

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

2nd August, 2023

## **MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid Meeting (both remote and in person) in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 8th August, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**
  - (a) Apologies
  - (b) Minutes
  - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Presentation**
  - (a) Presentation Social Supermarket Fund Providers
3. **Restricted**
  - (a) Social Supermarket Fund - Update (Pages 1 - 12)
  - (b) Year-End Finance Report 2022-23 (Pages 13 - 18)
  - (c) Department for Communities Letter of Offer Community Support Programme 2023/24 (Pages 19 - 30)

(d) 2023 Air Quality Progress Report (Pages 31 - 188)

4. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

(a) Notice of Motion - Playful Belfast City Streets (Pages 189 - 190)

5. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

(a) Pitches strategy update

(b) Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) update (Pages 191 - 194)

(c) Active Belfast Update (Pages 195 - 198)

(d) Quarter 4 Year End Committee Plan update (Pages 199 - 210)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

(a) The Bullring DFC/BSC Capital Project (Pages 211 - 218)

7. **Operational Issues**

(a) Proposal for dual language street signs (Pages 219 - 224)

(b) Responsible Dog Ownership (Pages 225 - 252)

(c) Requests for the use of Parks for 2023 events (Pages 253 - 258)

(d) Sustainable Period Product Scheme (Pages 259 - 262)

(e) Product Safety update (Pages 263 - 266)

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

(a) Street Sign Format

Request that the Council will take the opportunity presented by the roll-out of new bilingual street signs to:

- Explore the use of cló Gaelach, or an appropriate adaptation, for Irish language wording on bilingual street signs in Belfast, bearing in mind that accessibility assessment if required should be judged against the standards for this script format rather than Roman script.
- Explore the possibilities to use a distinctive font for English language wording on all street signs to create a unique 'Belfast character' which will be readily identifiable as a feature of the city. This could echo, for example, fonts used on traditional black tiled signs, meeting accessibility requirements.
- Explore options around other scripts that may be required for bilingual signage in future, relating to other languages, to avoid any delays in delivering any such signage.



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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion - Playful Belfast City Streets
<b>Date:</b>	8th August, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion on Playful Belfast City Streets, which the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th June, referred to this Committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th June, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 3rd July:

	<p><b><u>Playful Belfast City Streets</u></b></p> <p>3.2 “Following other cities, including London and Dublin, this Council will work with relevant stakeholders to facilitate how residents can organise Playful Streets in Belfast.</p> <p>Playful Streets are a low cost and easy way to turn residential streets into play spaces allowing children and communities to come together and play through limiting or closing access to vehicles for a few hours.</p> <p>We will invite Playful Cities Ireland to present to Council Members at a future Committee meeting and for Council officers to engage with the pilots currently being carried out by Fingal County Council this summer.</p> <p>This Council will then seek to pilot the same in Belfast in 2024 across the four quarters of the city and the city centre with a view to introduce a council led system through which residents can apply to make their street a Playful Street.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor McMullan</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Fiona McAteer</p> <p>3.3 Members are reminded that in accordance with Standing Order 13(l), where the notice of motion seeks to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process, the motion will stand referred to the relevant Committee for consideration. If the motion is agreed at the Committee, then this will usually require a further report from officers outlining the financial and other implications should the notice of motion be adopted.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.4 None at this stage.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>3.5 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	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) update
<b>Date:</b>	8 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, CNS

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an update on the operation of the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC)</li> <li>• Provide update of all groups that will be contacted as part of the recruitment exercise for new members</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the content of the report relating to the Belfast City Youth Council</li> <li>• note the list of groups that will be contacted as part of the recruitment exercise for new members</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Overview</u> <b>Background</b>

3.1	At June committee members received an update on the work of the Belfast City Youth Council and the recruitment exercise which will begin in the Autumn for the Belfast City Youth Council. Members asked for further information to be provided in relation to the operation of the BCYC at this month's committee.
3.2	Officers advised that the key focus of work at present is reviewing and designing the recruitment process and engagement approach to encourage applications from young people across the city. As previously advised, over the summer months the youth council will prioritise outreach with youth providers and youth services to promote recruitment.
3.3	<p>Regular social media post, e-shots, mailing, emailing, telephone calls and face to face contact with a wide range of groups are all scheduled over the coming months. This will ensure a diverse range of young people receive an opportunity to apply to BCYC. Contact will be made with youth organisations in each of the 10 Council DEAs as well as larger citywide organisations which will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Work Alliance</li> <li>• Voluntary Sector Youth Providers</li> <li>• Street Beat</li> <li>• Community Restorative Justice</li> <li>• Shankhill Alternatives</li> <li>• Common Youth</li> <li>• Transgender NI</li> <li>• ACT Initiative</li> <li>• Rainbow project</li> <li>• EA Youth Service</li> <li>• R City</li> <li>• NIYF</li> <li>• NICCY</li> <li>• Extern</li> <li>• Volunteer NOW</li> <li>• Cara Friend</li> <li>• Belfast Met</li> </ul>
3.4	Members can contact the Young People's Co-ordinator at <a href="mailto:mulhollandstevie@belfastcity.gov.uk">mulhollandstevie@belfastcity.gov.uk</a> to suggest specific youth organisations or clubs that should be contacted or if they have other queries about the youth council.
3.5	Officers have made contact with party group leaders to seek confirmation of existing nominees and to seek new nominees, once confirmed these members will be invited to attend a meeting with the Belfast City Youth Council members.

3.6	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All costs associated with the Youth Council have been agreed in the budget setting process. A dedicated Young People’s Co-ordinator has been assigned to facilitate the Youth Council.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None identified at present. Recruitment for the Youth Council seeks to ensure representation for young people from all sections of society, particularly relevant Section 75 groups and promotion and engagement is designed to support this.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Active Belfast Approach for 23/24
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Kim Kensett, Belfast Health Development Unit, PHA

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek approval for use of Belfast City Council's (BCC) allocation of £90,000 to support Active Belfast Partnership (ABP) in 2023/24 to deliver the programme of activity detailed in the report</li> <li>Update members on delivery of the first Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme delivered through the Active Belfast Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The committee is asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the use of the BCC allocation of £90,000 to support ABP in 2023/24 to deliver the programme of activity detailed in the report.</li> <li>• Note the update in relation to delivery of the first Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme delivered through the Active Belfast Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Active Belfast Partnership is a multi-agency partnership supporting physical activity and healthy eating in Belfast. It is jointly funded by BCC (£90,000) and Public Health Agency (PHA). PHA advised on 19 <sup>th</sup> July that they were applying a 3.54% uplift to their allocation for 23/24 providing £181,141. The BCC contribution remains at £90,000 which means the total budget for 23/24 is £271,141. Physical activity and healthy eating remain priority areas within the refreshed Belfast Agenda as well as wider health-focussed strategic documents. AB therefore, both as an approach and as a partnership, plays a vital role in facilitating collaboration with key partners to take forward relevant and novel approaches.
3.2	Members may note that in January 23 approval was given for the Active Belfast Partnership to use £64,000 of the 23/24 budget to allocate funding awards made through its Participatory Budgeting programme for the delivery of activity in 23/24. (£26,000 from BCC and £38,000 from PHA). At that time officers advised that a planning session to identify and agree priorities for 23/24, alongside associated spend profiles would be held early in 2023 and that committee would receive an update following that meeting. However, due to the absence of key staff the meeting did not take place until May 23 and the tabling of this report was delayed as a result.
3.3	In the interim, SP&R committee considered what level of Council contribution would be directed to support micro-medium grants in June 23 as part of the spending review. The 23/24 allocation from Active Belfast of £79,940.00 was included in this discussion and has been included in the overall budget for these awards.
3.4	<u>Proposed Active Belfast 23/24 Budget Profile</u> The table below lists the recommended allocation for 23/24 following discussions with partners. The PHA uplift which was made available on 19 <sup>th</sup> July has not been reflected in this table and ABP will agree the allocation of this uplift at its next meeting. The rationale for supporting listed projects is as follows; Previously agreed by BCC for 23/24;

- PB Project – spend approved in January 23 to support delivery of this programme which has tested more participative and innovative methods of engaging citizens in programme delivery. Allocations have been made through the ‘Move more, eat well to feel better’ brand.
- Micro-Medium Grants – Given the level of demand for these projects, the quality of applications and number supporting AB priorities there was agreement from partners that supporting these grants would support delivery of AB outcomes. The BCC AB contribution was accepted as part of the allocation of funds by SP&R in June 2023.

3.4 Elements to be agreed by BCC for 23/24;

- Jog Belfast – This would represent the same amount of funding allocated for 22/23. Allocation of funding will support 7 sites across the City of Belfast, within North, South, West and East to deliver 3 programmes across the year. The Jog Belfast model, and how it is resourced going forward, will be a priority item for consideration by members of the ABP in 23/24
- Active Belfast Innovation Projects – Partners are developing proposals that will support innovative practice and the financial resource listed in the table is requested to support delivery.
- Resources/Training – This budget is requested to enhance the technical support that is provided by Community Places in relation to delivery of the PB project.

3.5

<b>Proposed Expenditure 2023/24</b>	<b>BCC</b>	<b>PHA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Micro-Medium grants	£ 39,970.00	£ 39,970.00	<b>£ 79,940.00</b>
<b>Partnership innovation projects</b>			
Pilot Participatory funding	£ 26,000.00	£ 38,000.00	<b>£ 64,000.00</b>
<b>Business continuity</b>			
Jog Belfast (£42000 - 7 sites x 3)	£ 9,133.00	£ 32,867.00	<b>£ 42,000.00</b>
Active Belfast Innovation Projects	£ 14,457.60	£ 30,371.60	<b>£ 44,829.20</b>
Resources/Training	£ 439.40	£ 4,791.40	<b>£ 5,230.80</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£ 90,000.00</b>	<b>£ 146,000.00</b>	<b>£ 236,000.00</b>

3.6

Update on the Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot

Members may wish to note the following update in relation to the PB programme.

	<p>The Move More and Eat Well to Feel Better Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot, offered local groups the opportunity to apply for up to £1000 to fund projects that would help people in their local area to move more and eat well. Unlike other grant applications, with PB the people of Belfast got to decide which projects got funded by voting for the projects they would like to see happen in their area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 applications were received (1 was ineligible)</li> <li>• 31 applicants were constituted, 15 were non constituted</li> <li>• 4 voting/ decision making events took place. Three were held in venues across the city, one was held online. A total of 2497 voters cast 11,715 valid votes</li> <li>• 27 projects were successful, 19 were delivered by constituted groups, 8 by non-constituted groups. There was a good spread of successful projects across the city.</li> <li>• A celebration event which will be attended by all groups will take place in City Hall on 22 November 23.</li> </ul> <p>Up to date information on the initiative can be found at:  <a href="https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/hub-page/participatory-budgeting">https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/hub-page/participatory-budgeting</a></p>
3.7	<p><b>Financial and Human Resource Implications</b></p> <p>All activity outlined in this report can be delivered within existing budgets.</p>
3.8	<p>Staff from within the Belfast Health Development Unit (BH DU) will continue to lead on this work. Oversight will be provided at organisational level by Nicola Lane within BCC and David Tumilty within PHA, as well as at a partnership/thematic level with the stakeholders involved in the ABP.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>The Participatory Budgeting programme has been equality screened and all other activity will be delivered with due regard to any equality/good relations and rural needs considerations.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	2022-23 Committee Plan Q4 Year End Update
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services, City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance and Improvement Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	This paper provides a year end progress update on the key actions contained in the 2022-23 People and Communities (P&C) Committee Plan, as agreed by the Committee in June 2022. A mid-year update report was presented to the Committee in February 2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the content of the year end progress report against the agreed actions within the 2022-23 People and Communities Committee Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the 2022-23 P&C Committee Plan was agreed at the Committee meeting in June 2022, and that a mid-year update report was presented to the Committee in February 2023.

3.2	The plan locates priorities within the framework of the relevant Belfast Agenda themes (Our Services; Economic Recovery; Community Recovery; Environmental Recovery; Strategic Planning Frameworks; and Organisational Foundations) and the CNS Departmental key priority areas (Open Spaces & Streetscene; Community Provision; City Protection and Bereavement; and Resources & Fleet).
3.3	While the June 2022 report noted that it is likely many of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver, it detailed the key deliverables and priorities for 2022-23.
3.4	As well as mid-year update report of February 2023, the Committee has received specific reports on a number of these priorities, and some are included in the Council's 2022-23 Improvement Plan, though this report provides an end of year progress update regarding all the priorities, as was proposed in the June paper.
3.5	The table in Appendix 1 provides detail and commentary on the progress of all 33 actions. It sets out the work undertaken by the Department to deliver the key priorities, to the end of Q4 2022/23 (ie the end of March 2023). 33 actions were identified across the Department's three Directorates. Of these, 4 have been completed (marked 'blue' in the table), 19 are currently on track (marked 'green'), 5 are considered at risk and are slightly delayed (marked 'amber'), while a further 5 actions are considered to be behind schedule and will require additional resources to ensure their completion in the next financial year (marked 'red').
3.6	The Committee is reminded of the resource, capacity and resilience pressures on the City and Neighbourhood Services Department experienced during 2022-23. Recent recruitment exercises have provided some additional resources which will assist with the progress of those actions currently considered to be delayed, though it is anticipated that some of these actions will be carried into the 2023-24 Department Business Plan where completion is more realistically achievable.
3.7	The Department intends to bring a further report detailing the 2023-24 Committee Plan to a subsequent P&C Committee meeting.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.8	The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee through the rate setting process in January for 2022-23 for the People and Communities Committee of £87.418m.

3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies and plans will be subject to the council's equality, good relations and rural needs requirements.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – People & Communities Committee 2022-23: Q4 update on key priorities Appendix 2 – CNS Departmental Achievements in 2022-23

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Resources and Fleet Directorate Actions		
Strategic Theme: Performance		
Action	BRAG Q4	Comments
Agree a digital/technological solution for waste collections, to integrate the customer experience, improve speed and quality of service and optimise routing and efficiency		Premarket engagement completed and findings being assessed. Financial estimates being considered as an outcome of this. Project manager appointed to deliver project – technical specification and tender documentation under construction prior to seeking financial approval through the appropriate governance structures prior to launching a procurement exercise.
Strategic Theme: Place		
Agree council approach to funding for a fleet replacement strategy in order to transition to an alternative fuel		Initial target date Sept 22. We presented Resources & Fleet position to a capital thematic session and awaiting feedback from Corporate Finance on the next steps. No further progress in last period.
Deliver HVO plan to convert compatible vehicles from diesel to HVO		We completed the HVO trial in August and a report was presented to the Waste Programme Board in October and P&C in November. Agreement to move appropriate fleet to HVO. Procurement exercise for fuel underway. Switch to HVO to fuel all bunker supplied fleet complete. Change has been operational since January 2023. Approximately 85% of diesel consumption now replaced by HVO.
Agree the way forward for the expansion of the Kerbside Sortation model for recycling		Agreed a new interim contract at SP&R Committee for recycling collections and treatment whilst a further study into kerbside sortation is now underway with a final report now expected Q2 2023.
Report to the council and identify actions moving forward regarding the 'More Circularity, Less Carbon' project		In collaboration with the Association of Cities & Regions Plus (ACR+) and Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) completed a report on the 'More Circularity, Less Carbon' project which was presented to P&C Committee in March 2023. The key recommendations of the report will be embedded into future waste plans.
Develop proposal for single use plastics policy for the council		Strategic Outline Case for Single Use Plastic Policy (SUP) was presented to the Climate Board. Following a request, from the Board, for an Expression of Interest exercise to be conducted, this was completed in Q3. Funding from the Climate Fund was approved in Q4. BCC signed up to the KNIB Plastic Promise and the draft Plastic Promise pledge was approved at June's People & Communities Committee.
Complete a review of glass and organic waste collection for the city		Review completed. Presented to P&C Committee in June 22. Proposal for glass expansion to be considered in the context of a revenue estimate growth proposal for 2024/25.
Review and make recommendations on the pilot activity to support the circular economy projects		Pilot to recycle wood from bulky waste collections completed – No plans to adopt given low tonnage and costs. Carpet recycling pilot completed and mainstreamed. Laptop pilot ongoing with support of Climate Fund until September 2023. Paint reuse scheme to be introduced in 23/24 with support of Climate Fund.

City Services Directorate Actions		
Strategic theme: Performance		
Action	BRAG Q4	Comments
Review BCC Port Health IT systems requirements in context of emerging EU/UK system solutions and IT automations under development regionally and nationally to support NI Protocol implementation and service functionality		Reviewed and updated IT system mapping work and undertook engagement with stakeholders to consider the wider systems approach needed for delivery of regulatory functions at Points of Entry and NI Protocol/ Windsor Framework anticipated requirements. A programme of work has commenced to develop existing DAERA and other Government IT systems to facilitate a more integrated one system IT approach (where appropriate) with Councils. This work will continue during 2023/24; anticipated system developments in 2023/24 at national level (UK HMRC, DEFRA systems etc) will impact on BCC system requirements and will require further review with partners once these are confirmed.
Recruit and retain sufficient staff to deliver the Port Health service		The revised temporary staffing model for the Port Health Service has been implemented and recruitment to new posts has been undertaken in Q2 with most posts now filled. Further review may be required in 2023/24 once service delivery impacts arising from the Windsor Framework have been assessed.
Work with DAERA and FSA to develop a sustainable funding model to secure necessary funding for the Port Health service, and obtain assurance for the 2023/24 financial year as a priority		Funding commitment for the 2023/24 year has been confirmed by Food Standards Agency. We participated in engagements with Food Standard Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and UK Government Departments to understand emerging developments and potential impacts of proposed Windsor Framework implementation. This is ongoing and further detail is still required. A long-term delivery and funding model has not yet been identified by Government.
Review and update the resourcing/staffing model to reflect any new arrangements for the NI Protocol following UK/EU discussions		Completed an interim review of the temporary staffing model for Port Health, this will reduce reliance on Environmental Health Officers for documentary/administrative duties. The revised model has been implemented and recruitment to new posts was undertaken during 2022/23 year with most posts now filled. This will need a further review once policy and practical arrangements for the Windsor Framework are confirmed with partners (Windsor Framework was published in Feb 2023, further guidance and detail is anticipated during Q1 and Q2 of 23/24 ahead of scheduled implementation in Oct '23).
Develop an operational improvement plan for delivery of pest control services		Internal Audit of Pest Control completed in Q3, with work underway to address the issues highlighted. The Service Design Project for Pest Control will commence in June 2023 with an expected completion date of the end of September 2023.

Develop a Departmental operational improvement plan for responsible dog ownership and engagement with DWS.		The Service Design Project began its Development Phase in Q4 with an expected completion date of the end of July 2023. We continue to work in conjunction with colleagues in EEOT, Corporate Comms and OSS who will help with the delivery of our plan.
Facilitate an External Review process of the HMO service by DfC		Work continues on developing key aspects of the HMO service delivery and most recently, the Landlord Training module has been uploaded to the BCC HMO website which was an outstanding item raised during the HMO Review. In addition, an internal review of HMO services has been commenced to review service delivery as part of a wider Transformation programme for City Services. As part of the DfC Review, the Council has requested that DfC make amendments to the HMO Act and Guidance to assist with the service delivery of the function and to provide clarity for the benefit of both landlords and officers. Officers continued to liaise with DfC by seeking updates on the progress of the final Report including a likely date for its release, however in the absence of a Minister and NI Assembly, for the final Report had not been published by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.
Continue to delivery Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026		The Air Quality Action Plan remains on track with the second progress report for 2023 due to be submitted to DAERA for technical assessment and review in August 2023. The 2022 Progress Report has been accepted and published by DAERA and it is available via the DAERA NI Air website as follows: <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/district-council-reports#511">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/district-council-reports#511</a>

Neighbourhood Services Directorate		
Strategic theme: Customer		
Action	BRAG Q4	Comments
Establish service standards across all of Neighbourhood Services, communicate to service users and embed within each management unit's business plan		There was no progress last year to establish service standards across all of Neighbourhood Services. This is a significant piece of work, and due to service demands across the department, and relatively small staffing resources with capacity to deliver on this strategy, work in this regard has been limited.
Strategic theme: Performance		
Develop and deliver a corporate Safeguarding Policy and related procedures and provide assurance for CP service delivery		The new Safeguarding all ages policy is in place and the initial Communication process has been completed. The SCM continues to provide support and encouragement at a department level across the organisation. The Assurance framework is being developed in conjunction with AGRS, Departments and the SCM. The Safeguarding Panel and Operational group are continuing to provide support to the process.

Produce the Belfast Physical Activity and Sport Development Strategy		The initial consultation process of the new Belfast Sports Development and Physical Activity Strategy with all identified stakeholders took place and was completed in February 2023. The Draft strategy is now being completed and will be presented to the project's board members by the end of July 2023. The draft will then be completed and public consultation will commence in September/October 2023
Deliver Boxing Strategy Action Plan		6,745 participants have taken part in activities delivered through the Boxing Strategy Action Plan in 22/23. The 23/24 plan has been agreed.
Review capacity to ensure compliance with Statutory Biodiversity duty		There was no progress last year to undertake this action. This is a significant piece of work, and due to service demands across the department, and relatively small staffing resources with capacity to deliver on this strategy, work in this regard has been limited.
Ensure effective facilitation of relevant partnerships to deliver on agreed action plans and respond to relevant identified community issues for example (D)PCSPs, Shared City Partnership, Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership, Belfast Area Outcomes Group, etc.		All activity is on track and relevant partnerships are being facilitated.
Implement a 2-year health/condition tree survey cycle of inspections on mature street trees, on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), as part of the Council's Project Management Agreement with DfI		We continue to be on target with the 2-year health/condition street tree surveys on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and to date we have surveyed 6516 street trees and this survey work will continue on a cyclical basis. All costs associated with the street tree surveys are fully funded by DfI.
<b>Strategic theme: Place</b>		
Support the development of Belfast One Million Trees Programme		Support ongoing, we have undertaken a number of tree planting projects during the year to support this action.
Development and delivery of a Belfast Tree Strategy, with a 10m year lifespan, and a commitment to deliver key priorities and actions over the next 3 years		Subject to Council approval/ratification of the final Tree Strategy and presentation of action plan summary in October 2023. Implementation, subject to available resources, will commence thereafter.
Continue to work on actions identified in the Good Relations Strategy, particularly those which relate to emerging priority issues		Delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan remains on track and has been reported on to the Shared City Partnership.
Complete development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan		There was no progress last year to develop the Action Plan. This is a significant piece of work, and due to service demands across the department, and relatively small staffing resources with capacity to deliver on this strategy, work in this regard has been limited. We have been linking to the Climate Resilience Team to try to secure resources to complete this action.
Continue to deliver the Council's Alleygate Programme		Agreed locations measured up. Consultation finishes in August- poor response from first round of consultation and it was extended. Submission to legal services in September seeking approval to move forward to P&C Committee to start the traffic regulation order process.

Develop a 5 year action plan for the delivery of the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy, and continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/deliver Section 76 developer contributions for council maintained open space		There was no progress last year to develop this Action Plan. This is a significant piece of work, and due to service demands across the department, and relatively small staffing resources with capacity to deliver on this strategy, work in this regard has been limited.
Continue to develop and support the Playground Improvement Programme		Under PIP 2022 – 2023, refurbishment works at Westlands playground were completed in February 2023, refurbishment works at Sally Gardens playground were completed in May 2023 and refurbishment works for Areema playground were completed in July 2023.
Continue to support the delivery of the Climate Action Programme		Support is ongoing.
Continue restoration of Templemore Baths and work with GLL for the opening of Templemore		We continue to work with colleagues in Physical Programmes (as leads for the restoration project), alongside GLL, to prepare for the completion, handover and formal opening of Templemore Baths, planned for the end of June 2023.
Complete pilot approach for Community Management of Assets		<p>Working alongside colleagues in Physical Programmes, work is underway on a pilot scheme to identify future management models for a number of Council assets. The key output from each pilot will be a recommendation as to the future management model. The preferred management option will be that which delivers the greatest community benefit. Work is underway with community-based organisations to take forward the phased pilots initially focusing on six sites (i.e. Clarendon Playing Fields; Ulidia Playing Fields; Hammer Pitch, changing rooms and community space; Lenadoon Millenium Park; Tullycarnet Boxing Club; Former Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre). Supported by Development Trusts NI (DTNI), consideration is given to the viability, sustainability and financial and operational feasibility of any management arrangements brought forward. Consideration is also being given to the capacity and governance arrangements required to ensure the effective management of such assets.</p> <p>The recommendation based on the assessment completed by DTNI and business cases for the sites at Ulidia and Clarendon Playing Fields was that greater social outcomes could be achieved through long term community management of the sites as well as increased potential for further capital development. Council have agreed the recommendations that Clarendon Development Association and a newly formed Rosario Development Company each enter into a long-term lease with the Council, with the leases being rent free in order to support a sustainable financial model focused on sporting programmes and community provision at the sites. DfC have consented to this and Council has drafted leases for consideration of the lessees. Initial assessments of the Hammer and Lenadoon sites are complete for internal review. Assessments of the Tullycarnet and Upper Ardoyne facilities have not progressed. Completion of pilots at a range of sites is required prior to confirming future approaches to community management of assets is required to fully test the practical application of the draft framework and toolkit and inform policy development.</p>

CNS 2022/23 Business Plan: Q2 update

Strategic Theme	No. of Actions	Behind / requires intervention	At risk / change required	On track	Target met / delivered
		<b>Resources and Fleet Directorate</b>			
Performance	1			1	
Place	7	1	1	2	3
<b>City Services Directorate</b>					
Performance	7		3	4	
Place	1			1	
<b>Neighbourhood Services Directorate</b>					
Customer	1	1			
Performance	6	1		5	
Place	10	2	1	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>



### Community provision

- Operated **27** community centres across Belfast with **93%** of users satisfied or very satisfied with their centre (508 responses)
- Provided **27** 'warm welcomes warm spaces' in community centres
- Supported **8** independently managed community facilities
- Supported **139** community clean-ups and gave out **45** litter hero kits
- Sold **12,273** fuel stamps

### Grants and funding

- Supported **33** capacity organisations to a total value of **£997,836.12**
- Delivered **63** community safety projects involving **£661,213** of funding from the Belfast PCSP
- Supported **82** community organisations with the overhead costs of managing their local community buildings to a total value of **£982,405.63**
- Supported **226** organisations to deliver projects through our micro and medium project grants
- Supported independently managed community centres with a budget of **£353,916**

### Play services

Delivered a two-week summer scheme programme at **33** community and play centres across the city to **1,300** children providing **700** activity sessions

### Advice

Provided funding of over **£1.3 million** to support **14** advice organisations to deliver advice service

### Bereavement services

**4,068** cremations and **1,519** burials from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

### Open Spaces and Street Scene

- Cleaned over **4,787** streets per week
- Supported **393** third party event requests
- Provided **105** safe playgrounds
- Maintained **67** parks with **20** achieving Green Flag status

### Environmental education and outreach

Undertook **181** schools visits

### Resources and fleet

- Recycled **64,000** tonnes of waste
- Recycled around **41%** of our household waste
- Emptied approx. **10 million** wheelie bins
- Collected **63,986** bulky waste items
- Transitioned heavy fleet vehicles currently powered by diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

### Port Health

- We completed **73** ship sanitation inspections
- Last year we screened **1,911** vessels for cases of infectious disease

### City protection

- Responded to **3,661** requests for pest control service
- Issued **706** fixed penalty notices for littering and **193** fixed penalty notices for dog offences
- 4,238** night time noise requests
- 1,358** day time noise requests
- Responded to **874** urgent residential requests

- 2,073** food safety and public health inspections
- Investigated **592** complaints in relation to foods and food premises
- Responded to **1,096** requests for advice and assistance
- Took **1,184** food samples to verify compliance with food hygiene, composition and labelling requirements including provision of allergen information
- Completed **1,624** inspections of premises for H&S, tobacco control, product safety and safety at sports grounds
- Responded to **4,096** housing or condition nuisance complaints

### Leisure development

- Boxing Strategy - **6,745** participants
- SCBI - over **42,000** participant opportunities created

### Leisure services

- 16** leisure centres and **2.8 million** user visits at year end
- 27,500** pre-paid memberships and **10,000** pay & play members
- 584** HMO licences issued with and **1,290** HMO inspections

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<b>Subject:</b>	The Bullring DFC/BSC Capital project
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Alice McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update members on the progress of the DFC/BSC funded Bullring capital project including the formal park opening; proposed process for naming the new park and keyholder arrangements for the community garden/allotments and MUGA.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the update and formal opening arrangements for the new park.</li> <li>2. Agree the preparation of a keyholding agreement for the community garden with Lower Shankill Community Association and Denmark Street Community Centre.</li> <li>3. Note the process for naming the new park including the shortlisted names for the public vote on the Council's Your Say website. The result of that vote will be reported back to this Committee.</li> </ol>

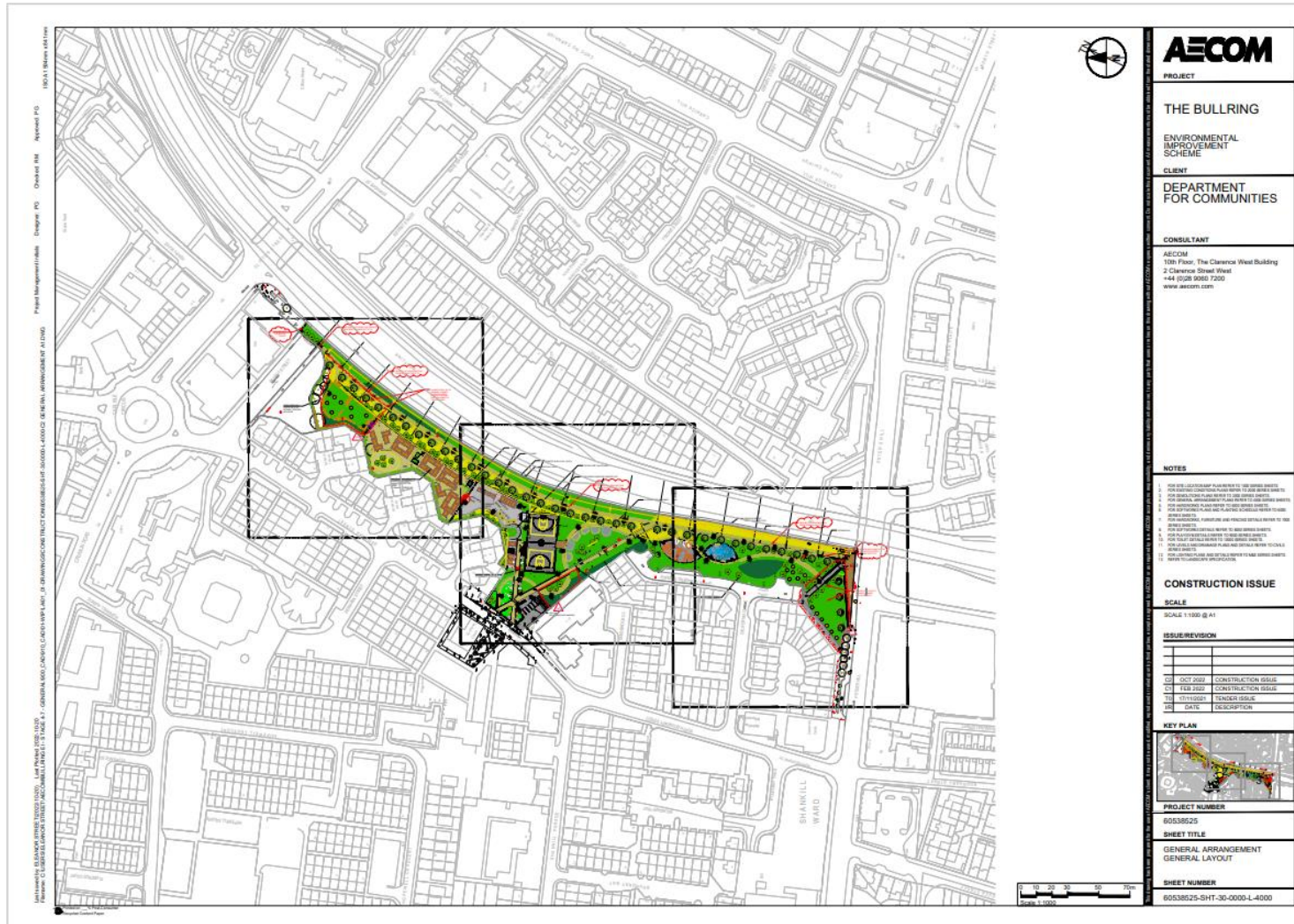
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>The Department for Communities, through its Building Successful Communities programme, has funded two public realm projects in Lower Falls and Lower Shankill. The Westlink Sports Activity Park (which was its working title for funding purposes) is situated at the Divis “Back Path” area located between the rear of Cullingtree Road and the Westlink. Now renamed Páirc an Lonnáin, it was opened to the public in early July 2021 following a major £1m development, creating a valuable new asset for residents in this part of the west of the city.</p>
3.2	<p>The Bullring project is larger in scale. The finished asset will, alongside improved hard and soft landscaping, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A MUGA</li> <li>• Play area for 0-3years and 3-6 years</li> <li>• Exercise Equipment</li> <li>• Self-contained Community Garden including toilet facility</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>Appendix 1 contains a Planning Drawing of The Bullring Public Realm proposals.</p>
3.4	<p>The expected completion date is the end August 2023. In line with recommendations made by the SP&amp;R committee in October 2016, the Bullring will transfer to council with 3 years of maintenance funding from DFC at an annual value of £35,000. The site will be managed and maintained by the relevant Open Spaces Street Scene team within City and Neighbourhood Services.</p>
3.5	<p>The Bullring site includes a securely fenced and gated area for a community garden with raised beds which can be made available to individuals and/or community groups for growing. This area also includes a WC, storage shed and water taps. Throughout the construction period, CNS officers have engaged with DfC and with local community representatives, including Lower Shankill Community Association and Denmark Street Community Centre, via a local stakeholder group, to prepare for the handover of the park. The Parks Outreach and Events Team have been helping prepare for the handover with a particular focus on how the community garden can be managed over late summer and autumn of 2023.</p>

3.6	<p><b>Keyholding</b></p> <p>Given the importance of facilitating access to the community garden for watering and weeding, across the breadth of times when users will want to work there, it is proposed to enter into a keyholder agreement for the community garden and the MUGA with Lower Shankill Community Association and Denmark Street Community Centre. This reflects the approach at other community gardens and allotments such as Glenbank, Grove, Musgrave and Knocknagoney. In respect of the MUGA, it also follows the approach agreed at Páirc an Lonnáin, where Falls Residents' Association have a keyholder agreement which has allowed them to programme activity on the site outside normal park opening hours.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Naming</b></p> <p>The former Parks &amp; Leisure Committee, at its meeting in August 2008, agreed a policy framework for managing requests to name parks. The policy follows a 4-stage process and has also previously been used to (re)name a bridge on the Connswater Community Greenway, Páirc an Lonnáin (the former Divis Back Path referred to above) and Páirc Nua Chollann (the new park funded by Urban Villages at Colin). These stages are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with key stakeholders to develop a long list of new park names, which reflect; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a sense of place, reflecting the geographic location, community, neighbourhood or street where the park, facility or amenity is located.</li> <li>○ the historical significance of the area or reflects unique characteristics of the site (unique flora / fauna).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shortlisted names based on stakeholder feedback and assessed against the policy criteria as outlined above;</li> <li>• Community consultation on the agreed shortlisted names;</li> <li>• Recommendation to People &amp; Communities Committee to reflect preferred name identified via the community consultation.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>Names will not be considered which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cause confusion due to duplication or names sounding similar to existing named facilities/locations within the City.</li> <li>• Unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of Section 75, the Good Relations Plan (2007) and the Shared Future agenda.</li> <li>• Are party-political in intention or use.</li> </ul>

3.9	<p>There is strong support in the local area to rename the Bullring site because of previous associations with anti-social behaviour and other incidents in the area where the new park has been built.</p>
3.10	<p>In line with the policy framework, local stakeholders have come together to develop a list of potential names for the former Bullring site and a panel (including nominated members of the Bullring Stakeholder Group which was the local reference group for the development and a local councillor) have considered the submissions against the criteria in the Council's policy framework.</p>
3.11	<p>Engagement took place via the local summer scheme programmes and after schools programmes at the Hammer and Denmark Street Community Centres in June and July 2023. This was successful in gathering ideas from local children and their parents as well as local community groups. A total of 57 suggested names were received and following discussion with the Panel the following three names are proposed for public consultation in line with Council policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Angel Park: In 2010/11 the Lower Shankill Youth Project which operated from Denmark Street Community Centre successfully worked with a number of young people who were engaging in anti-social behaviour in the area to change behaviours. The project came to be referred to locally as the "Lower Shankill Angels" and NIHE funded a statue of an angel to acknowledge its achievements. The statue is currently located at Peter's Hill but will be relocated to the new park when it is completed;</li> <li>2. Lower Shankill Park: this proposed name is a straightforward reflection of the geographical location of the new park;</li> <li>3. Rock Roots Park: this suggestion emerged from engagement with children and their parents during summer programmes and after school programmes. Staff at the community centres discussed the experience of watching the park being built with local children, focussing on what they saw. The children spoke about the rocks and rubble on site when development started with "muck" replaced by grass and how they have seen it transformed from the "roots" with trees, flowers and plants. From these ideas they settled on a suggested name of Rock Roots Park</li> </ol>
3.12	<p>In line with the Council's naming policy framework, Committee approval is now being sought to carry out a full public consultation using the Council's Your Say Citizenspace</p>

	<p>around these naming options. The results of this consultation will then be brought back to Committee seeking approval to select the final name of the park.</p> <p>It is expected that final recommendations on the official name for the new park at the former Bullring in Lower Shankill will be tabled for consideration again at People and Communities Committee in autumn 2023.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>In line with recommendations made by SP&amp;R committee in October 2016, the Bullring will transfer to Council with 3 years of maintenance funding from DFC at an annual value of £35,000. Consideration will need to be given to revenue funding for this asset at the appropriate point in the budget estimating cycle to align to the end of the 3 year DFC funded period. The site will be managed and maintained by the relevant Open Spaces Street Scene team within City and Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.14	<p>The naming process followed will be in line with the Council's naming policy and the chosen name will be screened in line with the Council's equality process.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Planning Drawing of The Bullring Public Realm proposals

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From new Regent Street entrance on the top left, moving along the spine path:

- Dog Exercise Area
- Allotments

- Community Garden
- MUGA
- Outdoor Gym
- Two small playgrounds
- Landscaped area leading to Peters Hill entrance



<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for dual language street signs
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manage Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for twelve existing streets within the city.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Mica Drive, Coolnasilla Park South, Haypark Avenue, Eliza Street Terrace, Friendly Street, Rossnareen Avenue, St James Parade, St Judes Square, Lagmore View Road, Ashgrove Park, La Salle Park and Mill Valley Road.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

3.2 Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language for all 12 applications is Irish.

3.3

English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed
Mica Drive, BT12 7NL	Céide an Mhíoca	Off Ballymurphy Street, BT12	156
Coolnasilla Park South, BT11 8LF	Páirc Chúil na Saileach Theas	Off Coolnasilla Park East, Glen Road, BT11	128
Haypark Avenue, BT7 3FF	Ascaill Pháirc an Fhéir	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	256
Eliza Street Terrace, BT7 2AX	Ardán Sráid Eilíse	Off Lower Stanfield Street, BT7	20
Friendly Street, BT7 2HP	Sráid na gCarad	Off Stewart Street, BT7	218
Rosnareen Avenue,	Ascaill Ros na Ríona	Off Ramoan Gardens, BT11	184
St James Parade, BT12 6EL	Paráid San Séamas	Between St James Road and Donegall Road, BT12	42
St Judes Square, BT7 2WA	Cearnóg San Iúd	Off Raby Street, BT7	8
Lagmore View Road, BT17 0FR	Bóthar Radharc an Laig Mhóir	Off Lagmore Glen, BT17	105
Ashgrove Park, BT14 6NE	Páirc Gharrán na Fuinseoige	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	113
Mill Valley Road, BT14 8FB	Bóthar Ghleann an Mhuilinn	Off Ligoniel Road, BT14	61
La Salle Park, BT12 6DL	Páirc La Salle		54

3.4 The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.5 In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

3.6

**Mica Drive, BT12**

- 83 occupiers (53.20%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 occupiers (1.28%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 2 occupier (1.28%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 69 occupiers (44.23%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b>Coolnasilla Park South, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63 occupiers (49.22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.78%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 64 occupiers (50%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.8	<p><b>Haypark Avenue, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 99 occupiers (38.67%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 12 occupiers (4.69%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.39%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 144 occupiers (56.25%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.9	<p><b>Eliza Street Terrace, BT7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 occupiers (50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 10 occupiers (50%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.10	<p><b>Friendly Street, BT7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 occupiers (27.98%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.37%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 154 occupiers (70.64%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.11	<p><b>Rosnareen Avenue, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44 occupiers (23.91%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.63%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 137 occupiers (74.46%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.12	<p><b>St James Parade, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 occupiers (16.67%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (2.38%) had no preference either way</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 occupiers (80.95%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.13	<p><b>St Judes Square, BT7</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 occupiers (37.5%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 6 occupiers (62.5%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.14	<p><b>Lagmore View Road, BT17</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 occupiers (28.57%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.95%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 74 occupiers (70.48%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.15	<p><b>Ashgrove Park, BT14</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 occupiers (46.90%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 8 occupiers (7.08%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 52 occupiers (46.02%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.16	<p><b>Mill Valley Road, BT14</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 occupiers (24.59%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (1.64%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (3.28%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 43 occupiers (70.49%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.17	<p><b>La Salle Park, BT12</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 occupiers (38.89%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (3.70%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 31 occupiers (57.41%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p>
3.18	<p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a</p>

3.19	<p>second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> <p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy. However, the Committee is reminded that the Council retain a residual discretion under the Policy to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.</p>
3.20	<p>The Policy states that it may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this Policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the views of the Occupiers of the street;</li> <li>(b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;</li> <li>(c) consideration of the local context of the application;</li> <li>(d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and</li> <li>(e) all material considerations relating to the application.</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.21	<p>There is a cost of approximately £4,990 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of approximately 41 dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.22	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
3.23	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the 12 applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Responsible Dog Ownership - Update
<b>Date:</b>	8 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<p><b>Is this report restricted?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>After Committee Decision</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>After Council Decision</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Sometime in the future</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Never</i></p>	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Call-in</b>	
<p><b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p>To provide members of the People and Communities Committee with an update on addressing better responsible dog ownership, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee noted the previous update at the meeting on 7 March 2023 and requested a Members' Workshop to discuss the issues and potential solutions to dog fouling in the city in more detail.</li> <li>Actions taken following the Members' Workshop on 25 April 2023 on Tackling Dog Fouling in the City; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The deferred decision regarding proposed changes to Fixed Penalty Fines for dog fouling offences and littering offences.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the actions and outcomes following the Members' Workshop on 25 April 2023.</li> <li>Reconsider Options 1 – 3 in relation to the new fixed penalty limits for dog fouling and agree a preferred option.</li> <li>Consider Option 4 - applying any changes made to the fixed penalty limits for dog fouling offences to littering offences.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b><u>PART 1 – Members' Workshop</u></b>
3.2	A Members' Workshop on responsible dog ownership and the tackling of dog fouling in the city took place on 25 April 2023. An overview of the Dog Warden Service was followed with fouling statistics and trends; the challenges when tackling dog fouling and updates from the various teams in the Council with responsibility for tackling dog fouling.
3.3	Sixteen actions have been grouped under eight headings and since the workshop, officers in the Dog Warden Service, Environmental Education and Outreach Team, Corporate Marketing and Communications, Open Spaces and Streetscene and the Performance and Improvement Unit have held further workshops and been working through these actions.
	<b><u>DATA</u></b>
3.4	<b>ACTION 1 – Consider how best to use data from street inspections / street index data or other data sources to identify hot spots and look at impact. Consider how best to provide data to Members.</b>
3.5	<p>A full analysis of the available data was carried out and the key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer complaints in relation to dog fouling increased by 14% from 21/22 (889) to 22/23 (1013).</li> <li>The data from the Council's Quality Monitoring Survey evidences a seasonal trend to dog fouling, where there is increased dog fouling in the winter months</li> </ul>

	<p>(December – February) compared with the summer months (June – August). This same seasonal trend has been identified in customer complaints recorded by the Customer Hub. It shows from about November to March in both 2021/22 and 2022/23 there was a sharp rise in complaints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of fixed penalties and revenue from the fines are currently low. Fouling detection patrols are resource intensive and are carried out in pairs. We are continuing to review the opportunity for fouling detection patrols against the other demands on the Dog Wardens time.</li> <li>• There was a greater number of people with dog licences pre-pandemic than post pandemic.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>Outcome 1 - We will continue to use the data from complaints (via public and Members) and the Quality Monitoring Surveys to target hot spot areas and direct resources. Resources permitting, additional fouling patrols will operate between December and February. We are continuing to work towards pre-pandemic levels of enforcement activity. A licensing intervention has been introduced with an additional resource secured to tackle the backlog. Open Spaces and Streetscene will review the available data and determine how best to circulate future performance information.</p>
3.7	<p><b>ACTION 2 – Benchmark other locations with good practice.</b></p> <p>We restricted our benchmarking to Northern Ireland as we felt that other NI authorities would provide information that was most relevant to Belfast in managing these issues. 8 of the 10 councils responded. We asked a series of questions about fouling patrols; dog enclosures; dog control orders; signage; stencilling; provision of free poo bags and use of dispensers. We also reviewed the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Briefing 2019 which collated a list of good ideas from local authorities across the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Green Dog Walkers Scheme</li> <li>• Rewards for residents reporting fouling</li> <li>• Chalk stencils with messages being painted onto pavements</li> <li>• Highlighting fouling with bright coloured sprays</li> <li>• Glow-in-the-dark posters to target night-time fouling</li> <li>• Dog Watch Schemes – inspired by Neighbourhood Watch Schemes</li> <li>• A Council reporting app that allows individuals to identify the location of fouling</li> </ul>

3.8	Outcome 2 – Where appropriate the benchmarking findings have been included in the relevant actions below.
3.9	<p><b>ACTION 3 – Survey / updated research</b></p> <p>We reviewed available research including that commissioned by BCC and carried out by QUB (Canine Behaviour Centre, School of Psychology) in 2004 and 2009. We have re-engaged with QUB and are hoping to work with the university in the coming academic year to draw up a strategy for new research that will be tailored to our needs. However, the university has stressed that resources are limited and any research will need to be conducted within very tight parameters.</p>
3.10	<p>We also reviewed the most recent research from the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Briefing 2019 which included findings from local authorities across the UK. It notes dog fouling is one of the most prevalent issues for local authority environmental services. It is particularly difficult to tackle for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are aware they could be fined, but many do not think they will ever be caught;</li> <li>• Fouling can happen at any time of day or night, so patrolling often will not catch the offenders;</li> <li>• Residents are (rightfully) hesitant to confront residents who persistently allow their dog to foul;</li> <li>• Prosecution requires good evidence;</li> <li>• Attempts to introduce new dog controls to combat dog fouling can lead to a public backlash;</li> <li>• The public is still largely unaware that (in many areas) they can dispose of dog waste in any available local authority litter bin;</li> <li>• Many people do not consider leaving dog waste bags on the ground fouling.</li> </ul>
3.11	Outcome 3 – We will continue to engage with QUB regarding opportunities for bespoke research. We will seek to increase awareness of successful prosecutions and will work to address the difficulties listed above through our education programme.

**MESSAGING - EDUCATIONAL MESSAGING VIA LEAFLET DOOR DROPS**

3.12 **ACTION 4 – Build on current leaflet drops with public awareness messaging in identified hot spot areas.**

This is a cost effective and visible action. However, it does have limitations. If we leaflet a street with significant dog fouling, it is not necessarily the residents of that street that are allowing dogs to foul in their own street. In an attempt to mitigate for this we will normally leaflet several surrounding streets. Fouling in gated alley ways can be attributed to specific houses with access to the alley way and only those houses would be targeted through leafleting.

Outcome 4 – Dog Wardens will continue to leaflet houses in hot spot areas. Colleagues in our Enforcement Team, who tackle littering, will continue to assist with leaflet drops.

3.13 **ACTION 5 – Humanise the message, make messaging local. Harder hitting – health impacts / implications, especially to children.**

3.14 The ‘think again’ dog fouling campaign was launched during October/November 2022, with a second burst of activity in February 2023 and it has recently been shortlisted for a CIPR (Chartered Institute of Public Relations) Pride Award for best Integrated Campaign. Our objective was to create a campaign using real insights and research to help influence behaviour change by encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dog, take responsibility and Think Again! The campaign used integrated communications consisting of heavyweight advertising, social media and innovative PR.

3.15 Independent research was commissioned to evaluate the paid for advertising element of the campaign and it found that 93% recalled the message; 80% said the artwork was understandable and 72% said its greatest benefit was encouraging dog owners to take responsibility. As the ‘think again’ campaign is so new Marketing and Corporate Communications have recommended that we do not invest in a new campaign creative until 2025/26 in order to let the “Think Again” campaign embed and percolate. The current campaign shows the consequences of not cleaning up after your dog. Future campaigns could focus on the perpetrator (hopefully the QUB research will help us identify main perpetrators) and creative approach would also be reviewed at this time to

	incorporate feedback from the workshop such as the possibility of having Belfast identifiable images within advertising assets.
3.16	Outcome 5 – We plan to develop a new campaign creative in 2024/25 (for use in 2025/26) and will use up to date research to identify who to target and how best to deliver the message.
3.17	<p><b>ACTION 6 – Use of social media in future campaigns, particular focus on targeting hot spots, males under 30 etc. and the evaluation of impacts.</b></p> <p>Our integrated marketing campaigns already use a wide range of media formats (including social media) to target people during all aspects of their life, when at home before they walk their dog, when they are out walking their dog, when they are online and travelling to and from work. Hotspot areas are currently targeted within current dog fouling campaigns for example during the ‘think again’ campaign Adshel posters were located at hot spot areas.</p>
3.18	Outcome 6 – Marketing and Corporate Communications team will select the most appropriate media channels in future campaigns to target hot spot areas based on findings/feedback and select the most effective ways of reaching perpetrators based on any new research findings.
3.19	<p><b>ACTION 7 – Further promotion of the Green Dog Walker scheme to reward positive behaviour.</b></p> <p>Our Environmental Education and Outreach Team promote this scheme in our parks during summer fun days with Scoop Dog and also support this scheme with social media activity. (See Appendix 1 &amp; 2) Anyone signing up to the scheme must have a licence for their dog so the scheme is raising awareness of the licensing requirements too. By taking the Green Dog Walkers' pledge and using a Green Dog Walker's lead, owners commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• always clean up after their dog;</li> <li>• carry extra dog waste bags;</li> <li>• give free dog waste bags to other dog walkers.</li> </ul>
3.20	Outcome 7 – We will continue to promote our successful Green Dog Walker scheme.

**MARKETING – SIGNAGE**

3.21

**ACTION 8 – Signage in parks / on street, consider positioning / visibility and work with communities on location.**

Our Open Spaces and Streetscene colleagues in parks will continue to use signage at appropriate locations throughout our parks. Whilst we appreciate the role of signage and agree with Members that location is important, we are reluctant to encourage excessive signage. We believe the current level of street signage throughout the city is sufficient. We will however still consider requests for additional signage but need to be cognisant of the requirement for permission from the Department for Infrastructure should we want to erect signage on its property. As an alternative to street signage we have designed a poster (see Appendix 2) which we can be distributed to local communities in hot spot areas for indoor use.

3.22

Outcome 8 – Open Spaces and Streetscene will continue to use signage in our parks. The Dog Warden Service and our Environmental Education and Outreach Team will continue to engage with communities and raise awareness of the new poster.

3.23

**ACTION 9 – Signage: Consider materials, design bespoke signs for specific areas. Consider CCTV message as a deterrent, wardens patrolling this area etc.**

Through our benchmarking we have determined that all councils in NI use signs with a variety of construction materials including metal, Perspex, cortex and banners. There was a difference of opinion as to whether graphic signage or cute dogs were the best way to engage with dog owners. Some include the level of the fines on signage and others do not. Given the limitation to use DfI property for additional signage we have instead continued to develop our banners (See Appendix 4) that can be used on park and school railings. We will take account of all of the benchmarking information when developing our next campaign during 2024/25.

3.24

Members had suggested CCTV signage (similar to PSNI speed camera signage) to be used as a deterrent. We have taken advice and use of such signage, when we have no CCTV would mean we would intentionally be misleading the public and it would put us at odds with our own Code of Conduct. We already use social media as a deterrent by advising of current and future dog fouling patrols.

3.25	Outcome 9 – We will consider the benchmarking findings on signage when developing our next campaign. We will continue to use social media about dog fouling patrols as a deterrent.
3.26	<p><b>ACTION 10 – Chase Dfl for permission to stencil. Review stencilling and its impact on changing behaviour.</b></p> <p>Through our benchmarking we have determined that 7 of the 8 councils that responded use or have used stencilling. Anecdotally, it is considered to be better at raising awareness in the summertime. We have now received confirmation from Dfl that it does not object in principle to stencilling. However, we are required to contact the appropriate area manager for each location, to obtain permission, in advance of any stencilling. This is because stencilling can cause damage to certain pavement surfaces. We have already carried out a small pilot of stencilling at schools in East Belfast and are now waiting on permission from Dfl for hot spot schools in North, South and West Belfast. A Quality Monitoring Survey will be carried out before and after in N, S and W and we will then evaluate the effectiveness of stencilling.</p>
3.27	<p>Outcome 10 – Provided we obtain permission from Dfl we will undertake a small pilot of stencilling when the new school term starts and evaluate its effectiveness.</p> <p><b><u>MARKETING – COMMUNITY</u></b></p>
3.28	<p><b>ACTION 11 – Actively encourage reporting, make reporting process for residents straightforward. Consider pros and cons of providing bag dispensers in certain locations for emergency use.</b></p>
3.29	<p>In the last year we have amended our online dog fouling reporting form. It has been broken down into several questions which prompt more detailed information and we have found the information provided is more useful for targeting hot spots / individuals. The ‘think again’ campaign also encouraged reporting and our colleagues who manage the social media channels always make a response when fouling is reported.</p>
3.30	<p>We recently ran a Billboard Challenge focused on dog fouling in Spring/ Summer School Term and had an excellent response with 19 schools participating. The Key Stage 2 pupils received an interactive, curriculum-based talk around dog fouling and the issues surrounding it. The pupils then designed their own billboards, and we had 4 winners</p>

	<p>(N/S/E/W) who had their artwork displayed on a local billboard. (See Appendix 5 &amp; 6). The entries were such high quality we added 4 runners-up, who will receive their entries as a banner for their school. We received positive media coverage of this project.</p>
3.31	<p>From our bench marking all the responding councils provide free poo bags in variety of ways e.g. at pop up events, when on fouling patrols, via Green Dog Walker Scheme, in community centres and when sending out licence renewal letters. There were reports of complaints when supplies at council buildings ran out as dog owners mistakenly thought it was the council's role to provide bags. In Belfast we will continue to supply all community centres with free dog bags and a poster encouraging centre users to pick up free bags there.</p>
3.32	<p>Based on the costings for the dispensers that were installed in Belfast during the COVID pandemic we estimate each dispenser would cost in the region of £800 - £1000 to purchase and install. There would then be on-going refilling and maintenance costs. We have over 50 parks and open spaces and most have multiple entrances. The bench marking findings demonstrated some difficulties where poo bag dispensers were located outside – in one trial in 4 parks all the dispensers were either destroyed or stolen, another reported that dispensers were 'robbed' almost as soon as they were filled and vandalised dispensers are no longer being replaced. There is the potential when free poo bags are provided in parks for those observed committing an offence to use the lack of poo bags in the park dispenser as a defence. We firmly believe that purchasing poo bags is the responsibility of all dog owners and whilst provision of them at events or during fouling patrols is beneficial, the cost to provide them via dispensers is prohibitive and contradicts the message of responsible dog ownership.</p>
3.33	<p>Our Dog Wardens will continue to engage with the public to encourage reporting of dog fouling and to provide free poo bags where appropriate. Our Park Wardens will do the same within our parks.</p>
3.34	<p>Outcome 11 – We will continue to encourage reporting and to provide free dog poo bags at events, at community centres, during fouling patrols and in our engagement with visitors to our parks.</p>

**SERVICE DELIVERY**

3.35 **ACTION 12 – Continue to deliver a visible response to reports of fouling.**

3.36 Through our benchmarking we determined that none of the 8 responding councils patrol 7 days a week as is the case in Belfast. All councils had some scope for variations in the timings of patrols to take account of problem areas, time of year etc. Two of the responding councils have used WISE Enforcement (an external, self-funding company) to enhance / support their Dog Warden fouling patrols. There was no agreement about the best time of day to detect fouling and it was considered to be extremely difficult to detect and more opportunistic in witnessing rather than at planned locations and times. There was a mix of high viz and low viz patrols across the 8 councils with 3 using a blend of both.

3.37 Outcome 12 – We will continue to deliver a visible response to reports of fouling with the use of social media to highlight our activities.

3.38 **ACTION 13 – Consider dog enclosures in parks; more bins; more resources to deal with dog fouling; and more FIDO machines.**

3.39 Bench marking revealed that 5 of the 8 responding councils have separate dog enclosures in their parks. Within Belfast there are 2 dog enclosures – one at the Grove and one at Stormont. Previous Committee approval was granted in August 2018 with regards to pilot dog enclosures in the West, South & East, however, due to financial pressures, resourcing and Covid this was not progressed. The financial and resourcing pressures still exist, however, this will be refreshed and updated and taken back through the Area Working Groups and then to Committee for approval.

3.40 Outcome 13 – Officers to revisit and refresh the 2018 report and to include graffiti and other pressures such as Anti-Social Behaviour.

**ENFORCEMENT**

3.41 **Action 14 – Bring back report to Committee on increasing dog fouling fine to maximum of £200.**

3.42	Outcome 14 – See Part 2 of this Committee Report.
	<p><b><u>LEGISLATION</u></b></p>
3.43	Action 15 – Consider if new legislation is needed.
3.44	<p>There is provision within the existing legislation for Councils to decide to introduce Control Orders for specific scenarios and in Belfast we have one for dog fouling and one for the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person. A legal process which involves public consultation must take place before a council makes a dog control order. Back in 2012/23 the Council did consider Dog Control Orders for dogs on leads and exclusion zones but ultimately decided that more information / consultation was needed prior to introducing additional Dog Control Orders.</p>
3.45	<p>All but one of the responding councils have dog control orders including dog exclusion zones and dogs on leads. They apply at various locations e.g. in parks, cemeteries and other specified land owned by the Council and if appropriate at various times. They are restricted to Council owned land because the legislation states: <i>‘No offence is committed where the person has a reasonable excuse for failing to keep the dog on a lead, or the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the person failing to do so.’</i></p>
3.46	<p>The primary consideration is to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restriction. Those who responded provided anecdotal evidence that fouling is less likely to happen when a dog is on a lead and our own Dog Wardens agree.</p>
3.47	<p>Outcome 15 – We already have Byelaws that require dogs to be kept on leads on certain council owned land but there are difficulties with enforcement (including lack of a fixed penalty) however a feasibility study could be carried out regarding the introduction of a Control Order for Dogs on Leads in our parks, cemeteries etc.</p> <p>This is to be considered as part of the update report in Action 13.</p>

## **FINANCE**

3.48 **Action 16 – Report back to Committee in August with costings of options where appropriate.**

3.49 Where appropriate, estimated costings have been included under the relevant actions throughout the report. In addition a separate Committee Report, including costings for Action 13 will be submitted at a later date.

## **PART 2 - PROPOSED CHANGES TO FIXED PENALTY FINES FOR DOG CONTROL OFFENCES**

3.50 In our report for Committee on 7 March 2023 we provided details of The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 which came into force on 30 December 2022 and amend the previous 2012 Regulations. The effect is to alter the amount of a fixed penalty capable of being specified by the Council for certain fixed penalties. We detailed 4 options for the Committee to review and after some discussion it was agreed to defer until a future meeting. 4 councils in NI have already increased their fines and we would ask that the options below are considering again.

### **3.51 OPTIONS**

- Option 1 – no change
- Option 2 – increase to maximum of £200 with reduction if paid within 10 days. Suggested reduction to £100 as an incentive to pay the fixed penalty promptly and avoid court action.
- Option 3 – increase but not to maximum with reduction if paid within 10 days. Could be anything from £90 - £190, with any level of reduction.
- Option 4 – Consider applying any changes made to the fixed penalty limits for dog fouling offences to littering offences. The Council previously agreed to set the level of fixed penalty fine for littering at £80, reduced to £60 if paid within 10 days. There

<p>3.52</p> <p>3.53</p> <p>3.54</p>	<p>would be no additional signage costs as most signs include information about dog fouling and littering.</p> <p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><u>Part 1</u></p> <p>There is currently no additional budget available to implement any of newly the suggested outcomes in this report.</p> <p><u>Part 2</u></p> <p>There are cost implications if changes are required to signage. We do already have a budget for signage and cost varies depending on the size of the sign and the method of mounting but is in the region of £20 - £25 plus VAT each. The livery on some council vehicles would also need to be removed or updated.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Green Dog Walkers Pledge Form</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Green Dog Walkers Flyer</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Indoor Community Poster</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Think Again Banner</p> <p>Appendix 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Billboard Winner</p> <p>Appendix 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Billboard Winner</p>

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# Green Dog Walkers<sup>®</sup>

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## Pledge form

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Pledge to clean up after your pet and support other dog owners to do the same with the Green Dog Walkers scheme.



## What is Green Dog Walkers?

The Green Dog Walkers pledge is a UK-wide scheme with the aim of changing attitudes towards dog fouling.

Once you join, you take a pledge to clean up after your dog at all times and to support other dog walkers by carrying extra dog bags if they need them.

In return, you'll receive a green dog walkers lead and a small supply of dog bags.

## The Green Dog Walkers lead

By taking the pledge and using the lead you have committed to:

- always clean up after your dog,
- carry extra dog bags,
- give other dog walkers free dog bags.

As a Green Dog Walker, you'll be setting a good example to others by highlighting the importance of cleaning up after your dog.

### Contact Us:

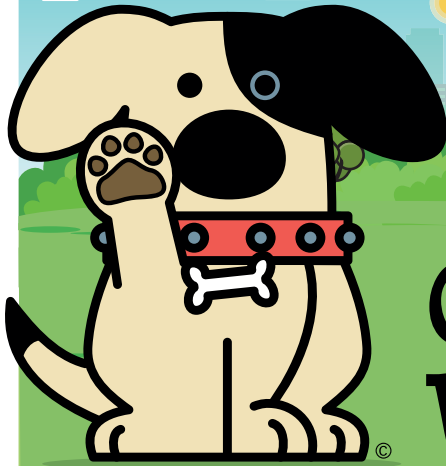
**Tel:** 028 9027 0230

**Email:** [greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk)  
[www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)



**leave only pawprints<sup>®</sup>...**

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# Green Dog Walkers<sup>®</sup>

## How to become a Green Dog Walker

First read the pledge...

**I hereby volunteer to accept a Green Dog Walkers lead and pledge to take part in the campaign as follows:**

- I will use the lead as often as possible when walking my dog(s).
- I will at all times clean up after my dog and dispose of the bag in a bin.
- When others walk my dog, I will encourage them to clean up after my dog.
- I understand that using the lead indicates that I will carry extra dog bags to distribute to other dog walkers if requested.
- At no time when using the lead will I aggressively confront other dog walkers about dog fouling. I fully understand that Green Dog Walkers is intended to be a non-confrontational and friendly campaign to change attitudes about dog fouling.
- I agree that Green Dog Walkers may contact me to take part in questionnaires or surveys regarding my Green Dog Walker experience, to help judge the success of the project.
- I agree that my dog must have an up to date dog license to take part in this pledge.

**Then complete the acceptance form overleaf and email to, [greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk) or post to:**  
Environmental Education and Outreach Team, City and Neighbourhood Services Department, The Cecil Ward Building, 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP. **When we receive your acceptance form, we will send you a Green Dog Walkers lead for your pet.**



# Green Dog Walkers Pledge Acceptance form



**Belfast  
City Council**

By signing below, I accept the terms of the pledge, to receive a Green Dog Walkers lead\*, to always clean up after my dog and to carry extra dog bags when I walk my pet. I understand, as a dog owner, I am responsible for ensuring my dog is licensed and micro-chipped.

First name	Surname
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dog's name	Breed of Dog
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	
<input type="text"/>	
Town	Postcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email	Telephone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signed	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

\* Please be aware that whilst we welcome anyone to join the scheme and sign the pledge to clean up after their dog, only residents within the Belfast City Council boundary will receive a Green Dog Walkers lead.

## **Email this form to: [greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk) or post to:**

Environmental, Education & Outreach Team, City and Neighbourhood Services Department, The Cecil Ward Building, 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP.

When we receive your acceptance form, we will send you a Green Dog Walkers lead for your pet. For further information, email [greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@belfastcity.gov.uk) or visit [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)

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## **General Data Protection Regulation Statement**

Belfast City Council is the Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the personal data it gathers for the purposes of the Green Dog Walkers scheme. The Council accepts that you are providing your personal data on the basis of consent and are positively agreeing for the Council to hold and further use it. The personal data may be shared internally within the Council with staff who are involved in providing this service and where necessary, between internal departments with the purpose of supporting an effective delivery of service. Your personal data will not be shared or disclosed to any other organisation without your consent, unless the law permits or places an obligation on the BCC to do so. The personal data is held and stored by the Council in a safe and secure manner and in compliance with Data Protection legislation and in line with the Council's Records Retention and Disposal Schedule. If you have any queries regarding the processing of your personal data or wish to withdraw your consent to the processing of it, please contact Kirsty Torney on 028 9032 0202 extension 5379. If you wish to contact the Council's Data Protection Officer, please write to Belfast City Council, City Hall Belfast, BT1 5GS or send an email to [records@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:records@belfastcity.gov.uk)





# Green Dog<sup>®</sup> Walkers<sup>©</sup>

**Pledge to clean up after your pet and support other dog owners to do the same.**

**leave only pawprints<sup>®</sup>...**

Sign up at: [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)

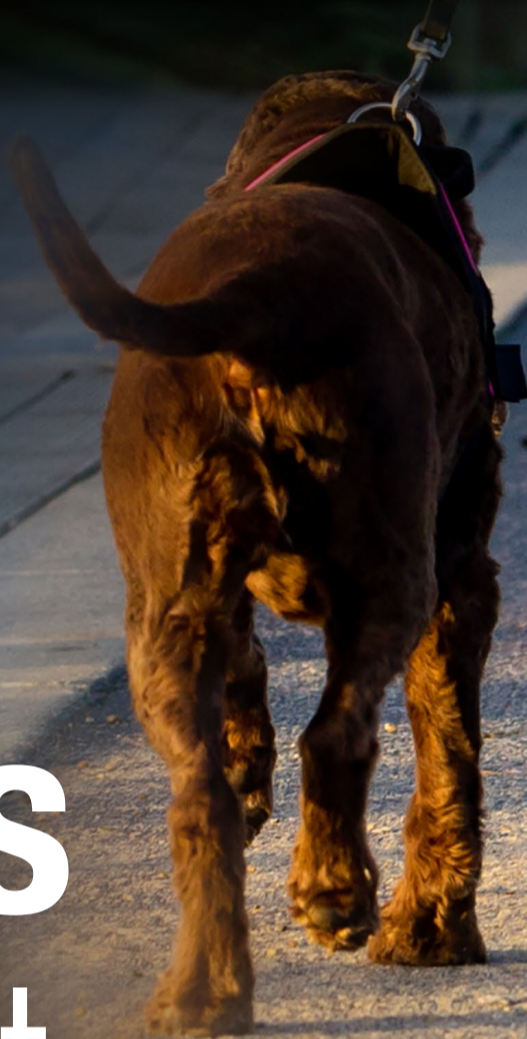


**Belfast**  
City Council



Help us keep your  
community clean

**Report  
dog  
owners  
who don't  
pick up after  
their dogs.**



PICK UP OR  
PAY UP  
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Think it's someone  
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<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for the use of Parks for 2023 events
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2023. Committee is also asked to note that the request for use of Falls Park also includes a request for funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VC Glendale – Falls Park</li> <li>• Penny for your Mental Health &amp; Money Advice– Sir Thomas &amp; Lady Dixon Park</li> <li>• East side Partnership - Go Greenway Campaign</li> <li>• North Belfast Lantern Parade – Alexandra Park</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	That committee note the request for £8,207 funding support for the Falls Park event. It is recommended that officers will endeavour to signpost the club to other possible external funding streams for this year’s event and work with the club in future years to ensure they are aware of our funding streams.

2.2	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager;</li> <li>ii. Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' &amp; take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction.</li> <li>- The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organisers will be required in advance of each event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>VC Glendale Falling Leaves - Falls Park</u></b></p> <p>VC Glendale are a well-known local voluntary cycling club with a long history of producing some of the country's finest cyclists. The club was founded in 1981 by local Andersonstown men Mark Graham, Brian Holmes and Jimmy Watson to help local cyclists take part in cycling events during a very turbulent time in Belfast. The club quickly had established itself as one of the best cross community cycling clubs in Ireland with some of its members racing in major events such as The RAS (Ireland's premier event) and established races throughout Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and also representing Ireland at world events. The Falling Leaves event has taken place at Falls Park for the last 8 years and has been supported by BCC during its time at the park.</p>

3.3	<p>This event attracts riders and spectators far and wide from across Ireland as riders race for the points that ultimately influence their grid positions at National Championships. The event has become a well-established fixture on the cyclocross calendar, and it is hoped that another successful event at the venue could result in Falls Park being nominated as the venue for the Irish National championships in 2025.</p>
3.4	<p>This year the organisers have requested financial support from Council to assist with the delivery of the event and have submitted an expenditure budget to the department totalling £8207.00. It is important to note that the department does not have this funding in budget and at period 1 the Parks Events and Outreach team were already reporting an overspend on programming budgets due to the increase in activity and delivery costs. The event would have been eligible for the Support for Sport grant but unfortunately the organisers did not submit an application. It is also important to note that an allocation of funds to this event outside a grant application process could set a precedent for requests from other event organisers.</p>
3.5	<p>The key dates for the event are as follows;</p> <p><b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – 10am Set Up</b>  <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – 12pm to 3pm – Race Day</b>  <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September - 8am to 4.30pm – Race Day</b>  <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September- 8pm – Off Site</b></p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Penny for your Mental Health &amp; Money Advice – Sir Thomas &amp; Lady Dixon Park</u></b></p> <p>MindWise New Vision has requested the great lawn at Sir Thomas &amp; Lady Dixon Park to erect 4 tents to run a fundraising event for their mental health &amp; money advice services. They are planning on carrying out a 24hour walk around the park and wish to be able to use the park for this activity and raise money for their charity.</p>
3.7	<p>The key dates required are as follows:</p> <p><b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – 8am Set Up</b>  <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 10am to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 24hour walk</b>  <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 12pm – Leave Site</b></p>
3.8	<p>The organisation is a registered mental health charity that covers all of Northern Ireland.</p>

3.9	<p><b><u>Go Greenway Campaign</u></b></p> <p>Eastside Greenways have submitted a request to Belfast City Council with regards their upcoming Go Greenway Campaign. The Council have worked closely with the organisation which is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding and Legal Agreement which was agreed in 2020.</p>
3.10	<p>Diversifying income generation is a key priority for EastSide Greenways with a focus on ensuring the sustainability of the organisation beyond the life of the existing endowment. The partnership has employed the services of a branding company to develop and deliver a new branding campaign which will launch, promote and drive a new area of work focusing on fundraising through donations, corporate sponsorships and membership/patronage options.</p>
3.11	<p>Eastside Greenways have requested that the council allow them to fundraise at their upcoming and future events to help raise funds for their campaign and this would be done via selling memberships and collections via charity boxes at any of their events. The group state that their fundraising will help support the following work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting Belfast City Councils ongoing management and maintenance of the Greenway through engagement with volunteers and residents as well as the employment of a team of Greenway Leaders.</li> <li>2. Developing and delivering an annual animation programme</li> <li>3. Promoting the Greenway as a destination and as a best practice location through talks, tours and presentations</li> <li>4. Engaging with local stakeholders year-round, working to address issues arising</li> <li>5. Delivering on ESG strategic aims and objectives</li> </ol>
3.12	<p>The group hope that the council will take this into consideration and grant permission for fundraising at their events.</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>North Belfast Lantern Parade – Alexandra Park</u></b></p> <p>New Lodge arts have requested the use of Alexandra Park for their annual Lantern Festival. This event has been held annually for a number of years without any issues arising during the course of the event.</p>
3.14	<p>The event will include art installations, music, dance &amp; theatre performances. It will also include inflatables for the young members of the community and will end with a Fireworks Display.</p>

3.15	The event is ticketed with wristbands costing £2. The ticketed system has been used to date to manage attendance numbers. This is not for profit and all proceeds go towards covering the cost of the wrist band or activity delivered as part of the event.
3.16	In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion, organisers have requested that the park might be closed to members of the public for a period of time on Friday 27 October and that only members of the public with tickets, can access the park on Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> from 2.00pm until the event ends at 10.00pm.
3.17	<p>The Key Dates are as follows.</p> <p><b>Friday 27 October – 8am – Set Up</b></p> <p><b>Friday 27 October – 6pm Event Begins</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 28 October 10pm – End of Event</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 29 October – 12pm – Off Site</b></p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Human Resource Implications</u></p>
3.18	<p>The request for funding of £8,207.00 for the Falls Park event is not included in any revenue budgets and there is no allocation to support ad hoc requests.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p>
3.19	<p>Council officers will liaise with event organisers and promoters in relation to any potential environmental impact from events.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.20	There are no known implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Period Waste Pilot update and future considerations
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director – Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane – Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins – Lead Officer Community Provision

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the success of the Period Waste Scheme (March 2022 - current) and seek direction on future delivery.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and make a recommendation that the Environmental Education & Outreach team will cease provision from April 2024 given that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ current demand appears to have been met through the first two pilot programmes;</li> <li>○ there is no available budget to run a third programme</li> <li>○ provision will be established through the new legislation</li> </ul>
2.2	The Committee is also asked to authorise the Director of City and Organisational Strategy to submit a formal written response on behalf of council, as outlined at 3.13, to the TEO consultation on the provision of free period products.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>

## **Background**

- 3.1 The aim of the Period Waste initiative was to raise awareness and encourage increased use of reusable period products. This will have an environmental benefit as it will reduce the amount of period waste that is entering our waste stream and being landfilled, and it will also reduce plastic waste. Disposal of single use menstrual products - tampons, pads and applicators generates 200,000 tonnes of waste per year in the UK<sup>1</sup>. In addition, sanitary waste can be made of up to 90% plastic.
- 3.2 In the most recent BCC Waste Composition Study (2014) it was found that 1.87% of all miscellaneous combustible waste (the largest category of waste we collect) was of a sanitary waste nature (including other absorbent hygiene products but excluding nappies). This means each household was producing on average 3.38Kg of this type of product waste per year.
- 3.3 This project was primarily focused on waste reduction but also had the benefit of providing a sustainable resource for those affected by period poverty which is an added pressure on individuals and families as a result of the current cost of living pressures.
- 3.4 The pilot scheme was launched on 30 March 22 to unprecedented demand and in less than 24 hours the pilot had to be closed because of demand. Through the scheme we provided free access to reusable period products to 3,159 people in the Belfast area. Council worked with the social enterprise, 'Hey Girls'. ([www.heygirls.co.uk](http://www.heygirls.co.uk)) to deliver the scheme, where participants could register and order reusable sanitary products online.
- 3.5 Social media coverage and feedback on the scheme was also very positive. Commentary praised Belfast City Council for bringing the initiative forward. Over 95,000 people were reached through Council social media on the topic with over 225,000 people having viewed twitter posts promoting the scheme.
- 3.6 Market research targeted at participants of the pilot found that 94.2% of respondent use the products they received all or some of the time. 43.5% said they no longer use single use period products and 86.9% say it has lessened their use of single use products. The project has recently been awarded the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful 'Behaviour Change Award for Tackling Single Use Plastic' for 22/23.
- 3.7 In August 22, SP&R approved expansion of the project and an additional budget allocation so that another tranche of the pilot could be delivered. This was launched in January 2023 and is currently ongoing. To date, 1770 individual orders of products have been processed

<sup>1</sup> Calculation by Natracare 2018

	<p>during this phase of the pilot. As would be anticipated, the rate of requests for products has significantly decreased, given that products are reusable and therefore repeat orders from individuals would not be expected. This pilot continues to be promoted and it is projected that the remaining budget will be utilised by March 2024.</p>
3.8	<p>In addition to the extension of the pilot, a project with support from the Climate Change Fund was launched in June 2023. This project engages with partners in the Community Voluntary Sector (CVS) to provide them with reusable sustainable solutions to period poverty which they can then pass on to their service users. Officers have been engaging through women's groups and other CVS groups and have shared information with the Women's Steering Group as well as promoting the initiative through council's social media. Any group interested in becoming involved should email <a href="mailto:EnvironmentalOutreach@belfastcity.gov.uk">EnvironmentalOutreach@belfastcity.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>Future Considerations</u></b></p>
3.9	<p>Period products are essential items for personal care to address a normal biological need and should therefore be available to everyone who needs them, regardless of their economic status.</p>
3.10	<p>In recognition of this, the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (NI) was made by the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2022 and requires that period products will be made available from May 2024. The requirements of the Act go beyond seeking to make provision for those in financial difficulty, there is a recognition that period products are necessary and essential items that should be available free of charge and accessible by all persons who need to use them.</p>
3.11	<p>The Executive Office (TEO) is currently undertaking a public consultation process which is seeking views on how best the Executive Office (TEO) can ensure that period products are "obtainable free of charge" by "all persons who need to use them", "while in Northern Ireland". Further detail on the background is contained in the full consultation document available here: <a href="http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-free-period-products">www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-free-period-products</a>.</p>
3.12	<p>A reasonable choice is required by the Act. Within the Act "products" are defined to include tampons, sanitary towels and articles which are reusable. It is anticipated that there will be an expectation that council will be a partner in the delivery of this service though no details are available at this stage.</p>
3.13	<p>The TEO consultation survey is predominantly seeking the views of those who use period products and/or who buy products on behalf of other family members. Therefore, whilst it</p>

	<p>would not be appropriate for council to answer the TEO these questions, it is recommended that council should submit a letter of response outlining our support for the need for period products to be offered to everyone as they are essential items for personal care to address a normal biological need and should therefore be available to everyone who needs them, regardless of their economic status. In addition, we will request early engagement with Council to explore our role in any delivery mechanism which is envisaged. Our response will also highlight the learning we have gained from our pilot initiatives on period poverty (as part of our Gender Equality Plan and linked, Belfast City Council launched a pilot offering free period products for the public in council buildings and facilities and free access to reusable period products) and stress the importance of ongoing collaboration around this issue.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations for Reusable Period Product Pilot</u></b></p>
3.14	<p>The legislative requirement to be introduced by the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will ensure that period products are available to individuals to ensure period dignity. The reasonable choice element will supersede the reusable period product pilot in that individuals can request reusable items within the legislation.</p>
3.15	<p>Given that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current demand appears to have been met through the first two pilot programmes;</li> <li>• there is no available budget to run a third programme</li> <li>• provision will be established through the new legislation</li> </ul> <p>It is recommended that the pilot does not continue after March 2024.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource implications</u></b></p>
3.16	<p>To match the initial scheme would mean a further £50,000 budget which is not within existing budgets.</p>
3.17	<p>For reference, participants could choose to order a Full Cycle Pack (containing 1 x reusable pantyliner, 2 x day reusable pads and 2 x night reusable pads) to the value of £21.40 per pack or approximately £12.99 for a Period Cup Combo (including all associated costs).</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.18	<p>The pilot scheme was designed to be accessible to as many residents in the Belfast area as possible.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Product Safety update
<b>Date:</b>	8 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager Mark McGovern, Senior Environmental Health Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	This report is to highlight continuation of funding to support Belfast City Council's activity in the area of product safety regulation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree to avail of continued grant funding offers to support Belfast City Council's work on product safety in 2023/24 and subsequent extensions over future years, if made available.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	At the Committee's meeting on 7 February 2023, Members were presented with an update report on the Councils activities in the area of product safety regulation; principally, that NI

	<p>Councils are subject to statutory duties for implementing consumer safety legislation, via the Consumer Protection Act 1987, the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021, and allied Regulations for safety of specific products such as toys, electrical goods, cosmetics etc. These laws set out how Councils must carry out certain functions for product safety, including some additional enforcement powers.</p>
3.2	<p>At its February meeting, the Committee agreed to avail of in year (2022/23) grant funding totalling £120,000 which was made available from Department of Business Enterprise and Skills (Office of Product Standards and Safety, OPSS) to support Councils work in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring that businesses involved in the importation, supply or sale of goods comply with their legal obligations and to ensure that goods presented on the market do not present risk of harm or injury to consumers.</li> <li>- Building capacity and capability of the service to understand and deliver requirements of the legislation, and to build strong working relationships with key partners and businesses.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>OPSS have now extended both grant funding programmes to support the Councils activities in these areas for a further year. The grant funding on offer for 2023/24 comprises:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A £140,000 grant is available to Councils that have specific duties to assess product safety and compliance of higher risk consumer goods arriving at UK and NI ports, to ensure unsafe goods are prevented from entering the UK market. These products are typically identified by OPSS on the basis risk assessments carried out using customs data for specific commodities. Details of potentially dangerous products are referred to Councils for the relevant ports around GB and NI for intervention. These products typically involve high risk/poor quality manufactured goods arriving from countries across the world such as China, Hong Kong, Taiwan etc. Eligible activities under this grant include the potential to support engagement with businesses to educate and raise awareness while creating a deterrent for importing unsafe goods, building partnerships with relevant trade bodies and other stakeholders, and improving current processes.</li> <li>b. A £55,000 grant is again available to NI District Councils to build capability and capacity for product safety work. This is to ensure Council's are sufficiently equipped to carry out the statutory duties, while also building strong partnerships with businesses, other Councils and Government Departments to improve future</li> </ol>

	<p>compliance across the consumer market. A significant portion of Belfast City Council's activity for delivery the NI Consumer Protection workplan in 2022/23 is eligible for this funding.</p>
3.4	<p>Officers have reviewed the 2 available grant funding offers and have confirmed that Belfast City Council is eligible to claim the available funding in full, in line with the eligibility criteria.</p>
3.5	<p>It is possible that these programmes may continue beyond the 2023/24 financial year, with further grant funding offers in future years. To assist Council in planning for delivery and to draw down future funding in a timely manner, it is recommended that approval be given to avail of extended funding opportunities under these programmes should they become available in 2024/25 or beyond.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Council has previously accessed similar OPSS funding opportunities to support product safety work in 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23. As a result, the potential for grant funding income in 2023/24 was forecasted as part of earlier financial estimates for the current financial year, to support this work area. Given the overall increase in funding (£75k increase) on offer compared to the previous 2022/23 year, there may be a need to look at resource allocation in this area of work.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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