£365,000		£58,473

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

All costs within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan are covered within existing agreed budgets.

**3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

All activity within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan seek to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds."

The Good Relations Manager outlined the principal aspects of the report and, after discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation as contained in section 2.1.

Peace IV - Secretariat Update

The PEACE Programme Manager reminded Members that a sum of £1,425,854 remained outstanding in respect of projects which had been supported under PEACE IV. She advised that officers continued to liaise with the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) regarding the verification of outstanding claims, which, it was reported, would be reimbursed once an Article 27 Audit of the Shared Space & Services Period 31 Claim had been completed by the Audit Authority. The PEACE Programme Manager added that all information requested relating to the audit had been forwarded and that the Audit Authority had acknowledged the receipt of the information.

Noted.

(Councillor I. McLaughlin in the Chair).

PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS 1.1. Co-designed Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation

Mobilisation of the revenue projects within the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan is continuing with progress and key actions outlined below.

3.2 SEUPB Approval / Letter of Offer (LoO)

Members are referred to the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan Letter of Offer (Appendix I) which was received on 19 December 2024. Officers are currently reviewing the Letter of Offer and Conditions of funding to progress the approval process.

3.3 Members are requested to note key points from the LoO, as follows:

- no changes to the Project submitted were required by the Steering Committee.
- Data Sharing Agreements (DSA) are currently being reviewed and amended in collaboration with SEUPB and IGU. The DSA and adherence to the publicity and marketing materials, including the privacy notices, will form part of the contractual requirements with appointed delivery partners.
- Project Lifetime is for 48 months starting on 1 January 2024 (“Project Lifetime”). The Project end date is 31st December 2027. It is likely that an extension to June 2028 will be necessary and can be requested following acceptance and submission of the LoO.
- The pre-commencement condition regarding a state aid assessment has been completed and returned to SEUPB.
- Project implementation conditions are progressing, with minor amends and points of clarity for JeMS work plans project identified and ready to agree with SEUPB.
- Officers are currently reviewing SEUPB’s Verification/Controller tender documentation and drafting council requirements to enable a suitable Financial Controller to be appointed in line with SEUPB requirements and as soon as possible.
- Community background has been assigned to each tender based on target groups. This will enable the community background to be achieved
- Reporting from delivery partners will be monthly / quarterly to enable progress against results to be monitored against outputs and results targets

3.4 A report to Council’s Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 13th December 2024, outlined that the LCAP LoO will be accepted in € / Euros. Given that the LoO is issued in Euro/€ exchange rate fluctuations will be monitored in collaboration with Council’s Finance Department.

3.5 Members are requested to note and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer, subject to internal council checks to ensure that legal implications are considered.

3.6 Pre Market Engagement and Procurement

As previously reported all pre-market engagement sessions for revenue projects have now been completed with all tender exercises open.

Tender evaluations are progressing for the Youth Empowerment, Community Empowerment and Language Up, with contract awards imminent. Evaluations have commenced for the Sports, Health & Wellbeing, Interfaith and Belief projects.

Implementation of projects is subject to the market response to the tender calls and bidders' responses meeting the tender requirements. On completion of the tender evaluation phase members are requested to note the following:

TPC3 Youth Empowerment

SEUPB advice regarding further clarification on the Lot 4 submissions is currently being progressed. A further tender call may be necessary, and if so, will be issued early 2025. The project should remain achievable within the approval timeframe.

CCD5 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

A nil response to the Lot 1 of the tender call. Feedback is currently being sought, and subject to feedback a possible rescope of the project may be necessary.

Bids received for Lot 2 do not meet the requirements. Feedback is being progressed and again subject to feedback, a rescope may be necessary.

Members are requested to note that the Programme Board has agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and Peace Programmes Manager to progress project rescopes, where necessary.

The project elements should remain achievable within the approval timeframe and a further report on any required project amends will be presented to members.

3.6 Mobilisation of Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme

As previously reported, planning for the mobilisation of projects within the Community Regeneration and Transformation (CRT) theme is underway with an indicative timeframe for the mobilisation of animation activities developed.

3.7 Critical to the mobilisation of the CRT infrastructure and works elements is the allocation by SEUPB of a representative from

Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD), who will provide advice on the procurement for all capital works. As the LoO progressing for approval, it is envisaged that SEUPB will appoint the representative soon.

A further report on the mobilisation timeframe and animation strategy will be presented to members at a future meeting.

3.8 PEACEPLUS 1.4 Project - Waterworks / Alexandra Park

Members may be aware that the Council was also successful in securing €13.5m for the Reconnected Belfast Waterworks / Alexandra Park Project. The project will be implemented by Council's Property and Projects department.

Collaboration of this project with the 1.1 LCAP is required given the strong alignment on Council approaches, processes and procedures as well as to communicate the lessons learnt from PEACE IV. To aid this collaboration the Programme Manager will oversee the staff responsible for the implementation of the animation aspect of the 1.4 project to ensure complementarity, and avoid any duplication, across the two projects. Internal discussions on the governance for the two projects is being considered.

3.9 Staff Recruitment

Appointment of three Project Support Officers is progressing and once appointed, only one post remains to be recruited.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS LCAP will be eligible from this date and will be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Plan has been submitted for equality and good relations screening as well as rural needs assessment."

During discussion, several Members expressed disappointment in that, in respect of the tender exercises for Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the 'Multiculturalism to Interculturalism' project, no suitable tenders had been received to oversee its delivery. It was pointed out that, within the context of the disturbances which had occurred across the city during the summer of 2024, it was important that the work associated with this project was delivered in a timely fashion.

In response, the Good Relations Manager indicated that, subject to receipt of feedback in respect of the tendering exercises, it was anticipated that a rescope of the

terms of the project would be undertaken with a view to the overseeing a further tendering exercise. Accordingly, he added that the Programme Board had agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and the Peace Programme Manager to progress such a rescope as deemed appropriate in order to procure a suitable partner to oversee the projects.

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation as set out within 2.0 of the report.

Update from Partnership Members

Mr. Gunn outlined the steps which had been undertaken during the recent cold weather to support homeless persons by providing sheltered accommodation for short-term use. Mr Gunn undertook to provide further information to the Partnership in this regard for information purposes.

Any Other Business

Father M. Magill reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 7th October, it had agreed to undertake a walking tour of the Forth Meadow Greenway on a date to be determined. Accordingly he suggested that the tour be held on either Thursday, 27th March, at 13.30, or Wednesday, 30th April, at 13.30.

The Committee Services Officer undertook to circulate the dates to Members with a view to identifying a preferred date. It was noted that transport would be provided to and from the starting and ending points of the tour.

Chairperson

2024/25 Quarter 3 Action Plan Summary Report

Code	Key Priority	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 3	Total Q3 allocation
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Good Relations Small Grants Prog Criteria focusing on the 4 T:BUC themes and providing opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote Good Relations.	Total: £155,000	43 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process in Q1. Projects ongoing.	Full allocation in Q1
BCC2	Cultural expression	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme to embed Good Relations Outcomes into events marking the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	Total: £20,000	Programme agreed with Tourism and Events. Suppliers appointed. Workshops taking place.	£20,000
BCC3	Cultural expression	Positive Cultural Expression Programme – to facilitate the positive expression of cultural heritage through the provision of bonfire beacons on the 11 th July.	Total: £20,000 (Plus an additional £13,170)	16 Beacons deployed on 11 July at sites across the City. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ainsworth Avenue - Brown Square - Denmark Street - Cregagh - Dunmurry - White City - Clara Street - Clarawood - Diamond project (East Belfast) - Grove Street East - Moltke Street - Springmartin - Wheatfield (Ballysillan Park) - Lower Oldpark - Connswater 	Full allocation in Q2
BCC4	Shared Community	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme To develop and deliver a range of programmes of events and training on good relations/diversity issues.	Total: £20,000	2 projects allocated support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EID celebrations - Visit My Mosque prog 	£3,000 £850
BCC5	Shared Community	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme To facilitate partnership working on the inclusion and participation of new communities. This programme will build on this engagement and continue to support initiatives that seek to support the integration and inclusion of all Communities, through good relations related projects as well as supporting advice giving organisations.	Total: £60,000	December meeting of migrant forum took place. 3 projects allocated support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversecity Event with Ashton and Shankill Women's Centre 	£300 £3,000

BCC6	Shared Community	Embedding Good Relations Programme This programme seeks to develop an awareness of Good Relations and how it can support effective service and programme delivery and will develop and deliver a series of workshops on how to 'design in' Good Relations in programme and project planning as well as building the Good Relations capacity of groups and organisations across the City.	Total: £0	This programme will not proceed as a result of budget shortfall	£0
BCC7	Safe Community	Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism & racism Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop and deliver a city-wide initiative on anti-sectarianism and anti-racism to include other agencies and government support progress towards the softening, transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. 	Total £60,000 (Plus £7,500 from BCC9) Total: £60,000	10 groups allocated funding under for Christmas Interface Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shankill Women's Centre - Blackmountain Shared Space - Denmark St. Community Ass - Divis Community Centre - White City Community Centre - City Life Centre - Colin Neighbourhood Partnership - Holy Family YC - Suffolk Community Forum - NBIN/TACIT 	£900 £895 £728 £900 £900 £900 £900 £900 £900 £900 Total: £8,823
BCC8	Children & Young people	Shared Education Schools Programme This initiative will be delivered in partnership with Education Authority and will focus on developing the Pupil Voice in Shared Education Partnerships. 4 Post-Primary Shared Education Partnerships (220 pupils) will be recruited onto the programme. The purpose of the programme is to engage pupils from different communities in a range of Pupil Voice Programmes that seek to explore sensitive and controversial issues through a variety of engagement sessions.	Total £20,000	Programme agreed with EA and currently being delivered.	£20,000
BCC 9	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Strategic Connections and Support Programme The aim of the Programme is to target resources through a Strategic Connections and Support Programme distributed on a themed basis for localised programmes, events and activities – across the City.	Total £2,500 (Plus an additional £25,000)	£7,500 reallocated into BCC7 Interfaces Programme East Meets West Community Centre Programme	£2,500

			£365,000	Quarter 1 allocation	£181,714.48
			£365,000	Quarter 2 allocation	£109,420.00
			£365,000	Quarter 3 allocation	£58,473.00
			£365,000	Quarter 4 allocation	
			£365,000	Total allocation	£349,607.48

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LETTER OF OFFER

19th December 2024
Mr John Walsh
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
Antrim

Project Name: Belfast Local Community PEACE Action Plan

Application Reference Number: PP00353

Dear Mr Walsh

1. Award and description of project

I am pleased to inform you that the PEACEPLUS Steering Committee agreed on 12th August 2024 to offer the above project the following grant aid;

Grant of **up to a maximum of** €17,437,277.00 (the “**Grant**”) to be incurred and defrayed by 31st December 2027. This is inclusive of €13,949,821.60 ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent and €3,487,455.40 governmental match provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.

This grant is awarded under Theme 1, Investment Area 1.1 Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans (Specific Objective ISO4.1) to Belfast City Council as Lead Partner for the following project and approved Output and Result Indicators.

The project as set out in the latest approved version of the application form (the “**Project**”)

The approved **Output and Result Indicators:**

Output Indicators (Programme Level)			
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value



PSO1.1	Co-designed PEACEPLUS Action Plans implemented	PEACEPLUS Action Plan	1
Result Indicators			
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value
PSR1.1	People from different communities engaged jointly in the implementation of local PEACEPLUS action plans	People	17,437

The following is a list of all project partners:

- Belfast City Council as Lead Partner

2. Budget and Conditions of Funding

In the event that the Lead Partner accepts the Grant offer detailed in this Letter of Offer any payment claim forms shall provide details of Project expenditure based on grant budget (the “Budget”) below;

Funding Sources	Value (€)
ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent	
Total	€13,949,821.60
Intervention rate (% ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent)	80%
Match Funding	
Governmental Match Provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive	€3,487,455.40
Cash Contribution (Partner Supplied/other grant)	N/A
Revenue Generated (Participant fees/Income)	N/A
Total	€17,437,277.00

Simplified Cost Option Key:

Office & Administration costs - 15% flat rate of eligible direct staff	The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible office and administration costs (indirect costs) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 40 (1) and (2).
Travel & Accommodation costs for project staff - 7% flat rate of eligible direct staff	The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible Travel and Accommodation costs (direct staff) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 41 (5).
€100,000 Preparation Lump Sum	The lump sum is intended to cover all costs which relate to the preparation phase of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan incurred between the 1st January 2021 and the application submission date. Infrastructure and Investment costs are not an eligible cost in the preparation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. The lump sum has been established in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 Article 53 (3).

It is conditional that Project implementation and expenditure is in accordance with this Letter of Offer, the Programme Manual and Standard Conditions of Grant (as amended from time to time). The most up to date versions of these documents are available on the SEUPB website. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that they are compliant with these.

- a. This Letter of Offer is to be read alongside the Standard Conditions of Grant, Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form. Words and expressions defined in the Standard Conditions of Grant and Programme Manual have the same meaning in this Letter of Offer.
- b. Any changes to the Project submitted, for instance to the Budget, activities, Output or Results Indicators, required by the Steering Committee, will have been communicated to the Lead Partner in the Notification of Approval.
- c. The Grant can only be used for the approved purposes of the Project to achieve the agreed Outputs and Result Indicators.
- d. Any change to this Letter of Offer must be agreed in writing with SEUPB prior to expenditure being incurred.
- e. If you do not spend all the funding on the delivery of the Project, the unspent balance will not be available to the Project Partners to utilise.
- f. This Letter of Offer is conditional upon the Lead Partner entering into a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), with the SEUPB in relation to any personal data shared between the parties.
- g. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about the purposes of processing of their personal data, how their data is handled, whom it may be shared with and their rights as data subjects in accordance with any applicable Privacy Notice(s) and relevant terms and conditions.
- h. Where data is shared between Lead Partners and Project Partners and/or End Beneficiaries, the sharing of information must be in full compliance with applicable data protection laws. Data Sharing Agreements between these parties are recommended.
- i. By signing and returning this Letter of Offer, the Lead Partner understands, acknowledges and agrees that all publicity and marketing materials shared with SEUPB may be shared onward with third parties and/or made publicly available. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about this collection and processing. A copy of the (JEMS) Privacy Notice and, where applicable, the Child and Young Person Privacy Notice, should be provided to all data subjects.

- j. Information submitted onto JEMS and any other monitoring and evaluation tool(s) by a Project Partner may be transferred and subsequently stored on the PEACE Programmes Learning Platform for research and archiving in the public interest.
- k. Payments cannot be made to Project Partners until the receipt by SEUPB of a Partnership Agreement acceptable to SEUPB is signed by all Project Partners.

3. Project Lifetime

The period of assistance is for 48 months starting on 1st January 2024 (“Project Lifetime”).

The Project end date is 31st December 2027, after which time any costs not defrayed will be deemed to be ineligible for reimbursement. Your activity should cease in advance of this date to ensure the final claim for expenditure has been certified by the Controller and all associated costs have been incurred by the final date of the Project Lifetime.

All documentation related to the administration of the Project including but not limited to supporting documents regarding Output and Result indicators, expenditure and audit must be retained and kept available in accordance with the terms of the Programme Manual.

The Project Lifetime may be only extended with the prior written agreement of SEUPB.

4. Conditions & Recommendations Specific to the Project

The Steering Committee has specified additional conditions (the “Additional Conditions”) for pre-commencement and during the implementation of the Project. These are conditions that the project must comply with in order to receive the Grant in full. The conditions are as follows:

Pre-commencement conditions

- (1) A state aid assessment is to be completed by the Lead Partner on behalf of the project and reviewed by SEUPB before the Letter of Offer is issued.

Project implementation conditions

- (1) JEMS work plans must be amended to the satisfaction of SEUPB.
- (2) Applicant to provide a breakdown of all travel and accommodation costs, any equipment/fixtures (to include detail and confirmation of match funded elements) and detail lump sum allocation.
- (3) Verification/Controller arrangements to be in line with SEUPB requirements. This must be in place before financial claims are submitted on the Jems system.

- (4) The community background of each of the Cohorts of participants should be confirmed and not vary from that set out in the application and detailed on Jems. If a variation is necessary, it will be subject to the agreement of SEUPB.
- (5) Progress against outputs and results targets will be considered at the 3-year point of implementation, this will determine if a break clause is enacted.

The Programme has also identified a series of recommendations for pre-commencement and during implementation of the Project. While not binding conditions of funding, Project Partners are requested to implement these recommendations where it is possible to do so within the existing scope and budget of the Project. The recommendations are as follows:

(a) The PEACEPLUS Programme has been designed to address issues related to our past history. Common traits that occur in post-conflict societies include aggressive and violent outbursts, lack of empathy, emotional distance, depression, addiction and limited life opportunities. We have also been influenced by the evidence associated with intergenerational trauma and the affect it can have on young people who were born long after the conflict/violence ended. These young people still bear the scars of their parents' and grandparents' experience and present with related trauma. Traumatized communities and individuals will not have all the necessary parenting skills to break the cycle of trauma without interventions and assistance.

All PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider what they can do to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls both within their project (activity) and how they can ensure awareness within the project partnership (staff). This may include: campaigning and awareness raising; specific actions to ensure women and girls feel safe everywhere; championing healthy, respectful relationships in the workplace; challenging attitudes, behaviours and social norms where they are unacceptable. You will find more information and some simple activities you can undertake in the attached links (<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>). In Ireland, please refer to the [Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#). Further information can be found [here](#).

As part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, where the projects have addressed the priority of ending of gender-based violence, the project will be asked to record actions, spend and location of these activities.

(b) Violence in the home, in many cases, can be linked to traumatic experiences from the past. Such traumatic instances can also be linked to the development of addiction and mental health issues. PEACEPLUS aims to support young people at an early stage, when they are, for example, at the point of possibly sofa surfing, and so help divert that young person from ending up in a state of homelessness. Funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant if there are any or part of their project activities and actions, that could support those at risk of homelessness, or have an early intervention which may prevent a person becoming homeless.



Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address prevention of Homelessness.

(c) Affordable and accessible Childcare is often a barrier to employment and progression. The young people targeted by the PEACEPLUS programme are categorised as some of the most disadvantaged in our communities and therefore are most lacking in support. PEACEPLUS will help remove barriers to employment, particularly in the skills development investment area, to ensure that those young people have equality of opportunity in accessing training which may lead on to employment and better life opportunities. PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant to the funded action, what positive actions they can take to support the childcare needs of their PEACEPLUS Programme participants.

Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address the priority of Childcare.

(d) Over the life of the programme, further priority areas for support may emerge and we reserve the right to request your assistance in addressing those priorities.

5. Grant Contract

You will find with this Letter of Offer, the following:

Annex A	Form of Acceptance
Annex B	Request for bank details form
Annex C	Standard Conditions of Grant
Annex D	Data Sharing Agreement

The Standard Conditions of Grant and the Programme Manual are available on the SEUPB Website.

This Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant (Annex C), the Data Sharing Agreement (Annex D), the Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form constitute the Grant Contract.

6. Bank Details

SEUPB will make payments into a dedicated bank account, unless otherwise agreed. Therefore, you need to open a **separate bank** account for the receipt of the Grant. Please **return the attached bank details form**, or else seek authorisation for a cost centre. Please see the section Bank Account of the Standard Conditions of Grant for more detail of this requirement.



7. Accepting the Letter of Offer and Standard Conditions of Grant

The Grant offer is made conditional upon you, the Lead Partner, adhering to our Standard Conditions of Grant and entering into the Data Sharing Agreement. If you accept this Letter of Offer, you will also be agreeing to abide by the Standard Conditions of Grant, the terms of Data Sharing Agreement and to abide by the Programme Manual. This Letter of Offer together with the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and latest approved version of the Application Form will (on acceptance as evidenced by your return of the completed Form of Acceptance) create the legally binding Grant Contract and you should read all documents carefully before accepting the Grant offer.

If you agree to accept our offer you should return the Form of Acceptance, along with the signed Data Sharing Agreement to SEUPB at: js.peaceplus@seupb.eu; together with the Bank Details Form which is attached as ANNEX B.

You must sign and return the Form of Acceptance and the Data Sharing Agreement within 28 days of the date of issue of the letter otherwise this offer of the Grant will expire unless otherwise agreed by SEUPB.

If there is anything you are unsure about regarding this Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement or the Programme Manual, please contact SEUPB at your earliest convenience.

8. Communications

We understand that you will be keen to share the news of your funding award with your stakeholders as soon as possible, however, we would ask that you contact the SEUPB communications team before making any public announcements in order to discuss your communications plan and ensure that all public communications comply with your obligations under the Grant Contract. Please email communications@seupb.eu

SEUPB reserves the right to co-ordinate all public relations/media announcement activity relating to this Letter of Offer. This includes the content, timing and distribution of any Grant offer made. No Grant offer announcement can be made by the Lead Partner or any other party without the prior agreement of the SEUPB.

Yours sincerely

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive

Enc.

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Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 16 January 2025

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Councillor Ryan Murphy
Councillor Sarah Bunting
Councillor Aine Groogan

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran Beattie, Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive
Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place & Economy
Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development (item 3)
Eunan McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing & External Affairs (item 6)
Lynsey Cameron, Executive Manager (Acting) (secretariat)

Other:

Grainia Long, Chief Executive
Liam Gunn, Regional Manager
Elma Newberry, Director of the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland
Fiona McGrath, Head of Place Shaping Belfast

1. Presentation from NIHE

NIHE representatives were in attendance to present on their Belfast Housing Investment Plan.

2. Finance Update

The Director of Finance provided an update on the setting of the district rate for 2025/26. Various scenarios on the impact on the rate were highlighted to Party Leaders and non-recurrent spend requests were also outlined. Discussion also took place on income modelling for the Crematorium. Party Leaders noted this would be brought to January SP&R committee.

The Director of Finance also outlined two live consultations, NILGOSC McCloud Remedy and Stormont Draft Budget. It was agreed a draft response to both consultations would be brought to committee for member consideration.

3. Citywide Strategic Site Assessments

The Director of City Regeneration and Development reminded Members of the status of Council sites which had come forward through the SSA process as well additional opportunities presented to Council through working with housing delivery partners, DfC as the Housing Regulator and NIHE as the statutory housing provider. The Director outlined the 11 sites proposed to be presented to SP&R committee in February. Following discussion members agreed that 10 of the 11 sites should be brought to committee to agree progressing to explore delivery routes for housing led regeneration development, with the eleventh site to be brought pending confirmation of plans adjacent to the site. A member also requested that sites across the north of the city be reviewed.

4. Planning Update

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and provided an update on the applications to be considered at the January Planning Committee.

5. Illuminate Requests

The City Solicitor outlined requests received to illuminate City Hall for Donors Day on 31 January, Covid 19 Day of Reflection on 9 March and Ramadan at the end of February. Cllr Bunting advised of a request she had received to illuminate City Hall for Batten Disease in June and would share the specific details on this with the City Solicitor. Party Leaders were content these requests were approved under the City Solicitor's delegated authority.

The City Solicitor advised a report will be brought to January SP&R committee for consideration outlining a draft Illuminate Policy. Members noted the proposed new approach which will be outlined in the report.

6. AOB

Waterfront Hall

The update from the Strategic Director of Place and Economy was noted by members.

Linenhall Library

The Director of Finance outlined the finance request received from the organisation. It was agreed this would be brought to January SP&R committee for consideration and that the representatives from the Linenhall Library be invited to present this request to committee.

Malone Tornadoes

The Director of Finance advised a funding request had been received from the mixed ability rugby team. It was agreed this should be brought to January SP&R committee with further details on the request to be outlined.

Pest Control

Following discussion at December committee, the City Solicitor advised a report will be brought to January SP&R committee. Party Leaders were advised this would be published as a late report.

Display of Flags and Emblems Bill

The Chief Executive brought to members attention correspondence received from Paula Bradshaw MLA on a consultation on a proposed Bill to regulate the display of flags and emblems from street furniture. It was agreed that Party's should consider their own responses to this consultation.

Termination of Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Project Management Agreement for Arboricultural Operations (Street Trees)

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to Party Leaders the arrangements in place with DfI regarding the Arboricultural Operations (Street Trees) which involves the management of 14,000 street trees in the Eastern Division by the Council's Woodland and Recreation Team. Party Leaders agreed that further conversations take place with DfI on this agreement, to include revising the tree boundary managed by the Council.

Ballysillan Playing Fields

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined existing plans for a 4G floodlit pitch in the area and asked members to note the emerging issues with regards to pitch usage. Issues around sectarian graffiti, social media comments and threats to Council staff working in the area were noted. Party Leaders noted senior officers were meeting area reps and a further update may be brought to members.

IFA National Training Centre

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded Party Leaders of previous discussions on this and advised that the IFA have recently announced a location outside of Belfast for this Centre. However, a request from the IFA to have a single pitch base at Blanchflower was outlined and discussed with members who agreed not to support

this request. This matter will now formally be brought to P&C committee. Party Leaders requested an update on the Councils Pitches Strategy be brought to members.

Follow up process on presentations to Party Leaders

This item was raised by Cllr Long, and discussion followed on how best updates, feedback and follow ups are progressed following attendance by external organisations at Party Leader meetings. It was agreed that an item be added to the Party Leaders agenda the month following attendance a meeting to allow for updates to be brought.

Advertising panels at bus stops

Following discussion and queries raised at October SP&R committee, the Director of Communications, Marketing & External Affairs provided an update on the approach, including the cycle of advertisements.



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports									
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 									
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After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function

	rooms received up to 3 January 2025.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is set out below.
3.2	<p>Functions permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not. • functions which demonstrably enhance the city's image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination. • functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province. • functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.
3.3	<p>Functions not permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms. • functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor's Office. • functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities. • functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council. • functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Committee will recall that at its meeting on 24 th May 2024, it considered an update on the City Hall Income Generation Project. Committee was advised that charging for the use of the Council's function rooms will be considered as part of a later stage of this project. This will include looking at a review of the current pricing structure and the provision of hospitality.

	Pending this work being brought to Committee, delegated authority was given to the City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services to depart from the existing charging structure and negotiate room hire charges for commercial type events.
3.5	The standard charging structure will apply to the event listed in the Schedule at Appendix 1.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.6	None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 3 January 2025.

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JANUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED
Youth Action NI	9 April 2025	80th Birthday Celebration Dinner - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing. Numbers attending: 200	C	Current rate free as charity	
Bready Ulster Scots	5 April 2025	European Highland Dance Championships Celebration Evening - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and ceili dancing for guests attending the Highland Festival. Numbers attending: 200	A & B	Current rate free as charity	
Community Arts Partnership	12 April 2025	The Trash Fashion Show to celebrate 25th Anniversary of CAP providing art projects in the community. The show will showcase fashion pieces made during community workshops. Numbers attending: 200 -250	C & D	Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group
Queen's University Women Graduates (QUWG)	25 April 2025	Centenary Celebration of QUWG and Opening Reception for the Triennial conference of the Irish Federation of University Women for guests attending this 3 day events programme. Numbers attending: 70	A & B	Current rate free as charity	
Albert Foundry Football Club	10 May 2025	Club Centenary Celebration - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing. Numbers attending: 200 - 250	C & D	Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group & Anniversary
The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)	23 June 2025	Business Leaders Drinks Reception for guests attending the 5-day CIOB Members Forum in Belfast. Numbers attending: 120 -150	A & B	<i>Under review</i>	
Queen's University Belfast Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	3 July 2025	International Summer School Farewell Event to mark the end of a three-week International Summer School hosted QUB- drinks reception and dinner and certificate presentation. Numbers attending: 100	A, B and C	<i>Under review</i>	

JANUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Minorities Recognition Awards NI and University of Ulster	4 July 2025	International Inclusivity Conference Dinner for guests attending this 3-day conference at University of Ulster. Numbers attending: 350 - 400	A & B	<i>Under review</i>	
Paediatric ICU Team in Royal Belfast Hospital	11 September 2025	Paediatric Critical Care Society Gala Dinner for guests attending 3-day conference at ICC Belfast. Numbers attending: 200 - 250	A & B	<i>Under review</i>	
Ulster Journals Ltd	18 September 2025	Ulster Tatler Awards 2025 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending: 350 – 400	B	<i>Under review</i>	
International Brigade Commemoration Committee	3 October 2025	Opening Reception for of International Brigade Memorial Trust AGM for guest attending this 3-day AGM. Numbers attending: 75	D	Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group
Shankill Protestant Boys Arts and Cultural Society	11 October 2025	Shankill Protestant Boys Flute Band 45th Anniversary Celebration Drinks Reception, Dinner, Presentations, and entertainment. Numbers attending: 180 - 220	C & D	Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group & Anniversary
Image Nation NI	25 October 2025	Belfast Diwali Celebrations – an evening of food and entertainment to celebrate one of the biggest celebrations in Hindu Calendar. Numbers attending – 350	C	Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group
MKON – Professional Conference Organiser	4 June 2026	Gala Dinner for The Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC. Numbers attending: 350 - 400	A & B	<i>Under review</i>	
UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)	23 June 2027	UKCISA Conference Drinks Reception for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC. Numbers attending: 250	A & B	<i>Under review</i>	



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition in June 2025
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number ☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
-----	---

1.1	To consider a request from Belfast Photo Festival for the use of City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to host a photographic exhibition. This is an annual exhibition which has been held in the grounds in previous years.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise Belfast Photo Festival to use City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to display a photographic exhibition as part of the Belfast Photo Festival. 2. Authorise the exhibition in line with similar events previously approved by Council.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) has asked to place a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 9 – 30 June 2025. Exhibition content is placed around the perimeter of the West and East Lawn allowing for other events to be hosted and the lawns to remain available for recreational use.</p>
3.3	The theme for the 2025 Photo Festival exhibition is Climate and Environment and will delve into photography's power to capture and reflect the changing environment and its impact on the world around us.
3.4	There will be 6 exhibition framework structures installed on the perimeter of the West & East Lawn of City Hall grounds on 9 June and dismantled on 30 June 2025. It would be free for members of the public to view daily in line with the opening times of the grounds.
3.5	Belfast Photo Festival have a dedicated Front of House Team who will be roaming throughout their open-air public exhibitions across the city. They will engage with visitors/ publics to talk about the work, as well as ensure any maintenance, graffiti or other issues arising.
3.6	Good Relations and Corporate Communications will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications identified that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is included in Appendix 1.

3.7	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request and hosting of the exhibition.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Good Relations will be consulted on this request and the exhibition content, but don't foresee any negative implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1 - Exhibition Proposal artwork and site map in City Hall grounds

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CITY HALL LAWN PROPOSAL

9 – 30 JUNE 2025



**BELFAST
PHOTO FESTIVAL**



BELFAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

Page 282

- “One of the best photography festivals in the world” - Capture Magazine
- 100,000+ visitors in June 2024
 - Working with 30+ partners in arts, culture & education to deliver the 2025 festival
 - Winner: Best PR Campaign (2021 CIPR Awards)
 - Winner: Arts Award for Excellence (2019 Allianz Arts & Business NI Awards)

PREVIOUS OUTDOOR EXHIBITIONS



Page 283

Since 2013, Belfast Photo Festival has been producing exhibitions and art works for outdoor display across the city, including the City Hall and Botanic Gardens.





2025 FESTIVAL THEME: CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

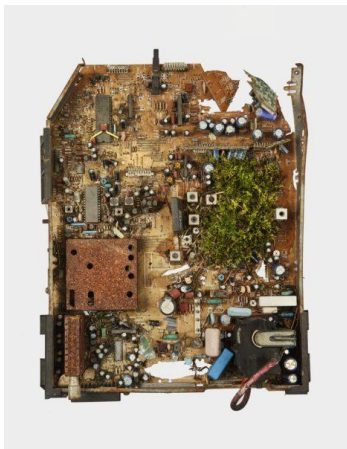
Page 98
SPF 2025 will delve into photography's unique power to capture and reflect the changing environment and its impact on the world around us. This edition will explore how contemporary photographers are responding to urgent ecological challenges and offering reimaginings of our relationship with nature. Through their lenses, they confront the pressing realities of climate change, environmental degradation, and the complex interconnections that define our globalized world, while seeking to bridge the divisions and inspire solutions for a more sustainable future.



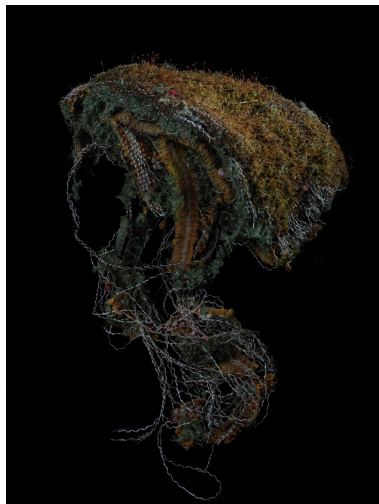
PROPOSED ARTWORKS FOR CITY HALL

Diana Lelonek: Center for Living things

The Center for the Living Things is the research institution founded in 2016, in order to examine, collect and popularise the knowledge concerning new humanotic nature forms. All exhibits gathered in the Institute's collection are abandoned objects, used and no longer needed commodities – wastes of human overproduction, which have become the natural environment for many living organisms. Specimens were found in illegal waste dumping site, where the transgression of man-derived objects and plant tissues take place. These hybrids of plants and artificial objects are difficult to classify, as they are contemporaneously animate and inanimate. Exhibits collected in Center for the Living Things can't be conventionally classified. Recently, wastes have been taking over behaviours from living matter. In the process of overproduction, ceaseless demand of constant update of possessed goods is the reason why most of unnecessary products seem to be out of control. Center for the Living Things is aimed to describe mechanisms appearing in the sphere of rejection and uselessness. In this sphere, products are no longer tools used by people. Products participates in almost every process that occurs in biosphere, hence we can't definitively divide economic or social processes from so-called natural process.









OUTDOOR EXHIBITION INSTALLATION

C-Bond Triangular Displays

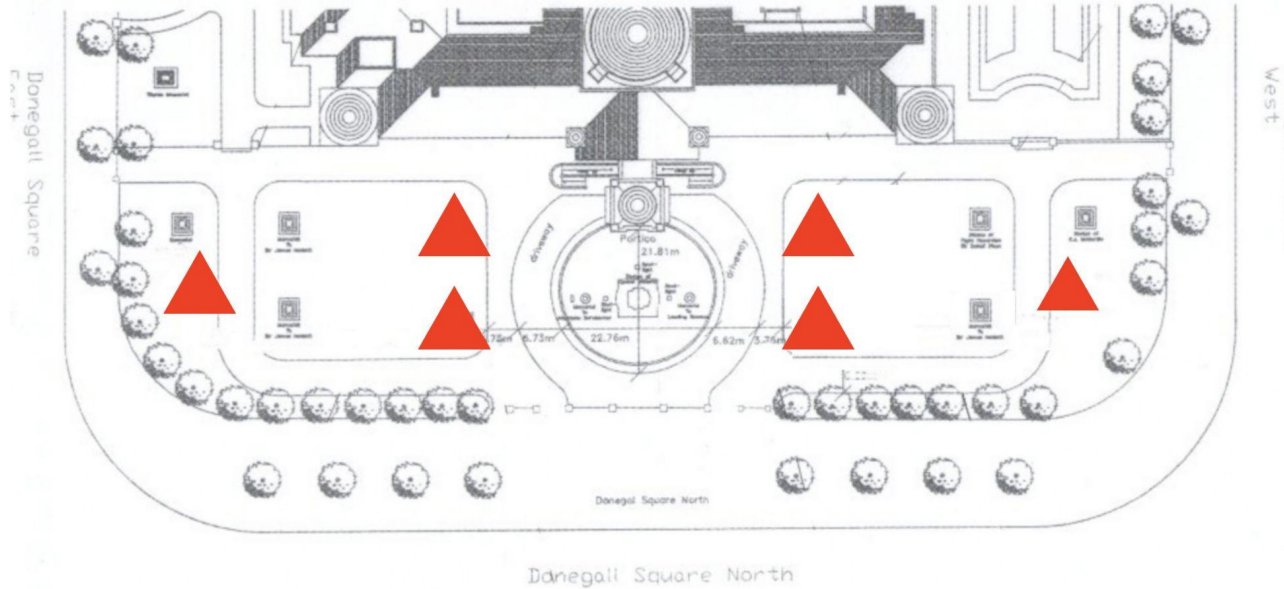
Page 289
Artworks: 6 structures, Size: 1500mm x 2100mm. (Three images per display unit)

Displayed as presented in these photographic examples showing the same method used at Belfast Harbour & Queen's University.



PROPOSED EXHIBITION LAYOUT

Page 290



▲ Number of Display Units = 6 framework displays



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2025
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports									
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After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Is the decision 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>To consider requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 6 June 2025 • Pride Picnic – 19 July 2025 • Féile Rock's Pride Concert – 26 July 2025 • Belfast One Film Screening – 2 and 3 August 2025 • Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party – 16 August 2025
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on dates noted above. 2. Authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the requests set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Several requests have been received for events over the spring and summer period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p>
3.3	<p><u>The Proposed events</u></p> <p>The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p>
3.4	<p>The event would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025</u></p> <p>Hosted by Tourism NI this outdoor interactive community event, running from 11.00am to 2.00pm, will mark the start of a four stop journey towards The Open.</p>

	<p>A display of large letters spelling out 'The Open' will allow for photos with local schools, organisations, dignitaries, and sportspeople. An interactive golf section with artificial grass and gazebo enables individuals to partake in hitting a golf ball into a washing machine and the famous Claret jug will be on display for viewing and photo opportunities. The event is free and access managed.</p>
3.6	<p><u>6 June 2025 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward walk</u></p> <p>The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at City Hall since 2014. It is Action Cancer's flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.</p>
3.7	<p><u>19 July 2025 Belfast Pride Family Fun Day</u></p> <p>This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12noon to 5.00pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs. The event would be free to attend and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. Previous event in recent years were very popular and delivered without incident.</p>
3.8	<p><u>26 July 2025 Féile Rock's Pride Concert</u></p> <p>The annual "City Hall Rocks Back" event is organised by Feile an Phobail featuring local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8.00am and 7.30pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.</p>
3.9	<p><u>2 and 3 August 2025 Belfast One Cinema Screenings</u></p> <p>This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed, and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by</p>

	<p>way of face painting and film props. Previous events in 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident. 2024 event was affected by impromptu rallies on the cobbled area and this element will be reviewed for 2025 event planning.</p> <p><u>16 August 2025 Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party</u></p> <p>3.10 In 2022, ArtsEkta launched a new event as part of the festival titled ‘Mela Carnival, a spectacular opening to the festival and begin a series of 50 events across a full week which will culminate in the traditional event at Botanic Gardens. The past 3 year events were very successful and wish to host the event again this year.</p> <p>A 800-participant carnival parade will begin at Writers Square, proceed onto Royal Avenue into Donegal Place and end at City Hall grounds. ArtsEkta request the use of the City Hall grounds for a free to access carnival party and celebration event for the participants, family/friends and wider audiences with stage entertainment, performers, food traders and carnival floats.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.11 There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.</p> <p>3.12 There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.13 There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Steering Group

Tuesday, 8th January, 2025

CASTLE, CAVEHILL, ZOO AND NORTH FORESHORE STEERING GROUP MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING IN THE CONOR ROOM

Members present: Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Anglin and Cobain.

In attendance: Ms. S. Kalke, Client Manager;
Mr. S. Wilson, Estates Surveyor; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

Resolved - that Alderman Rodgers be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in June, 2025.

(Alderman Rodgers in the Chair.)

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Nelson and Smyth.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declaration of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in the item relating to the development of the Giant's Park in that he was a member of the Council's Planning Committee, which would consider the application in due course. It was noted that the declaration would not preclude Alderman Rodgers from chairing the meeting.

North Foreshore - Update on Commercial-Led Leisure Development (GPBL)

Alderman Rodgers welcomed to the meeting Mr. K. Carlin, Director of Carlin Planning Limited, together with Mr. G. Kennedy of Kennedy Planning Management, and Mr. K. McKay of the Benmore Group, who were in attendance to provide a presentation in respect of the development at the North Foreshore.

The Working Group was informed that an initial planning application for the development had been submitted to the Council in December. The first phase of the project would see the development of a 160-acre portion of the site for the purposes of an adventure

park, with construction could potentially commencing in late-2025, subject to planning approval. Mr. Carlin outlined the further plans for the remaining 90 acres of the site, which would enable the creation of mixed-use, distribution, logistics and commercial zones. All plans relating to the site, he added, had been developed collaboratively, with the input of local communities, and would seek to balance the requirement of an outdoor nature park and ensure the management of the surrounding environment in a sensitive manner.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson