

COMBINED PACK

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



Belfast
City Council

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE COMBINED PACK

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 24th April, 2026 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh
Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

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

2. **Presentations**

- (a) Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) (Pages 1 - 12)
- (b) Request to present - Retail NI and USDAW (Sunday Trading consultation) (Pages 13 - 14)

3. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Connswater Community & Leisure Services Ltd at Ballymacarret (Pages 15 - 18)
- (b) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Pages 19 - 26)
- (c) Update on Employees on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 27 - 42)
- (d) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 43 - 50)
- (e) Requests for Funding (Pages 51 - 150)
- (f) Summer Community Diversionary Fund (Pages 151 - 166)
- (g) Northern Ireland Football Fund Application (Pages 167 - 172)
- (h) Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy / Belfast Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (Pages 173 - 490)
- (i) Leisure Programme Update (Pages 491 - 504)
- (j) Housing Led Regeneration Programme (WITHDRAWN)

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

- (a) Notice of Motion - Gender Budgeting (Pages 505 - 506)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Disused and Derelict Phone Boxes (Pages 507 - 510)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Proposed City Ambassadors Scheme (Pages 511 - 512)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Costed Support for the Childcare Sector (Pages 513 - 516)
- (e) Notices of Motion - Quarterly Update (Pages 517 - 522)
- (f) Correspondence Received - Hardship Funding (Pages 523 - 528)
- (g) Correspondence Received - Minister for Infrastructure - Winter Preparedness (Pages 529 - 532)

5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy (Replaced by Restricted Item 3. h)
- (b) Pitches Strategy (Replaced by Restricted Item 3. h)
- (c) Gender Pay Gap Report (Pages 533 - 542)
- (d) Draft Bullying and Harassment Policy and draft Equal Opportunities Policy (Pages 543 - 560)

- (e) Sustain Exchange Climate Leadership Event - Funding Agreement (Pages 561 - 564)
 - (f) Horizon Cities@Heart Project (Pages 565 - 568)
 - (g) City Innovation Programme Update (Pages 569 - 572)
 - (h) Potential Additional Funding from Special EU Programmes Body - Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans (Report to follow) (Pages 573 - 576)
 - (i) Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 (Pages 577 - 582)
 - (j) Planning Update (Pages 583 - 602)
6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 603 - 636)
 - (b) Asset Management (Pages 637 - 652)
7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 653 - 658)
 - (b) NICVA Summit 2026 (Pages 659 - 668)
 - (c) Summit of the Cities 2026 (Pages 669 - 672)
8. **Equality and Good Relations**
- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting (Pages 673 - 710)
9. **Operational Issues**
- (a) Minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 711 - 716)
 - (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 717 - 722)
 - (c) Request for use of City Hall grounds for International Yoga Day (Pages 723 - 726)
 - (d) Minutes of Disability Working Group of 24th March, 2026 (Pages 727 - 734)
 - (e) Minutes of Installations - City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group of 30th March, 2026 (Pages 735 - 736)

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Request to Present – Retail NI and USDAW (Sunday Trading consultation)
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To request that the Members of the Committee receive a presentation from Retail NI and USDAW (Sunday Trading consultation) at its meeting in May.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the request to receive a presentation from Retail NI and USDAW (Sunday Trading consultation) at its meeting on 22nd May.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Correspondence has been received from Mr. Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive, Retail NI for a joint presentation from Retail NI and Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW) in relation to the Sunday Trading consultation.</p> <p>If agreed, Officers will request that the presentation is shared with Members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Consultation Information</p> <p>At its meeting in July 2025, the Council agreed, in principle, to introduce the holiday resort designation across the full Belfast council area, subject to public consultation.</p> <p>The consultation is currently open for feedback and closes on 13th May, 2026: https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/sunday-openings</p> <p>Further information can be found here: https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/news/council-seeks-public-s-views-on-extending-sunday-t</p>
4.0	Finance & Resource Implications
	There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
	There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications/Rural Needs Assessment requirements associated with this report
6.0	Appendices
	None

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Gender Budgeting
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to Gender Budgeting, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th March 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

	At this stage, the Committee is asked to note that the notice of motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th March 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Ó Néill was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Gender Budgeting</u></p> <p>“That this Council acknowledges the potential benefits of gender budgeting in addressing systemic gender inequalities for all in our society, as well as improving equality for whom we are providing services for thorough, thoughtful and deliberative financial planning.</p> <p>That the Council performs a gender data audit including to ensure maximum impact of data and to understand what gaps exist relating to the scope and scale of gender inequality, with the aim of achieving better equality outcomes and more targeted resource allocation. Annual review of progress will determine further steps in auditing and where progress allows for the phased adoption of gender budgeting tools.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Áine McCabe</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Tomás Ó Néill</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to undertake gender budgeting. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for equality and human resources and the motion has been referred to that Committee.
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Disused and Derelict Phone Boxes
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to Disused and Derelict Phone Boxes, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th March 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

	At this stage, the Committee is asked to note that the notice of motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th March 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Bower and seconded by Councillor Abernethy was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Disused and Derelict Phone Boxes</u></p> <p>“This Council notes the increasing number of disused and derelict phone boxes across Belfast which are often used as spaces for anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and littering. These phone boxes represent a unique opportunity for urban regeneration and community empowerment.</p> <p>This Council agrees to liaise with BT regarding the process to adopt a phone box and to identify all eligible phone boxes within the Belfast City Council area.</p> <p>The Council will support those wanting to adopt a phone box by developing a process to help charities, community groups, and local businesses to navigate the legal and logistical requirements of adopting a box.</p> <p>The Council will also explore the feasibility of a small grant to help groups with the initial costs of refurbishment (e.g., painting, shelving, or installing solar lighting).”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Christine Bower</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Hedley Abernethy</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to liaise with BT regarding the process to adopt a phone box. The motion is a cross-cutting issue. However, Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the allocation of resources and the management of assets, and the motion will be referred to that Committee in the first instance
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Proposed City Ambassadors Scheme
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to Proposed City Ambassadors Scheme, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th March 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

	At this stage, the Committee is asked to note that the notice of motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th March 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor Nelson was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Proposed City Ambassadors Scheme</u></p> <p>“This Council will introduce a City Ambassadors scheme which recognises those in the city who have made outstanding contributions in various sectors. These individuals will have a formal role in promoting Belfast.</p> <p>This new scheme will be more inclusive and allow for more diverse recognition than the Freedom of the City scheme and allow us to better recognise the achievements of those in Belfast.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Michael Long</p> <p>Secunder: Councillor Sam Nelson</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to introduce a City Ambassador scheme. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the development of key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies; therefore, the motion has been referred to this Committee for consideration.
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Costed Support for the Childcare Sector
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to Costed Support for the Childcare Sector, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th March 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

	At this stage, the Committee is asked to note that the notice of motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th March 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Maghie and seconded by Councillor Bower was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Costed Support for the Childcare Sector</u></p> <p>“That this council notes with regret the amount of parents who received notification of increased childcare costs in the past month and realises the increased financial burden this places on parents in this city.</p> <p>This council will undertake to bring back a costed report that looks at how council assets can better support childcare provision in Belfast.</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How our parks and open spaces could be utilised to further support the provision of forest schools. • How community spaces could be utilised to support expansions of childcare places. • How community groups could be supported to provide childcare places. • How our training academies could support this work.” <p>Proposer: Councillor Jenna Maghie</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Christine Bower</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to bring back a report that looks at how Council assets can better support childcare provision in Belfast. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the management of assets included in the motion, therefore, the motion has been referred to this Committee for consideration.
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>

3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
-----	---

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer(s):	Russell Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which SP&R Committee is responsible for.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that SP&R Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the updates to all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that SP&R Committee is responsible for and • Agree to the closure of Notices of Motion 284, 305, 347, 358, 391, 411, 439, 440, 455, 456 and 474.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 25th October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed: “That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date received 2. Notice of motion title 3. Submitted by which Councillor 4. Council meeting date 5. Committee motion is referred to 6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated 7. Month it will be reported back to committee 8. Other action to be taken.”

3.2	<p>Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. Appendix 1 is the latest quarterly update showing all active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which SP&R Committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and • Notices of Motion have become Council policy. <p>SP&R Committee are asked to agree that the following are now closed:</p>
3.4	<p>Category 1 Recommended Closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall (284): <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to submit a report on the potential for the Ceremony Room in the City Hall, which was being used to accommodate staff as part of the Covid-19 arrangements, to be reinstated for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies. Following a report on the City Hall Income Generation Project that went to SP&R Committee in May 2024, considerations relating to ceremonies and locations were clearly set out and agreed. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for striking health workers (305): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers. The correspondence requested was issued and the disputes were resolved in 2023-24. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of school uniforms and P.E. kits (347): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education, expressing concern for children and their parents in relation to the cost of school uniforms and ask them to address this problem by putting in place robust and enforceable measures to require schools to provide for affordable uniform options from a range of suppliers. No return correspondence has been received. The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 came into operation in February 2026 with immediate effect. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p>

- **Ulster Bank closures (358):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to support the Financial Services Unions (FSU) and write to Ulster Bank calling on them to reverse planned branch closures. In January 2024 Council wrote to Ulster Bank and the Commissioner for Older People but no return correspondence has been received. The Financial Services Union addressed Council on 8th January 2024 in relation to these branch closures, but all were closed in 2024. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **High costs of childcare (391):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Minister of Education to bring forward a package of interventions to deliver urgent financial support for parents, a new funding scheme to guarantee sustainability for providers and increased pay and qualifications for workers and a new independent body to oversee the development and implementation of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy. Since this motion was proposed the NI Childcare Subsidy Scheme has been introduced providing access to tax-free childcare or reimbursement through Universal Credit. As part of the initial development of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy, the Minister announced a £55 million package of measures which included an extension of the Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme to cover school-age children. The public consultation on the draft strategy closed in March 2026, and the Council's response was agreed and submitted. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **LORAG, Youth Club development (439):**

This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to investigate the lease and administrative fees being paid by LORAG for Council-owned land and assess the possibility of a granting a waiver. Assignment of the Lease from the Trustees of St John Vianney to LORAG was completed in November 2025 and Ministerial consent has been approved. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

- **Bi-weekly meeting of SP&R Committee (440):**

This Issue Raised in Advance called for a special meeting of the Committee be held to consider an initial report on efficiency savings, consultancy fees and fees and charges. A special meeting of SP&R Committee was held in June 2025 in relation to this matter. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

	<p>Category 2 Recommended Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Fundraising box at the City Hall Christmas Tree (411):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to locate a fundraising box at the City Hall Christmas Tree. A fundraising box has been located alongside the City Hall Christmas Tree in recent years with the monies raised donated to charity. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>The installation of dual language signage in Olympia (455):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to install dual-language signage in Olympia, including GLL/BETTER information signage. This is being progressed as part of the Physical Programme workstream. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>The installation of signage on the Forth-Meadow Greenway (456):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to install dual-language signage on the Forth-Meadow Greenway. This is being progressed as part of the Physical Programme workstream. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>Together – Building a United Community Strategy (474):</p> <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to remove the interface barrier in Alexandra Park as part of the Reconnecting Waterworks and Alexandra Park project and bring forward an accompanying programme of work with local stakeholders to establish support to assist with the transition. This programme of work is being progressed under the PEACEPLUS Reconnected Belfast project. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee</p>

Belfast City Council Notice of Motion Database

Ref	Type	Meeting Date	Motion Title	Proposed by	Party	Reporting Cc	Reporting Officer	Lead Department	Status	Status Update
23	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	Removal of Banners and Paramilitary Flags in Belfast	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Since the decision by SP &R in 2019, the FICT report commissioned by the Executive was published which covers similar issues. Extensive consultation was undertaken between 2016 – 19 on this and the contents of this report have the agreement of the 5 main political parties represented on the Commission Report to be brought to CMT and potentially Party Group Leaders for discussion on way forward.
25	Issue Raised in Advance	23/08/2019	Abortion Imagery	Cllr Aine Groogan	Green Party	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	A report to consider draft bye laws for the city centre in relation to amenity issues and the display of graphic imagery was presented to SP&R in February 26. Committee agreed to authorise officers to consult with DfC on the draft byelaws. This decision was later called in and now awaits legal opinion.
35	Notice of Motion	02/12/2019	Pedestrian Animation	Cllr Matt Garrett	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Keith Forster	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Following the September meeting of SP&R Committee, officers considered DfI Western Division in relation to the existing pride flag crossing at the Foyle Bridge in Derry–Londonderry. The Department confirmed that careful consideration was given before permitting the rainbow markings on Foyle Embankment, (which were installed in 2021) to make sure it did not conflict Traffic Signs regulations. Following the introduction of the coloured markings, safety concerns were raised from a number of sources including IMTAC. DfI subsequently decided that following the representation from IMTAC, that no further such installations would take place. On a local level, the DfI Western Division confirmed that they were unaware of any safety issues that members of the public have experienced at the Foyle Embankment crossing; however they recognise that the concerns raised by IMTAC are often of a sensory and perception nature and that these issues may not always be reported to the Department and that the absence of a reported problem may not mean that the issue does not exist. On a practical level, the Department also highlighted the durability of such markings (https://url.uk.m.mimecastroect.com/s/3fMJC9g2kFxM92gFofqHqPeP87domain=google.co.uk). Further contact is being made with the Eastern Division to understand the latest status of the pedestrianisation of Union Street and discuss options for alternative designs like those implemented elsewhere in the UK and Ireland.
49	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Market Gardens and Urban Farming	Cllr Seamas de Faioite	SDLP	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing	Draft Food Strategy, Action Plan and Communications Plan developed. Internal discussions ongoing on costings and delivery.
50	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Belfast Zoo	Cllr Conor Maskey	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Keith Forster	Place & Economy	Ongoing	At the June 2025 meeting of the CG&R Committee, members requested a specific governance structure be established to look at a range of issues within Belfast Zoo. An initial meeting of the Zoo Long-Term Financial Sustainability Group was held on Wednesday 10th December 2025, the minutes of which were reported to the January 2026 meeting of the CG&R Committee. This motion will be addressed by this group.
51	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Growth Deal	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Sharon McNicholl	Corporate Services	Ongoing	Deputy CEx has had discussions with Cllr Beattie to recommend closing - awaiting further info
131	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Sealing of the Records of Mother and Baby Homes	Cllr Michael Collins	PBP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from Irish Gov still outstanding - 06/09/21
176	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Mater Hospital Services	Cllr Fiona Ferguson	PBP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	This motion related to provision of services during the pandemic - this was resolved with services returning to normal from November 2022. 12.03.23 This motion recommendation for closure was rejected at Feb 2023 SP&R and therefore remains on-going
187	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Local Government Pension Scheme - Responsible Investment Strategy	Cllr Ryan Murphy	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 2/7/21. Meeting with NILGOSC requested by S P and R 20/8/21 - to be arranged
199	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	Four Day Working Week	Cllr Matt Garrett	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Christine Sheridan	Human Resources	Ongoing	Workshop held on the NOM for management and Trade Unions on 26 March 2026. Management to meet with Four Day Week Foundation May 2026.
203	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	Electric Charging Points	Ald George Dorrian	DUP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	Responses from Ministers being considered by officers
209	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	Environmentally Sustainable Event Spaces	Cllr Matt Garrett	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	A report is required to SP&R Committee to outline the next steps. Progressing.
228	Notice of Motion	10/01/2022	Playing Pitches in Belfast	Cllr David Brooks	DUP	SP&R	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	This is part of the Pitches Strategy and will go on the agenda for the 24th April SP&R.
235	Notice of Motion	22/02/2022	Energy Price Crises	Cllr Brian Smyth	Green Party	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing	The climate team have recruited a Net Zero Officer, to support the development of the priority energy projects highlighted within the Local Area Energy Plan.
243	Notice of Motion	14/03/2022	Cost of Living	Cllr Matt Garrett	Sinn Fein	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing	£75k hardship funding was provided to Family Support Hubs across the city. Refreshed Cost-of-Living Support Guide 2025/2026) disseminated across the city signposting those in need to sources of support and advice. Council provided evidence to the NCS Committee for Communities on the draft DFC 'Anti-Poverty Strategy'.
264	Issue Raised in Advance	19/08/2022	Electric Vehicle Charging Points Strategy	Cllr Michael Long	Alliance	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing	An internal task and finish working group continue to coordinate work on the implementation of phase 1 and phase 2 of the Low Emission Vehicle Strategy which will allow Council to bring forward locations for low emissions infrastructure investment. Site assessment and market testing has been completed. A tender is being prepared based on a concession
284	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2022	Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Alliance	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Category 1 closure Following a report on City Hall Income Generation Project that went to SP&R Committee in May 2024, considerations relating ceremonies and location was clearly set out and
297	Notice of Motion	05/01/2023	Comber Greenway	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Green Party	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	Project has significant resource and financial implications. Officers are starting the process of reengaging with DfI on the Comber Greenway.
298	Notice of Motion	05/01/2023	School Street Schemes	Cllr Seamas de Faioite	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters issued to DfI on 17 Apr 2023 in relation to Rosetta Way "quietway" and also to DAERA on 12 Feb 2024 re School Streets Air Quality but no letter specifically on School Streets Schemes appears to have been issued to DfI
305	Notice of Motion	24/01/2023	Support for striking Health Workers	Cllr Matt Collins	PBP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Category 1 closure Correspondence requested was issued. This is now recommend close on the basis that the disputes were resolved in 2023-24.
308	Notice of Motion	21/02/2023	Overdose Prevention Facility in Belfast	Cllr Mal O'Hara	Green Party	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	At SP&R on 24th November 2023 the Committee agreed that, at the request of Councillor Smyth, that a report be submitted at its next monthly meeting with specific reference made to meetings held, legal advice sought and partners engaged with - see no. 346 for reference. A report was brought back to SP&R in January 2024. The Committee noted the contents of the report and that engagement would continue to take place with all the relevant agencies and stakeholders to advocate for such a facility in Belfast.
319	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	CPR Training and Circuit	Cllr Christina Black	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	The Committee agreed to adopt the motion, with a report to be submitted to a future meeting outlining how it could be facilitated.
326	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	Data Protection	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Agreed at SP&R that a report will be brought back to Committee
330	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Clean Indoor Air Motion	Cllr Jenna Maghie	Alliance	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	The Committee agreed to adopt the motion, with a report to be submitted to a future meeting outlining how it could be managed, resourced, and facilitated.
331	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness	Cllr Michael Collins	PBP	SP&R	Trevor Wallace	Finance & Resources	Ongoing	Update August 24: At the request of Councillor Collins, the Council agreed that the Motion on Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness which had been recommended for closure, remained open and be brought back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for further discussion. A paper was brought to SP&R on 19th April where committee further discussed and agreed that the request be dealt with via the discretionary payments process. The Discretionary payment processed opened at the end of June and closed on 2nd August. Again, West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness did not apply for funding. Update Jan 25 - at Dec Cttee meeting it was decided that this would remain
337	Notice of Motion	26/09/2023	Right to Food Campaign	Cllr Paul Doherty	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response presented to S P and R 24/11/23 - Referred to Social Policy Working Group
347	Notice of Motion	28/11/2023	Cost of School Uniforms and P.E. Kits	Cllr Sarah Bunting	DUP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Category 1 closure The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 came into operation, in February 26, with immediate effect. This means that families across Northern Ireland will pay less for school uniforms and school uniform policies for the 2026/27 school year must follow all the requirements set out in the new statutory Guidelines. This is recommended to close on the basis there is legislative provision in place.
356	Notice of Motion	04/01/2024	Memorial Wall - Covid-19	Cllr Emmett McDonough	Alliance	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	Discussed at the City Hall/ City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group on 18 November 2025. Officers exploring a suitable location in one of our existing parks.
358	Notice of Motion	04/01/2024	Ulster Bank Closures	Cllr Geraldine McAttee	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Category 1 closure In January 2024, Council wrote to Ulster Bank and the Commissioner for Older People as outlined in the NoM. No return correspondence has been received. In addition, the Financial Services Union addressed Council on 8th January 2024 in relation to these branch closures. All 10 branches were scheduled to close in 2024 and have now closed. This will be considered as part of the governance review.
360	Notice of Motion	23/01/2024	Transparency by Default at Belfast City Council	Cllr Gary McKeown	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	Motion referred to SP&R. The draft Ethical Procurement Policy is currently under consideration by the Social Value Policy working group which is due to meet on 17th June 2025.
361	Notice of Motion	23/01/2024	Rights-based Ethical Procurement Policy	Cllr Bronach Anglin	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
375	Notice of Motion	28/03/2024	Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty	Cllr Paul Doherty	SDLP		Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	No Committee allocated as adopted at S&BC
376	Notice of Motion	28/03/2024	Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross	Cllr Rois-Maire Donnelly	Sinn Fein		Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing	No Committee allocated as adopted at S&BC
385	Notice of Motion	30/04/2024	Plant Based Councils Initiative	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Green Party	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing	Internal engagement with Procurement around how to take this forward ongoing. Report to SP&R in due course. To be considered as part of a Council Sustainable Food Policy which is under development. April update: Food Systems Officer in post in December 2025 and development of Food Policy underway with internal engagement with officers

391	Notice of Motion	23/05/2024	High Costs of Childcare	Cllr Paul Doherty	SDLP	SP&R					Recommend Close	Category 1 closure Since this motion was proposed, the NI Executive introduced the NI Childcare Subsidy Scheme providing access to tax-free childcare or reimbursement through Universal Credit. As part of the initial development of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy, in May 25 the DE Minister announced a £55 million package of measures for early learning and childcare which included an extension of the Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme to cover school-age children. Within the PIG, the NI Executive aims to put an early Learning and Childcare Strategy in place. The public consultation on the draft NI Early Learning and Childcare Strategy closed in March 26. The council response to the draft strategy was agreed in March 26 and therefore this motion is proposed for closure.
392	Notice of Motion	23/05/2024	Going for Growth Strategy	Cllr Brian Smyth		Green Party						Held back due to upcoming election
393	Notice of Motion	23/05/2024	Ireland's Ancient East	Cllr Gary McKeown	SDLP							Held back due to upcoming election
395	Issue Raised in Advance	24/05/2024	Transfer of Powers - Licensing of Bus Tour Operators in the City	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing			Discussions ongoing with DFI in relation to bus tour operators generally.
396	Issue Raised in Advance	24/05/2024	Connection of Water Supply to Social Homes	Cllr Michael Donnelly	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing			
402	Issue Raised in Advance	20/09/2024	Sunday Trading - Pilot Scheme	Cllr Sam Nelson		SP&R	Kate Bentley	Place & Economy	Ongoing			Following Council's decision in July 2025, a public consultation will be launched in March to progress the Holiday Resort designation citywide, enabling extended Sunday trading hours.
409	Notice of Motion	24/10/2024	NILGOSC - Disposal of Government Bonds	Cllr Carl Whyte	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing			
411	Issue Raised in Advance	25/10/2024	Fundraising box at the City Hall Christmas Tree	Cllr Gary McKeown	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close			Category 2 closure A fundraising box has been located alongside the City Hall Christmas Tree in recent years. The monies raised are donated to charity.
417	Notice of Motion	21/11/2024	Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast	Cllr David Bell	Alliance	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing			Engagement continues with Departmental Officials and designated RAISE locality coordinators in the context of the Belfast Agenda and Community Planning partnership structures.
432	Notice of Motion	20/02/2025	Action to Address Empty Homes	Cllr Michael Collins	PBP	SP&R	Cathy Reynolds	Place & Economy	Ongoing			This motion is being progressed by the Planning and Building Control and City Regeneration and Development directorates, and a report will be brought to a future meeting.
433	Notice of Motion	20/02/2025	Developing a Sponsorship and Philanthropy Network in Belfast	Cllr Michael Long	Alliance	SP&R	John Tully	City & Organisational	Ongoing			A workshop was held with the Council's Social Policy Working Group in February 2026. Work continues on the development of a draft Corporate Social Responsibility Framework which will reflect the intention behind the NOM.
439	Issue Raised in Advance	21/03/2025	LORAG - Youth Club Development - Council Land	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Recommend Close			Assignment of the Lease from The Trustees of St John Vianney to LORAG has been completed in November 2025 and Ministerial consent has been approved.
440	Issue Raised in Advance	21/03/2025	Bi-weekly meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee: Efficiency/Consultancy Paper	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close			Category 1 closure A special meeting of SP&R Committee was held in June 2025 to consider a report on efficiency savings; consultancy fees; and fees and charges.
446	Notice of Motion	28/04/2025	Pathways to Work Green Paper	Cllr Paul Doherty	SDLP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing			Democratic Services sent letter to OFMDFM & Minister for Communities on 15/05/25. Awaiting response.
447	Notice of Motion	28/04/2025	US War Planes out of Belfast	Cllr Michael Collins	PBP	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing			Democratic Services sent letter to OFMDFM, Westminster Government and Aldergrove Airport re NOM - Awaiting response.
448	Notice of Motion	28/04/2025	National Famine Commemoration Day	Cllr Conor McKay	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing			Democratic Services sent letter to Irish Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on 15/05/25. Awaiting response.
455	Issue Raised in Advance	23/05/2025	The installation of dual-language signage in Olympia, including GLL/BETTER information signage.	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Recommend Close			Recommended to close. Project being progressed under the Physical Programme.
456	Issue Raised in Advance	23/05/2025	The installation of dual-language signage on the	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Recommend Close			Recommended to close. Project being progressed under the Physical Programme.
457	Issue Raised in Advance	23/05/2025	An update on the next stage in the development of the Irish Language Policy	Cllr Ciaran Beattie	Sinn Fein	SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing			The draft Irish Language Policy was agreed and ratified by Council on 1st October 2025. The decision was later called in and now awaits legal opinion.
460	Notice of Motion	24/06/2025	Nitrates Action Plan	Cllr Andrew McCormick	DUP		Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing			Passed by Council on 1 July 2025. Democratic Services to issue letter to DAERA after Call-in period expires.
474	Notice of Motion	23/10/2025	Together - Building a United Community Strategy	Cllr Sam Nelson		SP&R	Sinead Grimes	Property & Projects	Recommend Close			Recommended to close. Project being progressed under PEACEPLUS Reconnected Belfast project.
478	Notice of Motion	23/10/2025	Parents' Attendance Records at Council	Cllr Jenna Maghie		SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic	Ongoing			
479	Issue Raised in Advance	24/10/2025	Levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre	Cllr Ciaran Beattie		SP&R	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing			Update from SP&R and ratified by Council on March 2nd that Levels of criminality and violence in the city centre remains open, so that a further update could be provided.
491	Issue Raised in Advance	23/01/2026	Public Art - 2 Royal Avenue	Cllr Seamas de Faioite		SP&R	Cathy Reynolds	Place & Economy	Ongoing			
492	Notice of Motion	27/01/2026	Faith-Based Organisations and Addiction Services	Ald Dean McCullough		SP&R			Ongoing			
493	Notice of Motion	27/01/2026	Fleadh Cheoil 2026 Legacy Monument	Cllr Paul Doherty		SP&R	Damien Martin	Place & Economy	Ongoing			
495	Notice of Motion	27/01/2026	City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study	Cllr Brian Smyth		SP&R	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing			27/2 - Ongoing - The Committee noted that the notice of motion had been received and agreed that a subsequent report would be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications, to include information on funding options from the Department for Infrastructure, the gritting of footpaths on arterial routes and highest points of elevation, together with the legal implications. The Dfi has been written to.
501	Issue Raised in Advance	20/03/2026	Procedures of the Irish Street Sign Consultation	Cllr Michael Long		SP&R	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing			
503	Notice of Motion	24/03/2026	Disused and Derelict Phone Boxes	Cllr Christine Bower		SP&R						
504	Notice of Motion	24/03/2026	Gender Budgeting	Cllr Aine McCabe		SP&R						
505	Notice of Motion	24/03/2026	Proposed City Ambassadors Programme	Cllr Michael Long		SP&R						
506	Notice of Motion	24/03/2026	Costed Support for the Childcare Sector	Cllr Jenna Maghie		SP&R						

Page 22



Subject:	Correspondence Received – Hardship Fund
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 													
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received in response to the Council's concerns in relation to Hardship Funding and School Meals for children as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 8th January, 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At its meeting in January, the Council agreed to the following request: <i>"The Council agreed that the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th December, 2025, under the heading "Hardship Programme 2025/26 - Response from the Department for Communities Minister" be amended to provide that the Council writes to:</i>
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the Minister for Communities to express its objection to the confirmation that the Department for Communities hardship funding, provided in 2023/24, would not be available in future years, and to encourage the Minister to look at more equitable ways to tax the profits of energy companies to help fund the service going forward; and</i>
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the Minister of Education to express its concern in relation to the Education Authority's decision to increase the price of school meals, and to state its support of the campaign by trade unions for the delivery of free school meals for all children."</i>
3.4	Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to both the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Education and responses have been received (Appendix 1 and 2).
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Letter from Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities Appendix 2 – Letter from Department of Education

From: The Minister

Craig Mealey
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Via email: MealeyC@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Mr Mealey

Hardship Programme Funding

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2026.

The Hardship funding provided by my Department in 2022/23 was non-recurrent and councils were advised that funding in future years would not be available.

As previously noted in my letter to your Chief Executive, Mr John Walsh, I will continue to remain committed to providing services that help people who have fallen on hard times through initiatives such as the Social Supermarket Scheme, Discretionary Support Scheme, Affordable Warmth Scheme as well as the Winter Fuel Payments to those who are eligible.

My Department does not have any responsibility for taxation, including energy company profits.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lyons', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Mr Craig Mealey
Committee Services Officer
Belfast City Council

Email: mealeyc@belfastcity.gov.uk

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

private.office@education-ni.gov.uk

27 February 2026

Your reference: CL160226

COR-0232-2026

Dear Mr Mealey

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2025 in relation to Council's concern in respect of the Education Authority's (EA) decision to increase the price of school meals from January 2026 and its support for the provision of free school meals (FSM) for all children. The Minister notes the Council's position on these matters has asked me to respond on his behalf.

When the EA made its announcement of the school meals price rise in November 2025, it noted that was facing a significant funding shortfall of around £300m in the current financial year. More recently, the Education Minister stated in the Assembly that the Finance Minister's draft budget for 2026-2029/30, currently out for consultation, would require the Department of Education to make savings of approximately £826 million in 2025/26, just over £1 billion in 2027/28 and £1.15 billion in 2028/29. Such a budget would require very severe and damaging cuts to the education system.

The Minister has stated that it is regrettable that an increase in the EA's school meal prices has been necessary. However, it is important to note that the EA had maintained the same school meal prices since 2017/18 despite significant rises in costs during that period. The EA's cost of producing a meal is more than 70% higher than it was in 2017/18. This approach was no longer sustainable in the current budgetary circumstances. Despite the EA's price rise in January, it remains well below its cost of producing a meal and the school meals service therefore continues to operate at a substantial loss.

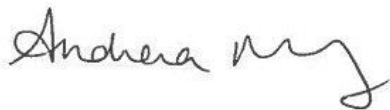
In relation to providing FSM for all children you may be aware that this was debated in the Assembly on 25 November 2025. The Minister recognised the importance of pupils having access to a healthy lunch but emphasised the importance of only seeking to take forward policy changes that are both affordable and deliverable. As the Minister stated in the debate, the current and anticipated future severe budgetary pressures on

the education sector means that no significant expansion of free school meals provision can be taken forward.

The more detailed response that the Minister provided as part of the Assembly debate can be found in [Hansard for 25 November 2025](#).

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrena Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'M' at the end.

Andrena Murray
Private Secretary to the Minister of Education
Department of Education



Subject:	Correspondence Received - Minister for Infrastructure re Winter Preparedness
Date:	24th April, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from Liz Kimmins, Minister for Infrastructure.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
	Key Issues
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Council meeting held on 2nd March, 2026, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to seek clarification on the Winter Preparedness arrangements for Belfast City Centre, specifically in relation to drainage and gully management, in light of the sustained and prolonged rainfall across Northern Ireland and to request the urgent clearance of all drains in order to ensure that the City Centre has no unnecessary barriers to accessibility.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from the Minister.
3.3	In her response she advises that Officials from DfI continue to work closely with the Council, BID representatives and other stakeholders through the Belfast City Centre Task and Finish Group which was established in July 2025.
3.4	A number of problem drainage sites have been identified by the Group and DfI officials, along with external contractors, have been working through a programme of remedial works to address the issues raised. In addition, it has been agreed that Belfast City Centre gullies will receive additional cleaning as part of the next drainage maintenance programme due to commence in April 2026.
3.5	This correspondence is linked to the Motion - City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study, and a further update will be provided at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from Liz Kimmins, Minister for Infrastructure

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Ms Louise McLornan

democraticservices@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
James House, Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: COR-0273-2026
26 March 2026

Louise, a chara,

WINTER PREPAREDNESS ARRANGEMENTS, BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter dated 11 March 2026 seeking clarification on Winter Preparedness arrangements for Belfast City Centre.

Officials from my Department continue to work closely with Belfast City Council, BID representatives and other stakeholders through the Belfast City Centre Task and Finish Group which was established in July 2025. This group is chaired by my Department and aims to address ongoing road related issues and implementation of infrastructure improvement works.

A number of problem drainage sites have been identified by this Group and my officials, along with external contractors, have been working through a programme of remedial works to address the issues raised. In addition, it has been agreed that Belfast City Centre gullies will receive additional cleaning as part of the next drainage maintenance programme due to commence in April 2026.

Is mise le meas,



LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Gender Pay Gap Report
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources
Contact Officer(s):	Cherie Cooper, Senior HR Advisor

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 													
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To present the findings of the Gender Pay Gap report to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that SP&R Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of this report
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February 2024 considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th March 2024.</p>
3.2	<p>Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting</p> <p>“That this Council will lead the way in Northern Ireland, adopting robust, transparent and accountable processes for gender pay gap recording and reporting.</p> <p>The TUC calculated that in 2023 in the UK, the day when the average woman stops working for free compared to the average man is the 23rd of February. The average woman in paid employment effectively works for free for nearly two months of the year compared to the average man in paid employment. Average figures disguise wider disparities, for instance the gap tends to widen if a woman is a mum, or works in education, finance or insurance.</p> <p>There is no legal obligation to record and report gender pay gap data in Northern Ireland. However, if we don’t transparently measure pay by gender, how can we understand and address structural inequalities in our organisation?</p> <p>Therefore, this Council will record and report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its mean gender pay gap in hourly pay • Its median gender pay gap in hourly pay • The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile • A statistical overview of progression/promotion rates for male and female Staff <p>And will use guidance such as the UK Government Equalities Office - What Works guidance to address the gap.</p> <p>After the first gender pay gap report, the Council will move to include Disability and ethnicity pay reporting.”</p>

3.3	<p>Report findings:</p> <p>Median gender pay gap</p> <p>At 31 March 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> women earned £1.27 for every £1 that men earned (comparing median hourly pay) women made up 51.04% of employees in the highest paid quarter, and 21.93% of employees in the lowest paid quarter.
3.4	<p>Mean gender pay gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> women’s mean (average) hourly pay was 16.3% higher than men’s. <p>The gender pay gap results for this reporting period shows a pay gap in favour of women, both at the median and mean levels. This outcome is closely linked to the structure of the workforce and the distribution of roles across the organisation. The full Gender Pay Gap Report is attached Appendix 1.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The data shows that women are well represented in senior and higher-earning roles within the organisation and under-represented in basic entry non-traditional roles. Despite effort to attract more females to apply to these roles it remains challenging. The Council continues employability outreach efforts and affirmative action messaging to promote applications from relevant genders where gender balance needs addressed.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Gender Pay Gap Report</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

Gender Pay Gap Report

Purpose of this report

The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February 2024 considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th March 2024.

Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting

“That this Council will lead the way in Northern Ireland, adopting robust, transparent and accountable processes for gender pay gap recording and reporting.

The TUC calculated that in 2023 in the UK, the day when the average woman stops working for free compared to the average man is the 23rd of February. The average woman in paid employment effectively works for free for nearly two months of the year compared to the average man in paid employment. Average figures disguise wider disparities, for instance the gap tends to widen if a woman is a mum, or works in education, finance or insurance.

There is no legal obligation to record and report gender pay gap data in Northern Ireland. However, if we don't transparently measure pay by gender, how can we understand and address structural inequalities in our organisation?

Therefore, this Council will record and report:

- Its mean gender pay gap in hourly pay
- Its median gender pay gap in hourly pay
- The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile
- A statistical overview of progression/promotion rates for male and female Staff

And will use guidance such as the UK Government Equalities Office - What Works guidance to address the gap.

After the first gender pay gap report, the Council will move to include Disability and ethnicity pay reporting.”

Agreed approach

Appendix 1

In the absence of statutory guidelines applicable to Northern Ireland, a decision was taken to apply UK legislation as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

The gender pay gap (GPG) is the difference between the average pay of men and women in an organisation. Any employer with 250 or more employees on a specific date of the year (the 'snapshot') must report their gender pay gap data to the UK Government Gender Pay Gap Service. The snapshot date is 31st March in any year for most public authority employers. Therefore, for the purposes of this report a data snapshot was taken as of 31st March 2025.

Gender Pay Gap (GPG) reporting is different from equal pay reporting. GPG measures the difference in average pay whilst equal pay is a legal requirement to ensure men and women are paid the same for equal work.

Gender Pay Gap Definitions

Median Gender Pay Gap Figure

The median gender pay gap figure is the difference between the hourly pay of the median man and the hourly pay of the median woman in an organisation. The median for each is the man or woman in the middle of a list of hourly pay, ordered from highest to lowest paid.

Median Hourly Pay Figure

The median hourly pay figure shows women's pay as a percentage of men's pay. Simply how much women earn relative to men.

Mean Gender Pay Gap Figure

The mean (average) gender pay gap figure uses hourly pay of all employees to calculate the difference between the mean hourly pay of men, and the mean hourly pay of women. It involves subtracting the average hourly rate for female employees from the average hourly rate for male employees and dividing by the average hourly rate for male employees and multiplying by one hundred.

Example

$$\text{Mean gender pay gap (\%)} = \frac{\text{Men's mean hourly pay} - \text{Women's mean hourly pay}}{\text{Men's mean hourly pay}} \times 100$$

Pay quartiles

Pay quartiles show the percentage of men and women employees in four equally sized groups based on their hourly pay.

Report and Analysis

An analysis was carried out to identify, if a gender pay gap exists within the Council . The information provided is based on the guidance as set out above.

Median gender pay gap

At 31 March 2025

- women earned £1.27 for every £1 that men earned (comparing median hourly pay)
- women made up 51.04% of employees in the highest paid quarter, and 21.93% of employees in the lowest paid quarter



Mean Gender Pay Gap

- women's mean (average) hourly pay was 16.3% higher than men's

Pay quarters

Women made up:

- 51.04% of employees in the upper hourly pay quarter (highest paid jobs)
- 43.87% of employees in the upper middle hourly pay quarter
- 25.39% of employees in the lower middle hourly pay quarter
- 21.93% of employees in the lower hourly pay quarter (lowest paid jobs)

Bar chart to show the percentage of men and women in four equally sized groups based on their hourly pay.

Appendix 1

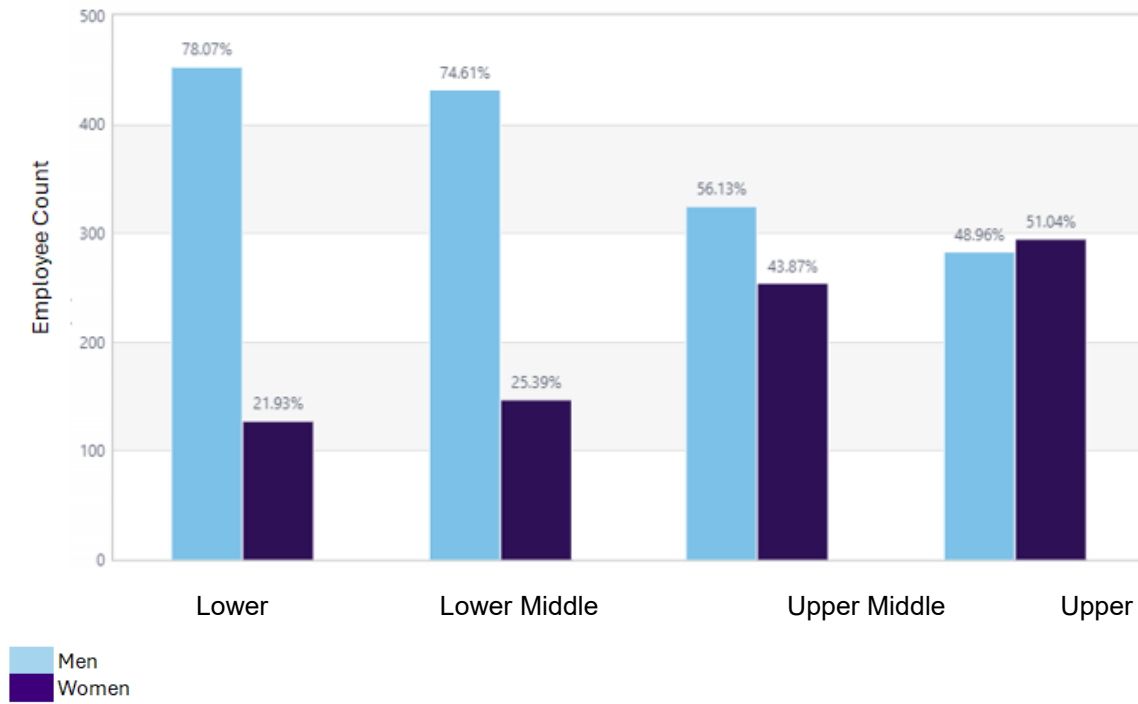


Table to show the show the percentage of men and women in four equally sized groups based on their hourly pay

Pay Quartiles	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
---------------	-----------	---------	-----------

Appendix 1

Upper hourly pay quarter (highest paid)	Percentage in this pay quarter	51.04	48.96	100
	Percentage of all employees	12.8	12.2	25
Upper Middle hourly pay quarter	Percentage in this pay quarter	43.87	56.13	100
	Percentage of all employees	10.9	14.1	25
Lower middle pay quarter	Percentage in this pay quarter	25.39	74.61	100
	Percentage of all employees	6.4	18.6	25
Lower hourly pay quarter (lowest paid)	Percentage in this pay quarter	21.93	78.07	100
	Percentage of all employees	5.5	19.5	25

Promotions

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland defines a promotee as a person who fills all four of the following conditions:

- (i) the employee has moved from one job to another within the concern; and
- (ii) in doing so the employee fills a job which was restricted to persons already employed in the concern; and
- (iii) the employee remained in the new job or was notified in writing that he would so remain, for a continuous period of not less than 6 months; and
- (iv) as a direct result of the move the employee received an increase in pay (excluding expenses).

- In the rolling year, specifically between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 of all promotees in the Council 42.1% were women and 57.9% were male.
- In the rolling year, specifically between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 of all internal applicants 52.8% were women and 47.2% were male.

Conclusion

The gender pay gap results for this reporting period shows a pay gap in favour of women, both at the median and mean levels. This outcome is closely linked to the structure of the workforce and the distribution of roles across the organisation.

Appendix 1

Women are highly represented in senior and higher-paid positions, making up 51.04% of employees in the upper pay quartile and 43.87% in the upper-middle quartile. These roles typically carry higher levels of responsibility and correspondingly higher rates of pay. In contrast, women make up a much smaller proportion of employees in the lower-paid quartiles, representing 25.39% of the lower-middle quartile and 21.93% of the lowest-paid quartile.

This distribution has a direct impact on both the mean and median pay gaps. Because women are more likely to hold higher-paid roles and less likely to be in lower-paid positions, the typical (median) woman earns more than the typical man, and the average (mean) hourly pay for women is also higher. These patterns explain why women's median hourly pay is 27.4% higher than men's and why women's mean hourly pay is 16.3% higher.

Overall, the data suggests women are well represented in senior and higher-earning roles within the organisation and under-represented in basic entry non-traditional roles. Despite effort to attract more females to apply it remains challenging. The Council continues employability outreach efforts and affirmative action messaging to promote applications from relevant genders where gender balance needs addressed.



Subject:	Draft Bullying & Harassment Policy and draft Equal Opportunities Policy
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of HR
Contact Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of HR

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present the draft Bullying & Harassment Policy and draft Equal Opportunities Policy for approval.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of this report; • And agree to adopt the Bullying and Harassment and Equal Opportunities Policies.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	One of the people goals in our People Strategy is to make Belfast City Council ‘a place for everyone’, and we have committed to developing a culture of respect and inclusivity by increasing awareness and understanding of diversity issues and implementing policies and procedures that aim to achieve this.
3.2	The Draft Bullying & Harassment Policy and Draft Equal Opportunities Policy demonstrate our commitment to an inclusive workplace where all employees feel welcome, valued and respected. These policies were developed and consulted on through the IR Framework with management and Trade Unions. The policies were agreed at JNCC on 26 March 2026.
	<u>Draft Bullying & Harassment Policy</u>
3.3	The Council is committed to providing a good and harmonious working environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and victimisation and where all employees are treated with dignity and respect and their rights are protected. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a working environment in which bullying and harassment are understood to be unacceptable and where individuals have the confidence to complain about bullying and harassment, should it arise, in the knowledge that their concerns will be dealt with promptly, appropriately and fairly and that they will not be made to feel disadvantaged in any way for having raised or pursued a concern in good faith.
3.4	This policy covers behaviour in any work-related setting both inside and outside the workplace, by and against fellow employees or customers, suppliers or the public during or outside of working hours, for example business trips or work-related social events or by way of electronic communication including email, social media or by phone such as by text message or app.
3.5	This policy applies to all employees of Belfast City Council (the ‘Council’). Casual workers will be treated in accordance with the principles inherent in the policy.

	<u>Draft Equal Opportunities Policy</u>
3.6	The Council is committed to providing equal opportunities and promoting a good and harmonious working environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and victimisation and where all employees are treated with dignity and respect and their rights are protected.
3.7	The purpose of this policy is to ensure equal opportunities for employees and job applicants and a working environment in which all employees and job applicants will be treated on the basis of merit in a fair, consistent and objective manner and where unlawful discrimination and victimisation is understood to be unacceptable and individuals have the confidence to complain about it, should it arise, in the knowledge that their concerns will be dealt with promptly, appropriately and fairly and that they will not be made to feel disadvantaged in any way for having raised or pursued a concern in good faith.
3.8	This policy covers behaviour in any work-related setting both inside and outside the workplace, against fellow employees, job applicants, customers, suppliers and the public and during or outside of working hours, for example business trips or work-related social events or by way of electronic communication including email social media or by phone such as text message or app.
3.9	This policy does not cover alleged incidents of unlawful discrimination or victimisation of Council employees by those who are not Council employees. Such matters will be dealt with in accordance with the Protection of Staff from Workplace Violence and Abuse from the Public – Roles and Responsibilities.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.10	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	The policies promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 groups by promoting an inclusive workplace and showing our commitment to the creation of a work environment that is free from discrimination, harassment and bullying, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect and no one is treated less favourably than any other person or group of persons on the grounds of their sex, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment status, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership status or any other characteristic.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix One - Draft Bullying & Harassment Policy Appendix Two - Draft Equal Opportunities Policy

This page is intentionally left blank



Bullying and Harassment Policy

Draft at March 2026

DRAFT



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Definitions	4
3. Employees' Responsibilities	5
4. Guidance to staff who feel that they are being subjected to bullying or harassment on how to make a complaint	5
5. The Council's Responsibilities	6
6. Confidentiality	6
Appendix 1 – Associated Policies and Legislation	7



1. Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 The Council is committed to providing a good and harmonious working environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and victimisation and where all employees are treated with dignity and respect and their rights are protected.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to ensure a working environment in which bullying and harassment are understood to be unacceptable and where individuals have the confidence to complain about bullying and harassment, should it arise, in the knowledge that their complaints or concerns will be dealt with promptly, appropriately and fairly and that they will not be made to feel disadvantaged in any way for having raised or pursued a complaint or concern in good faith.
- 1.3 This policy applies to all employees of Belfast City Council (the 'Council') including casual workers. For the purpose of this policy, any reference to "an employee" or "employees" will include casual workers.
- 1.4 This policy covers behaviour in any work-related setting both inside and outside the workplace, by and against fellow employees or customers, suppliers or the public including job applicants, during or outside of working hours, for example business trips or work-related social events or by way of electronic communication including email, social media or by phone such as by text message or app.
- 1.5 This policy does not cover alleged incidents of bullying or harassment of Council employees by those who are not Council employees. Such matters will be dealt with in accordance with the Protection of Staff from Workplace Violence and Abuse from the Public - Roles and Responsibilities.
- 1.6 Northern Ireland equality legislation provides specific protection against discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the following "protected" grounds:-
 - age;
 - disability;
 - gender reassignment;
 - marriage and civil partnership status;
 - pregnancy and maternity;
 - race, colour, ethnic or national origins, nationality;
 - religious or similar philosophical belief;
 - political opinion;
 - sex and sexual orientation

Further detail in relation to this can be found in the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

- 1.7 There is a need for employee performance to be managed in order to achieve the aims of the Council and this policy does not seek to diminish a manager's ability to do this.
- 1.8 This policy does not form part of an employee's terms and conditions of employment or terms of engagement. It may be amended from time to time, as necessary, in accordance with the Council's Industrial Relations Framework.

2. Definition

2.1 Harassment

Harassment is unlawful and is defined as occurring when a person engages in unwanted conduct which is connected to those characteristics of another person which are protected by equality legislation (see 1.6 above) and which has the purpose or effect of violating their dignity, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Harassment can take many forms, such as verbal, psychological, or physical, in person or via a virtual platform, or through other methods of contact, and may be directed at one person or a number of people.

It is not the intention of the person accused that decides whether harassment has taken place, it is instead whether the behaviour is unacceptable by reasonable standards and if the person on the receiving end considers it unwelcome.

Intentional harassment, not limited to protected characteristics, may also constitute a criminal offence pursuant to the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

2.2 Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment occurs where an individual is subjected to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature and where that conduct has the purpose, or the effect, of violating their dignity, or of creating for them an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Sexual harassment may also constitute a criminal offence.

2.3 Bullying

Is similar to harassment but is not restricted to the equality grounds listed at 1.6 above.

It is not the intention of the person accused that decides whether bullying has taken place, it is instead whether the behaviour is unacceptable by reasonable standards and if the person on the receiving end considers it unwelcome.

2.4 Examples of behaviour which may amount to bullying and/or harassment under this Policy include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Physical conduct such as gestures, facial expressions, assaulting a person (sexually or otherwise)
- Misogynistic behaviour
- Verbal misconduct such as derogatory comments, jokes, mimicry, singing songs
- Visual or written material such as posters, graffiti, letters, emails, text messages or social media posts
- Isolating a person (e.g. “sending them to Coventry”) or refusing to co-operate or help them at work or by excluding them from work-related social activities
- Forcing a person to take part in activities, or penalising them for rejecting such requests or pressure
- Intruding on a person’s private space by pestering, stalking or spying on them whether in or outside of the workplace.

2.5 Malicious Complaints

Although it is extremely rare, an investigation may reveal that a complaint has been made maliciously. If this happens, the person who made the complaint may face disciplinary action. It must be stressed that this should in no way deter genuine complaints of bullying or harassment.

2.6 Anonymous Complaints

Complaints received anonymously are recognised as difficult to investigate however, management will conduct as thorough an investigation as possible with the information available, which will involve notifying the accused person and the person who it is alleged has been bullied or harassed.

3. Employees' Responsibilities

- 3.1 All employees must ensure that they have read, understood and comply with this policy.
- 3.2 All employees must treat each other with dignity and respect.
- 3.3 Employees must not commit any acts of bullying or harassment against any other person, such as their co-workers, job applicants or customers.
- 3.4 All employees should discourage bullying and harassment by making it clear that they find such behaviour unacceptable and by supporting co-workers who suffer such treatment. Any employee who is aware of any incidence of harassment or bullying should alert a manager or supervisor to it.
- 3.5 All employees should understand they can be held personally liable for acts of bullying and harassment in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, job applicants, customers, suppliers and the public and that some matters may also be criminal offences.

4. Guidance to staff who feel that they are being subjected to bullying or harassment

- 4.1 If an employee considers that they are experiencing bullying or harassment, a number of options are available to them:
 - Keep a record of events and incidents
 - Get advice from the line manager, Trade Union representative or a member of the departmental HR team
 - Consider following the informal procedure outlined at 4.3 in this policy
 - Consider following the formal procedure outlined at 4.4 in this policy
- 4.2 Depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegation of bullying or harassment will be investigated under the Council's Grievance Procedure and/or Disciplinary Procedure. Any decision in respect of how the allegation will be progressed will be made in consultation with the employee.

4.3 Informal approach to resolving complaints.

This stage is an optional approach and is appropriate where the employee simply wants bullying or harassment to stop. Employees can seek to resolve matters informally by approaching the person or people concerned directly, making it clear that they consider the behaviour in question to be offensive, unwelcome and should be stopped immediately. This may be enough to resolve the situation, particularly if the person concerned was unaware that their conduct was unwanted. If it is too difficult or the employee is reluctant to do this personally, employees may request a supervisor or manager approach the person or people concerned on their behalf. There may however be occasions where an informal resolution may not be appropriate given the seriousness of the complaint or concern raised.

4.4 Making a formal complaint

An employee may elect to raise any allegation of bullying or harassment formally. The council may also determine that, due to the seriousness of the complaint or if the behaviour persists following an informal approach, that the matter should be dealt with formally.

Should an employee wish to initiate a formal complaint they should do so by notifying their line manager in writing, specifying the grounds upon which the complaint is based. If the person the employee is complaining about is their line manager, they should submit their complaint to their line manager's manager or to Departmental HR. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegation of bullying or harassment will be investigated under the Council's Grievance Procedure and/or Disciplinary Procedure. Any decision in respect of how the allegation will be progressed will be made in consultation with the employee who has complained. Employees will have the right to be accompanied by a TU representative or colleague in accordance with the aforementioned Council Procedures.

5. The Council's Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Chief Executive and Senior Management have responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy. Senior management, together with all managerial and supervisory staff have responsibility for promoting equality and for ensuring this policy is implemented.
- 5.2 The policy will be communicated to all employees through induction training.
- 5.3 Complaints of bullying and harassment must be taken seriously, dealt with promptly and confidentially and in accordance with relevant procedures.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Complaints of allegations of bullying or harassment and any related investigations and outcomes must be treated in strict confidence with only the necessary and relevant people involved as it is vital that employees who may wish to raise a complaint can be assured that the matter will be handled in the strictest confidence. Equally an employee who is accused of bullying or harassment is entitled to the same protection.

Appendix 1

Associated Policies

- Code of Conduct for Employees
- Local Government Employee & Councillor Working Relationship Protocol
- Computer Use Policy
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Gender Identity and Gender Expression - Guidance and information for all staff
- Protection of Staff from Workplace Violence and Abuse from the Public
- Social Media Policy

Associated Legislation

- The Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (as amended)
- The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended)
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended)
- The Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (as amended)
- The Northern Ireland Act 1998
- Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999
- The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
- Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

This page is intentionally left blank

Equal Opportunities Policy

Draft at March 2026

Approved Date	
Review Date	
Replaces	Equal Opportunities Policy 2004
Policy Lead (Name, Position, Contact Details)	Christine Sheridan Director of Human Resources Ext 3242
Directorate	Human Resources
Version	Three

Table of Contents

Introduction and scope	2
Definitions	3
Employees' responsibilities	4
Guidance for staff who feel they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination or victimisation	4
The Council's responsibilities	5
Appendix 1	6

1. Introduction and scope

- 1.1 The Council is committed to providing equal opportunities and promoting a good and harmonious working environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and victimisation and where all are all employees are treated with dignity and respect, and their rights are protected.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to ensure equal opportunities for employees and job applicants and a working environment in which all employees and job applicants will be treated on the basis of merit in a fair, consistent and objective manner and where unlawful discrimination and victimisation is understood to be unacceptable and individuals have the confidence to complain about it, should it arise, in the knowledge that their concerns will be dealt with promptly, appropriately and fairly and that they will not be made to feel disadvantaged in any way for having raised or pursued a concern in good faith.
- 1.3 This policy covers behaviour in any work-related setting both inside and outside the workplace, by and against fellow employees, casual workers, placement students or job applicants, during or outside of working hours, for example business trips or work-related social events or by way of electronic communication including email social media or by phone such as text message or app.
- 1.4 Northern Ireland Equality legislation provides specific protection against discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the protected grounds listed at 1.4.1 and 1.4.2, below. The Council is committed to complying with its obligations pursuant to applicable equality legislation and with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires the Council to:
- 1.4.1 Have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:
- persons of different religious belief; political opinion; racial group; age; marital status or sexual orientation;
 - men and women generally;
 - persons with a disability and persons without;
 - persons with dependants and persons without.
- 1.4.2 Promote equality irrespective of:
- Gender (including sex, pregnancy, maternity leave, and gender reassignment);
 - Marital status and civil partnership status;
 - Religious belief and / or political opinion;
 - Race and / or Ethnic Origin; (throughout this document the word “race” is interpreted in line with the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997, as amended, to include colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins. Irish Travellers are recognised by the Order as being members of a racial group.)
 - Age;
 - Sexual Orientation.

1.4.3 In addition to the protected equality grounds set out at 1.5.1 and 1.5.2 above, the Council will comply with relevant legislation as it relates to:

- Trade union membership or non-membership
- Gender identity and gender expression
- Offending background*

*for the purposes of assessing an applicant's suitability for employment purposes, consideration will be given to all relevant circumstances including the background of the offences and other disclosures, the role, and such other matters that might be considered relevant to the position concerned, e.g. the responsibility of employers for child protection, for the care of funds, resources, the public and other employees.

1.5 This policy does not form part of and is not intended to vary the employment contract. It may be amended from time to time, as necessary, in accordance with the Council's Industrial Relations Framework.

1.6 This policy applies to all employees, casual workers, students on work placements and job applicants.

1.7 This policy should be read in conjunction with the other Council policies including the Code of Conduct; Bullying and Harassment Policy, Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure, LGSC Code of Procedure on Recruitment and Selection. See Appendix 1.

2. Definitions

2.1 **Direct Discrimination** occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another on the protected grounds set out at 1.4 above.

2.2 **Indirect Discrimination** occurs where a provision, criterion or practice is applied, which although equally applied to others, has the effect of disadvantaging a particular group of people, and cannot be justified.

2.3 **Victimisation** occurs when a person is treated less favourably than others because that person has, for instance, complained of alleged discrimination or has assisted someone to do so.

2.4 **Harassment** is unlawful and is defined as occurring when a person engages in unwanted conduct which is connected to the protected characteristics of another person and which has the purpose or effect of violating their dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Further information can be found in the Bullying and Harassment Policy.

3. Employees' Responsibilities

- 3.1 All employees must ensure that they have read, understood and comply with this policy.
- 3.2 All employees must treat each other with dignity and respect.
- 3.3 Employees must not commit any acts of unlawful discrimination or victimisation against any other person, such as their co-workers, job applicants or customers.
- 3.4 Any employee who is aware of any incident of unlawful discrimination or victimisation is encouraged to bring it to the attention of a manager or supervisor.
- 3.5 Allegations of unlawful discrimination or victimisation may be investigated in accordance with the Council's disciplinary and/ or grievance procedure and may result in a sanction up to and including dismissal.
- 3.6 All staff should understand they can be held personally liable for acts of unlawful discrimination or victimisation in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, customers, suppliers and the public and that some matters may also be criminal offences.

4. Guidance to staff who feel that they are being subjected to unlawful discrimination or victimisation

- 4.1 If an employee considers that they are experiencing unlawful discrimination or victimisation, a number of options are available to them:
 - Keep a record of events and incidents
 - Get advice from their line manager, Trade Union representative or a member of the departmental HR team
 - Consider following the informal procedure outlined at 4.3 in this policy
 - Consider following the formal procedure outlined at 4.4 in this policy.
- 4.2 Depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegation of unlawful discrimination or victimisation will be investigated under the Council's Grievance Procedure and/or Disciplinary Procedure. Any decision in respect of how the allegation will be progressed will be made in consultation with the employee who has complained.
- 4.3 Informal approach to resolving complaints.

This stage is appropriate where the employee simply wants the unlawful discrimination or victimisation to stop. Employees can seek to resolve matters informally by approaching the person or people concerned directly, making it clear that they consider the behaviour in question to be offensive, unwelcome and should be stopped immediately. This may be enough to resolve the situation, particularly if the person concerned was unaware that their conduct was unwanted. If it is too difficult or the employee is reluctant to do this personally, employees may request a supervisor or manager approach the person or people concerned on their behalf. Employees should understand that this informal approach is optional.

There may however be occasions where an informal resolution may not be appropriate given the seriousness of the complaint or concern raised.

4.4 Making a formal complaint.

An employee may elect to raise any allegation of discrimination or victimisation formally. The council may also determine that, due to the seriousness of the complaint or, if the behaviour persists following an informal approach, that the matter should be dealt with formally.

Should an employee wish to initiate a formal complaint they should do so by notifying their line manager in writing, specifying the grounds upon which the complaint is based. If the person the employee is complaining about is their line manager, they should submit their complaint to their line manager's manager or to Departmental HR. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the allegation of discrimination or victimisation will be investigated under the Council's Grievance Procedure and/or Disciplinary Procedure. Employees will have the right to be accompanied by a TU representative or colleague in accordance with the aforementioned Council Procedures.

- 4.5 If it becomes apparent that a complaint is deliberately false, frivolous, malicious or vexatious, and is not due to a misunderstanding or genuine mistake, it will be treated as a serious matter and may lead to disciplinary action.

5. The Council's Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Chief Executive and Senior Management have responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy and any relevant associated legislative duties. Senior management, together with all managerial and supervisory staff have responsibility for promoting equality and for ensuring this policy is implemented.
- 5.2 The policy will be communicated to all employees through induction training.
- 5.3 Complaints must be taken seriously, dealt with promptly and confidentially and in accordance with relevant procedures.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Complaints and any related investigations and outcomes must be treated in strict confidence with only the necessary and relevant people involved as it is vital that employees who may wish to raise a complaint can be assured that the matter will be handled in the strictest confidence.

7. Commitment to Equality Monitoring and Proactive Measures

We will monitor our workforce composition and undertake periodic reviews as required by the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 as well as carry out regular voluntary employee monitoring exercises. We will review recruitment and promotion outcomes and take proactive steps to reduce inequalities.

APPENDIX 1

Associated Council Policies

- Code of Conduct for Employees
- Local Government Employee & Councillor Working Relationship Protocol
- Computer Use Policy
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure
- Bullying and Harassment Policy Gender Identity and Gender Expression - Guidance and information for all staff
- Protection of Staff from Workplace Violence and Abuse from the Public
- Social Media Policy

Associated Legislation

- The Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (as amended)
- The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended)
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended)
- The Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (as amended)
- The Northern Ireland Act 1998
- Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999
- The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
- Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006



Subject:	Sustain Exchange Climate Leadership Event - Funding Agreement
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 													
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Committee of a proposal by the non-profit Management and Leadership Network (MLN) to host a prominent climate leadership event ‘Sustain Exchange’ with up to 300 decision-makers attending. • Request approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between Belfast City Council and the event organiser to the value of £10,140. The event will put the challenges, opportunities and absolute need for positive action associated with climate change on the agenda for local organisations and leaders.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider support for this climate leadership conference by approving a funding agreement to the value of £10,140 be entered into with the event organiser.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	It is now beyond doubt that organisations of all shapes, sizes and sectors need to radically reduce their environmental impact both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. The extreme weather experienced across the globe over the past twelve months has further evidenced the reality that the effects of climate change are being felt and the need for decisive action from organisations, championed by their leaders, is now. We are fast approaching the point of no return.
3.2	It is a truly transformative time for organisations as they address climate risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy. The transition is not straightforward. Organisations need help in developing planet positive practices, securing cleaner power, heat and transport solutions. They need help in navigating new markets to find more environmentally sustainable solutions in their supply chain, and they need to do it fast. There has never been a more important time to find specialist help to navigate the transition, and to educate, inform and engage by sharing the existing knowledge and exemplar experience of those at the forefront of the transition.
	Purpose and format of event
3.3	The Sustain Exchange Summit will deliver on the objectives above and will connect local decision-makers with international thought leaders as well as those at the forefront of the transition locally.

3.4	<p>The event is expected to attract some 300 local leaders (primarily business leaders but also those from the public, NDPB and third sectors) to a Belfast city centre venue with strong public transport links to ensure the carbon footprint of the event is kept to a minimum. The Sustain Exchange Summit will ensure the messages around the need and importance of positive climate action are heard and that the Council's proactivity in this area will be strongly profiled before and during the event.</p>
3.5	<p>Content</p> <p>Previous speakers at this event have included the eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator Sir Jonathan Porritt CBE, Norman Crowley (global entrepreneur and founder of CoolPlanet), Sir Tim Smit KBE (Founder of The Eden Project and world-renowned thought leader in sustainability) and John Elkington (the global godfather of sustainability and creator of the triple bottom line concept). The 2026 Sustain Exchange Summit will again be delivered to a world-class standard and will feature globally-renowned speakers (Mary Robinson is the first in-person speaker to be confirmed). The speakers will encourage and empower attending organisations to consider their own climate impact and take the first (or next) steps in their quest to become 'planet positive'. Previous local speakers at this event have demonstrated how leaders from humble beginnings in Belfast have become game-changers in their respective fields. These include the likes of Dr Andrew Woods from Catagen (Sustain Exchange 2022), Eddie McGoldrick from The Electric Storage Company (Sustain Exchange 2021), Philip Rainey from Weev (Sustain Exchange 2023), Dr Katrina Thompson from Artemis Technologies (Sustain Exchange 2024) and Stephen Dunn from CarbonFit (Sustain Exchange 2025). The 2026 event will once again showcase how leaders from Belfast are leading the charge when it comes to the quest to avoid what is now a 'code red for humanity'. In doing this, MLN plans to galvanise existing businesses to act and to inspire the next cohort of planet positive pioneers to emerge from our city.</p> <p>The event will also provide the opportunity to make the broader leadership community in NI aware of the proactive work of Belfast City Council when it comes to the climate emergency.</p>
3.6	<p>Management and Leadership Network Experience</p> <p>The Management and Leadership Network (MLN) is a non-profit which exists to connect decision-makers in NI with the insights of thought-leaders and world-class performers. The rationale is that by enhancing our leadership competence, we will empower local organisations, strengthen our economy, enrich our society and ultimately improve lives.</p>
3.7	<p>MLN has worked with some of the most respected leaders on the planet and is vastly experienced in creating and delivering truly world-class events that engage, enrich and</p>

	<p>elevate attendees. As host, MLN will facilitate the event and invite all speakers to provide their slides in advance so that the idea-sharing session is delivered in a concise, visually impactful and professional manner. Belfast City Council would once again be invited to participate and profile its extensive climate work i.e. the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap for Belfast, Belfast Resilience Strategy, Belfast Climate Commission, One Million Trees Programme etc.</p>
3.8	<p>The Sustain Exchange Summit will take place on 23rd October 2026. The total cost of the project will be in excess of £75k. Belfast City Council has been a key partner in the Sustain Exchange Summit since its inception in 2021 and its support has been crucial in the growth of the initiative and its impact. In order to reduce the financial cost to Belfast City Council and increase collaboration, MLN will seek financial support from additional sources to include the private sector. MLN will give previous sponsors the opportunity to remain as partners. These have included Belfast-based organisations such as Danske Bank, AAB, CarbonFit, International Synergies (circular economy specialists), Belfast Harbour and Mills Selig Solicitors. As well as demonstrating real collaboration, these partnerships have allowed MLN to reduce Belfast City Council’s financial contribution from £10,000+vat in 2021 to £10,140 in 2026.</p>
	<p>Partner Contribution & Profile Benefits</p>
3.9	<p>Should Belfast City Council choose to support the Summit, it would be profiled as an ‘Event Partner’ alongside several other lead event partners (examples given in 3.5). The Council brand would be prominent on all event marketing collateral as well as ‘at-event’. A Council representative would be invited to participate in the event press launch and MLN would be delighted for the Lord Mayor of Belfast to speak at the event. Council would also promote the conference through its social media and other relevant communication channels.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>Should Members approve sponsorship of the Sustain Exchange Climate Leadership event, £10,140 will be allocated from within the existing Climate Programme budget.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.11	<p>There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Horizon Cities@Heart Project
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Horizon Europe Cities@Heart project which successfully secured funding through the Horizon Europe 'Innovation Health Initiative' programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report including the intention to enter into a MOU with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to their role in supporting the work required

	from a Belfast perspective, as set out at para 3.6 below, and the proportionate allocation of the €75,000 grant funding secured from Cities@Heart for administration.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that at its meeting on the 21 November 2025, the Committee was updated on the continued work of council officials with QUB and Belfast Healthy Cities colleagues to input to a joint funding submission to the Horizon Europe Innovative Health Initiative grant funding call. The intention was to develop and submit an overall €15million funding bid across seven cities (named Cities@Heart) to enable work to be undertaken with the WHO Healthy Cities Network and innovative technology with the aim of reducing recognised cardiovascular risk factors in order to more effectively manage risk and prevent future cardiovascular events.
3.2	The Cities@Heart proposal focuses on obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes as key drivers of cardiovascular disease and poor health. It seeks to improve awareness, prevention, detection and management of cardiovascular disease. The intention is to identify effective public health activities which offer potential to scale-up. The project will also seek to develop and deploy strategies to leverage engagement and citizen empowerment, raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, effective prevention, early detection and optimal management to improve outcomes.
3.3	The bid involves a range of representatives including public sector, academia and industry experts from across seven municipalities including Izmir (TR), Belfast (NI), Łódź (PL), Cork (IE), Udine (IT), Birmingham (EN) and Utrecht (NL). Each have diverse communities and a commitment to deploy multi-disciplinary health strategies and specific interventions.
3.4	Members will be aware of the significant health challenges, including cardiovascular disease, impacting on people across the city and will also be aware that addressing health inequalities has been identified as a key priority set out in the Belfast Agenda. It is intended that the Cities@Heart project would build connections and capacity across a broad array of stakeholders, including citizens, patients, municipalities, healthcare providers, policymakers and industry experts, and support the next generation of health technology to address critical barriers in card
3.5	<u>Current position</u> In January 2026, confirmation was given that the Cities@Heart consortium submission was successful and the €15million funding bid secured. As part of the submission the Council and Belfast Healthy Cities has secured €75,000 for 3 years to assist with the overall administration and input into the emerging programme. It is important to highlight however, that there will be future opportunities for Belfast to develop specific funding bids into the overall €15million programme to support specific Belfast based prototyping or demonstrator projects. Any such bids will be developed in liaison with the other city partners involved (e.g. Healthy Cities, QUB, BHSCT, Public Health Authority and importantly community stakeholders). Any proposed bids would be brought into SP&R Committee for consideration and input in advance of submission.

3.6	As previously highlighted to Members, the Council is working closely with Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) in relation to their role in supporting the work required from a Belfast perspective including, but not limited to, ensuring all relevant city partners are engaged in the developmental work required, capturing and disseminating key information and data, ensuring effective communication and dissemination of key information (e.g. progress updates, key milestones, funding opportunities available to Belfast etc), as well as assisting with the administration, coordination and programme management of Belfast's participation in the overall programme. As Members will be aware the Council shall enter into a MOU with Belfast Healthy Cities to set out how both parties will work together on the project and how the initial €75,000 administration will be allocated.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	€75,000 grant funding has been secured as part of the overall bid to support the administration of Belfast involvement in the project. Future funding opportunities may become available as part of the implementation of the Cities@Heart programme and any associated Belfast focused bids which may be considered would remain subject to future Committee consideration in advance of submission.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	City Innovation programme update
Date:	24 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet, Transport & Open Spaces and Street Scene Mark McCann, City Innovation Manager

Restricted Reports					
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 					
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?					
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 25px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on a number of City Innovation programme initiatives including Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors' Challenge competition.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the outline workplan for the Belfast City Council Alleyways programme (developed in accordance with the Bloomberg's processes) and the intention to engage with Mid-Falls Alleyways Regeneration group. 2. To approve a budget contribution for a Connected Places Catapult twelve-month embedded role within the Council who will support work on SME scaling and commercialisation associated with City Deal and similar innovation investments.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors' Challenge update Following Belfast City Council acceptance of a letter of offer (for approx. £750,000) from Bloomberg Philanthropies, work is now underway to design, in collaboration with Bloomberg's facilitators, a two-year programme that will put in place a new sustainable, Belfast City Council 'Alleyway Service Commitment' that's responsive and supportive of the individual needs and ambitions of neighbourhoods across the city.
3.2	As part of the letter of offer Belfast City Council is committed to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By June 2026 – recruit a programme manager who will lead on the development of this new integrated Council approach and report to a new programme board with direct accountability to the chief executive. - By July 2026 – Completion of a Bloomberg-approved implementation plan and budget with work-packages that will support the council and its partners to work towards this ambition. This is likely to include activities such as service modelling, baselining costs and savings, testing data gathering and engagement approaches, piloting approaches such as provision of training, materials and possibly microgrants; and working towards a final long-term service proposal for Council to consider by Spring 2028. - By January 1, 2028 completion and approval of the long-term sustainability plan. - By Spring 2028 – transforming up to 20 miles of alleyways with interventions that will range for the modest to the transformational.
3.3	At March Committee Members requested that officers consider how the Bloomberg programme might support an application for £70,000 from Mid-Falls Alleyway Regeneration. As this new Council programme is developed it will be important for officers to work closely with those residents and neighbourhoods that have the capability and interest in alleyway transformation. As such officers will be seeking to engage with Mid-Falls Alleyway Regeneration to help inform

	the new programmes and the range of tools and interventions that reflects the project's long term sustainability ambitions.
3.4	<p>Connected Places Catapult Embedded role</p> <p>The City Innovation Office and City Deal Programme Office have been approached by the Connected Places Catapult with the offer of providing a twelve-month Catapult officer to be embedded with Belfast City Council. The Catapult is establishing similar posts in city regions across the UK, including Scotland and Wales, with the aim of helping regions to best maximise the impact of innovation-style investments such as City Deal.</p>
3.5	The person would be a Connected Places Catapult member of staff but would be based in Belfast City Council and work with a group of local stakeholders to manage a workplan based on local needs. This would include supporting pathways to scaling, commercialisation and investment by local SMEs engaged in City Deal initiatives. And working with public procurement teams from councils to enhance our role as first customers for innovation.
3.6	Connected Places Catapult are proposing to contribute £45,000 for the post; with an additional contribution of £20,000 being offered by Belfast Region City Deal partners. Members are asked to approve a £25,000 contribution from Belfast City Council to ensure that there is the requisite match funding.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	<p>Bloomberg Philanthropies will provide funding of \$1.2 million for a two-year programme which includes funding for a Project Manager.</p> <p>Other expenditure has been identified within existing departmental budgets.</p>
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	Equality and Rural screenings will be completed as part of the Bloomberg programme design process.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Potential Additional Funding from Special EU Programmes Body – Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans
Date:	24 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager Debbie McKinney, Programme Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To report to committee on the availability of additional in Year Funding from the Special European Union Programme Body (SEUPB) for 2026.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Committee agrees to the approach detailed in the body of the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Following a meeting with SEUPB on 2 nd April 2026 Councils were informed that there was a significant underspend within SEUPB, which potentially could be decommitted by EU. SEUPB are seeking proposals from Councils for activity that could be spent by September 2026 and claimed within the 3 rd quarter of the financial year. Projects should be linked to existing Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan, as any additional agreed proposal will require a modification to the current Local Action Plan Letter of Offer
	<u>Approach</u>
3.2	Officers have discussed this and considering the truncated timeline there are a number of project/programmes that have the potential to complete and spend within this small window of time: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleadh Cheoil 2026 Programme • Forth Meadow Greenway Signage • Positive Cultural Expression (Beacons)
3.3	All the above can be aligned with the current PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, and Council has the opportunity to bid for funds in the region of €2 - 3 million.
3.4	To progress this opportunity further it is proposed that Officers engage directly with SEUPB to formally submit a proposal for additional funding for this year and to explore potential options for 2027.
3.5	Members should note that SEUPB indicated that the level of participation will be proportion / reasonable, and that compliance with programme requirements is required, although in some instances, it may be lighter touch.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	All financial implications are covered as the additional funding will be provided at 100%. The main resource pressure for Council will be Officer time, to ensure a successful proposal and compliance.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	The current Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan has been equality screened and will promote good relations and will enhance equality peace, reconciliation and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Update on Social Supermarket Fund 26/28
Date:	24 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer Community Provision

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Is this report eligible for call in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide an update for members in relation to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 and seek members agreement in relation to the allocation of financial resources.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and agree the allocation of funding to Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 applicants.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At February committee officers provided an update on the assessment of applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28. Members agreed the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the allocation of 25 per-cent bridging funding for those groups which scored 50% and above, in advance of receiving the DfC LoO so that activity could begin from 1st April, 2026. • that a report be submitted to the Committee within the next three months to confirm the Department for Communities budget, outline how the remaining 75 per cent of funding could be allocated, together with options on how the three groups which had eligible funding but scored below 50% could be assisted <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.2 On 10th April 2026, Council received the Community Support Programme Letter of Offer from the Department of Communities. This included £777,811 for the Social Supermarket Fund. At its February meeting committee agreed an allocation of 25% for all applications scoring 50% and above which was £207,562. If this 25% award was increased to 100% a budget of £830,249 would be required. The Letter of Offer does not provide sufficient funding to make awards at 100% to all projects scoring 50 and above, there is a shortfall of £52,437.</p> <p>3.3 The Letter of Offer provides sufficient funding to award 94% of eligible costs to all projects scoring 50. This level of award requires £780,434 and does not require any additional allocation from council budgets.</p> <p>3.4 Officers have been in contact with the three organisations that scored below 50% to explore what support can be given and signpost to other funders and relevant support services who can provide support to existing users.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	The Letter of Offer from DFC provides £777,811. Social Supermarkets are primarily funded through the CSP Letter of Offer, although council has made additional contributions in recent years to provide additional levels of financial support.
3.6	Members agreed last September that although funding is primarily from DfC the Social Supermarket Fund should be advertised on a two year basis rather than one. Applications to the fund were for activity from 01 April 2026 until 31 March 2028. Organisations will only receive a Letter of Offer for 26/27 initially. A paper will be brought to committee in January 27 to advise of the financial position in terms of available funding for 27/28.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	The 26/28 Social Supermarket Fund open call is being screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached or None
	Appendix I – Level of Award for Applicants

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1 – Social Supermarket Fund (Level of Award)

Name	Value Sought	Eligible funding	Total Funding Award (94%)	Funding Awarded by committee 200226 (25%)
Footprints Women's Centre	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Storehouse NI	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Donegall Pass Community Forum	£50,000.00	£42,000.00	£39,480.00	£10,500.00
Upper Springfield Development Trust	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Ligoniel Improvement Association	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
The Parent Rooms	£49,750.00	£11,748.00	£11,043.12	£2,937.00
Disability Action	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Ashton Community Trust	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Phoenix Education Centre	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Southcity Resource and Development Centre	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Loughview Community Action Partnership	£49,936.00	£49,936.00	£46,939.84	£12,484.00
Forward South Partnership	£48,261.95	£48,261.95	£45,366.23	£12,065.49
The Vine Centre	£49,855.00	£49,855.00	£46,863.70	£12,463.75
Falls Women's Centre	£24,900.00	£8,300.00	£7,802.00	£2,075.00
West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB)	£49,808.96	£49,808.96	£46,820.42	£12,452.24
Castle Community Trust	£50,000.00	£38,890.00	£36,556.60	£9,722.50
In this together	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
Glencolin Residents Association	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£14,100.00	£3,750.00
BLACKIE RIVER COMMUNITY GROUPS	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£47,000.00	£12,500.00
HERe NI	£16,449.17	£16,449.17	£15,462.22	£4,112.29
Total			£780,434.14	£207,562.27

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Planning Information
Date:	25 April 2026
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.

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

	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at April 2026
--	--

	Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at April 2026
--	---

This page is intentionally left blank

Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 14.04.26

Number	Application No.	Category	Location	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date	Status
1	LA04/2023/3799/F	Major	Vacant lands (partial site of the former Wolfhill Flax Spinning Mill) located to the south, of Wolfhill Manor, north of Wolfhill Grove and west of Mill Avenue, Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8NR	New single storey 10-class based primary school, separate nursery school accommodation and school meals accommodation to facilitate the relocation of St. Vincent De Paul Primary School and Nursery from existing site on Ligoniel Road, Belfast. Proposal includes new pedestrian and vehicular accesses onto Mill Avenue, car parking, covered cycle storage area and hard play areas. Hard and soft landscaping including wildlife walkway, fencing, retaining walls, underground drainage system to include the reinstatement of underground storm sewer and headwall into adjacent DFI River wayleave. Includes temporary contractors compound and all associated site works.	09-Oct-23	06-May-24	Under Consideration
2	LA04/2023/4181/F	Major	Lands comprising the existing Sydenham Wastewater Pumping Station west of Park Avenue, Connswater River and King George V Playing Fields, to the south of the Sydenham By-Pass, east of The Oval football stadium, north and east of Parkgate Gardens and north of Parkgate Crescent, Parkgate Parade and Mersey Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS) with reinstatement of site as a landscaped area. Construction of a replacement WwPS including associated control building and hardstanding, the raising of site levels, in-channel works, provision of new rising main, other ancillary buildings, the creation of an access road on lands within the King George V Playing Fields to serve the facility, landscaping and other ancillary works. Provision of a temporary working area on lands within the King George V Playing Fields, the creation of a temporary access road from Mersey Street to facilitate construction traffic on lands to the rear of 1-35 Parkgate Gardens, the creation of a temporary footway adjacent to 88 Park Avenue and other ancillary development and landscaping restoration works.	14-Nov-23	11-Jun-24	Under Consideration
3	LA04/2024/0570/F	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP	Change of use of an existing hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	Under Consideration
4	LA04/2024/0569/O	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castleview Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and rear of 160 Barnetts Road, Belfast (amended address)	Outline planning permission with all matter reserved for independent living (Use Class C1) units and up to 62no. assisted living units (Use Class C3), associated internal access roads, communal open space, revised access from Castleview Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping and demolition of dwellings at Castleview Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30) and Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22) (amended description).	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	Under Consideration
5	LA04/2024/0910/F	Major	70 Whitewell Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7ES Site at Hazelwood Integrated College	Redevelopment of Hazelwood Integrated College to include demolition of existing building and development of new school campus, new sports pitch, outdoor play areas, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and retention and refurbishment of the Listed Building (Graymount House) and other associated site works including a temporary mobile village during the construction process.	23-May-24	19-Dec-24	Under Consideration
6	LA04/2024/2024/RM	Major	Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, the Kings Hall, 488-516 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GW	41no. retirement living apartments at Plot 6, parking and landscaping in accordance with outline planning permission LA04/2020/0845/O, seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping details	18-Dec-24	16-Jul-25	Under Consideration

7	LA04/2025/0012/F	Major	Lands at the Waterworks Park, located off the Cavehill Road; and lands at Alexandra Park, located between Castleton Gardens and Deacon Street; extending along Castleton Gardens and Camberwell Terrace to the road junction approximately 30 metres to the north west of 347 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2HF	<p>Refurbishment and safety work to the Waterworks upper and lower reservoirs, and Alexandra Park Lake reservoir, to be complemented with wider environmental, landscape and connectivity improvements.</p> <p>The reservoir works comprise of a new overflow structure with reinforcement and protection of the return embankment parallel to the by-wash channel at Waterworks Upper reservoir. Repairs to the upstream face of Waterworks Lower reservoir with the addition of wetland planting to reduce the overall capacity of the reservoir. Removal of an existing parapet wall and embankment reinforcement at the Alexandra Park Lake reservoir.</p> <p>Improvements at Waterworks Park comprise the demolition of the existing Waterworks Bothy and replacement with a new building to include public toilets, Changing facilities, multi-purpose community room and kitchenette. Extension to existing Cavehill Road gatehouse building. Entrance improvements, new events space including multipurpose decking; resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; a dog park; replacement platforms and viewing area. New 3-on-3 basketball court; replacement surface to existing small sided 3G pitch; and upgrades to existing Queen Mary's playground.</p> <p>Improvements at Alexandra Park include the resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; new reinforced grass event space; new lake viewing area; new public toilets and changing places; entrance improvements. 2no existing bridges replaced; new pedestrian entrance; reimagined peace wall; new multi-sport synthetic surface with cover; and upgrades to existing play parks.</p> <p>Streetscape improvements along Camberwell Terrace and Castleton Gardens include resurfacing of footways with new kerbs; resurfaced carriageways and new tactile paving at pedestrian crossings; and all associated works.</p>	20-Dec-24	18-Jul-25	Under Consideration
8	LA04/2024/2134/F	Major	Site of the former Dunmurry Cricket Club, Ashley Park, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0QQ, located north of 1-10 Ashley Park and south of 1-20 Areema Grove and Areema Drive, Dunmurry.	Mixed use scheme for new community recreational facilities, including basketball court, parkland and residential development comprising 37no social/affordable housing units with landscaping and associated works.	21-Dec-24	19-Jul-25	Under Consideration
9	LA04/2024/2145/F	Major	Lands at North Foreshore / Giant's Park Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9LZ	Creation of a new Adventure Park comprising a community / visitor hub building including café, creche, flexible exhibition / community space, ancillary office space and maintenance yard. Development includes community gardens, bmx track, crazy golf, dog park, walking/running/cycle paths, outdoor amphitheatre, bio diversity zones, and recreational facilities. Associated landscaping and infrastructure (drainage, lighting, car / coach parking, WC block etc).	15-Jan-25	13-Aug-25	Under Consideration
10	LA04/2025/0184/O	Major	38-52 Lisburn Road, Malone Lower, Belfast, BT9 6AA	Seven storey building (39.3m AOD) mixed use development comprising of Use Class B1 (c): Business, Research & Development and Use Class, D1: Community and Cultural Uses, including landscaping, and servicing (Amended Description).	10-Feb-25	08-Sep-25	Under Consideration
11	LA04/2025/0088/F	Major	Lands adjacent and south west of Monagh By-pass, north west of Nos. 17, 19 and 22 Black Ridge Gardens and c.150 metres south east of Nos. 38 to 70 (evens) Black Ridge View (part of the wider Glenmona mixed-use development), Belfast	Proposed mixed use development (in lieu of the previously approved employment zone under LA04/2020/0804/F) comprising a three storey building of 36 no. Category 1 (over 55's) social housing apartments and 7 no. single storey Class B1/B2 Business/Light Industrial Units. Development includes 2 no. access points, car parking, landscaping and all associated site works	17-Feb-25	15-Sep-25	Under Consideration

12	LA04/2025/0974/F	Major	Site to the south of the former Knockbreda High School. Lands bounded by the A55 Upper Knockbreda Road to the south and south-east, Wynchurch Road to the north-east, Knockbreda Primary School to the north and Knockbreda Park to the west.	Development of a new primary school building for Forge Integrated Primary School. including development of a nursery unit, hard and soft play areas, landscaping, car parking, internal drop-off areas and new access arrangements onto the A55 Knockbreda Road via a new signalised junction; demolition of no. 138a Knockbreda Park and associated site works	04-Jun-25	31-Dec-25	Under Consideration
13	LA04/2025/2013/F	Major	Netherleigh House, 1 Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP	Change of use of Netherleigh House and existing office block to provide residential and nursing care facilities. Extensions to existing office block including a fourth storey floor, eastern and western gable extension and two front projections from the northern elevation. Erection of 36 no. assisted living apartments over two four storey blocks. Site parking, landscaped amenity areas, woodland trails and all associated site works	18-Nov-25	16-Jun-26	Under Consideration
14	LA04/2025/2018/F	Major	Lands at Donegall Quay, Tomb St. to north of Albert Square, Gamble St. to south of Corporation Sq, Little Patrick St. to east of Nelson St. & under the M3 bridge at Donegall Quay and Corporation St., Belfast, BT1 1AA	Public realm and road improvements including development of urban recreation space below the M3 flyover at Corporation Street / Tomb Street and new public space below the M3 flyover at Donegall Quay.	19-Nov-25	17-Jun-26	Under Consideration
15	LA04/2025/1991/F	Major	Makro, 97 Kingsway, Belfast, BT17 9NS	Subdivision of the existing cash and carry building and the change of use of 4,750 sq,m gross floorspace for use as a Class A1 retail; erection of new loading bay in service yard; minor external alterations to building; reconfiguration of car park.	03-Dec-25	01-Jul-26	Under Consideration
16	LA04/2025/2096/F	Major	Land adjacent to Quay Gate House 15 Scrabo Street Belfast BT5 4D: footpaths and public realm at Scrabo Street Station Street and Middlepath Street.	Variation of Condition 5 of Planning Permission LA04/2019/2387/F relating to Noise Impact Assessment.	04-Dec-25	02-Jul-26	Under Consideration
Page 5899	LA04/2025/2113/F	Major	St. Marys Christian Brothers Grammar School St Marys Christian Brothers Grammar School 147a Glen Road, Andersonstown, Belfast, BT11 8NR	The construction of a new Sports Hall, Gymnasium and P.E Facility and footbridge connecting to existing GAA playing field	09-Dec-25	07-Jul-26	Under Consideration
18	LA04/2025/2033/F	Major	The Maynard Sinclair Pavilion Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3TA	Variation of conditions, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25 and 27 of planning approval LA04/2023/2459/F to allow for phasing of the development.	12-Dec-25	10-Jul-26	Under Consideration
19	LA04/2026/0007/F	Major	Lands at Belfast YMCA, Knightsbridge Park, Stranmillis, Belfast. To the east of Nos. 15; 17; 19; 25; 27; 29; and 35 Knightsbridge Manor. South of Nos. 26 to 34 (evens) Knightsbridge Manor, Nos. 65; 66; and 68 Vauxhall Park, and Nos. 15 and 17 Marylebone Park. West of Nos. 35 and 38 Sharman Drive, and Nos. 39 and 42 Sharman Park, Belfast	Proposed mixed-use development comprising 3G playing pitch with floodlighting; Children's Play Area; Trim Trail; Car Parking; and 24 No. Dwelling Units including a mix of detached, semi-detached and apartment house types. The development also includes site access, internal roads, landscaping and pumping station and all other associated site and access works.	17-Dec-25	15-Jul-26	Under Consideration
20	LA04/2025/2215/F	Major	Halifax Building, 24 Cromac Place, Building, BT7 2JB	Proposed change of use from offices to nursing home comprising 156 no. bedrooms, ancillary scanning unit and all associated accommodation including dining/ café areas, day rooms and lounges, hairdressers, cinema rooms, treatment rooms and internal courtyard. The proposal also includes ancillary offices, landscaping, cycle parking, external alterations and all other site and associated works.	19-Dec-25	17-Jul-26	Under Consideration

21	LA04/2025/2210/O	Major	Lands to the east of Corporation Street, north of Donegall Quay, west and south of Clarendon Dock, south, east and south west of Pilot Street, and south and south east of Corry Road, Belfast (amended address)	<p>Hybrid planning permission is being sought for the following development:</p> <p>Outline Planning Application (no matters reserved) for Plots A & B to provide 456No. residential units (apartments) and 1,600sqm of ground floor commercial uses including retail (Class A1), Financial and Professional (Class A2), Community and Cultural Uses (Class D1), Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), and café, bar and restaurant uses, landscaping, open space, play equipment, public realm improvements and all associated site and access works including servicing from Corporation Street.</p> <p>Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved) for Plots C, D, E and F for a mixed-use development comprising residential (apartments and dwellings), a Hotel/Apart Hotel, ground floor commercial uses including retail (Class A1), Financial and Professional (Class A2), Community and Cultural Uses (Class D1), Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), and café, bar and restaurant uses, the change of use (principle only) to the listed Clarendon Building, Furnace House and Pump House (to include cafe and restaurant uses), re-purposing of Clarendon Dock for leisure uses and all associated site, access and infrastructure works.</p>	27-Jan-26	25-Aug-26	Under Consideration
22	LA04/2026/0282/F	Major	29-33 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ	Renewal of application reference LA04/2020/0659/F - Refurbishment of existing four storey terrace including alteration, extension to rear, partial demolition and reinstatement. Part change of use from art galleries to two cafes at ground floor. Retention of offices within existing building at second, third and fourth floor. Erection of new 13 storey aparthotel building to rear and associated works including public realm improvements	13-Feb-26	11-Sep-26	Under Consideration
23	LA04/2026/0291/F	Major	Lands to the north of No. 33 and No. 35 Hampton Park, Galwally, Belfast, BT7 3JP and to the west of Lowry Court, 27 Hampton Park, Galwally, Belfast, BT7 3JY and to the south of 7 and 8 Mornington, Galwally, Belfast, BT7 3JS.	Application to Vary Condition 6 of Z/2007/1401/F (Contamination)	17-Feb-26	15-Sep-26	Under Consideration
24	LA04/2026/0496/F	Major	Lands at 3-9 Dalton Street, (bordered by Middlepath Street and Bridge End), Belfast, BT5 4BA	Proposed construction of 325no. apartments, residents' gym and 4no. retail units with associated car parking and landscaping (amendment to previously approved application LA04/2018/2649/F).	19-Mar-26	15-Oct-26	Under Consideration
25	LA04/2026/0515/F	Major	All Saints College Glen Road, Belfast and lands to the rear of Hamill Park and Nos 151 to 165A Glen Road (former Cross & Passion school site).	Proposed construction of a new post-primary school campus on the former Cross & Passion site, with associated landscaping, play areas, new access road, parking and all other associated works. The proposal also includes the demolition of the existing All Saints Glen Road Campus buildings and redevelopment of the site to include new playing fields, changing pavilion and associated parking.	20-Mar-26	16-Oct-26	Under Consideration
26	LA04/2026/0442/F	Major	Land at D3 adjacent to the RSPB Reserve Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9DY	Revisions to terrestrial elements of Planning Permission ref. LA04/2016/0421/F (Construction of a new multi-purpose berthing facility at D3) comprising upgrade of existing access track along northeastern boundary of site and installation of associated street lighting/parking area; additional security hut; relocation and extension of main cruise terminal building and associated parking/drop-off areas with covered walkways; additional baggage building; and other associated site works in respect of lighting, landscaping and ancillary infrastructure. Retention of approved cruise quay with minor relocation of mooring dolphins, 25m wide piled relieving slab along quay length, associated hardstanding on hinterland, tower lights (with one to be relocated), security hut, access road adjacent to RSPB lands and other ancillary works.	24-Mar-26	20-Oct-26	Under Consideration

27	LA04/2026/0340/F	Major	The Edge, 1 Frederick Street, Belfast, BT1 2LW	Proposed change of use of 144 no. PBMSA units to short term let accommodation outside of term time only.	30-Mar-26	26-Oct-26	Under Consideration
----	------------------	-------	---	---	-----------	-----------	---------------------

This page is intentionally left blank

Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 14 Apr 2026

Decision Description	Totals
Application Withdrawn	15
Consent Granted	1
Consent Refused	
Permission Granted	16
Permission Refused	2
Total	34

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Category	Date Valid	Statutory Target Date	Statutory Target Weeks	Current number of Weeks	Committee Date	Weeks between Valid date and Comm date	Weeks Since Committee	Previous New Non-statutory Target Date	New Non-statutory Target Date	Reason decision not issued
LA04/2022/2059/F	Lands south of 56 Highcairn Drive Belfast BT13 3RU Site located at junction between Highcairn Drive and Dunboyne Park Belfast.	Social Housing Development comprising of 12 no. 3p/2b semi-detached dwelling houses with incurtilage parking and associated site works. (amended description and site location plan)	LOC	04-Nov-22	17-Feb-23	15	180	29/06/2023	33	145	31/03/2026	31/05/2026	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement - land ownership issues on the applicant's side
LA04/2024/0369/F	Lands at Former Monarch Laundry site, and Broadway Hall Site, No's 451 - 457 Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 6HD.	Proposed Specialist Nursing and Residential Care Facility comprising approximately 158 no. beds, day/dining rooms, treatment rooms, staff rooms, office/store rooms, including car parking provision, cycle parking, refuse storage, landscaping, and associated site and access works.	MAJ	08-Feb-24	05-Sep-24	30	114	12/11/2024	39	74			Permission Granted
LA04/2023/2557/F	Lands East of Meadowhill, North of Glencolin Court, North and East of Glencolin Rise, East of Glencolin Grove, North and West of Glen Road Rise, and North of Glen Road Grove. Belfast.	260 no. dwellings, children's play area and other ancillary and associated works.	MAJ	24-Feb-23	22-Sep-23	30	164	10/12/2024	93	70			Permission Granted

Page 693

Agenda Item 7

LA04/2024/1036/F	Lands to the east of the River Lagan located between Lagan Gateway Phase 1 and Belvoir Park Forest, running adjacent to the west of Belvoir Park Golf Club and approximately 120 metres to the east of Newtownbreda Water Treatment Plant, Galwally Ave, Belfast BT8 7YA.	Lagan Gateway Phase 2 – Proposed greenway connection extending between Lagan Gateway Phase 1 at Annadale Embankment to Belvoir Forest Park. Comprising compacted gravel paths; a new elevated (4-5 meter high) timber boardwalk (approximately 85m long); landscaping works, new cycle stands, bollards, seats and bins; and all associated works	LOC	10-May-24	23-Aug-24	15	101	17/06/2025	57	43	Unknown	Unknown	Further information requested from applicant following request from DAERA NIEA
LA04/2023/4543/F	885 Shore Road, Belfast, BT36 7DH	Proposed new changing pavilion, enhancing grounds entrances including turnstiles, ancillary facilities and upgrade to existing car park. Proposed 3G surfacing to existing grass pitch with flood lighting.	LOC	01-Feb-24	16-May-24	15	115	17/06/2025	71	43	Unknown	31.5.26	Information provided by applicant and DAERA: NED reconsulted
LA04/2025/0535/F	Lands West of Monagh By-Pass South of Upper Springfield Road & 30-34 Upper Springfield Road & West of Aitnamona Crescent & St Theresa's Primary School. North and East of 2-22 Old Brewery Lane, Glanaulin, 137-143a Glen Road & Airfield Heights & St Mary's CBG School Belfast	Variation of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 36, 37 and 41 of approval LA04/2023/2390/F and LA04/2020/0804/F to facilitate removal of 31 previously approved dwellings and retaining structure along northern boundary of site adjacent to Upper Springfield Road. Retention of existing sloping ground levels and landscaping at this location.	MAJ	27-May-25	23-Dec-25	30	46	17/06/2025	3	43	28/02/2026	31/05/2026	Awaiting conclusion of S77 agreement (amendment to S76 agreement). Information provided by applicant and DFI Roads re-consulted
LA04/2024/1654/F	432 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6EN	Change of use from a 7-bedroom dwelling house (C1) to a 7 bed/ 9 person House of Multiple Occupancy (Sui Generis)	LOC	21-Oct-24	03-Feb-25	15	77	12/08/2025	42	35			Permission Refused

LA04/2024/1865/O	Land between No 22 Squires View and Nos 57 & 59 Squires Hill Road, Belfast.	3no. detached dwellings part 2 storey part 3 storey (amended plans)	LOC	28-Oct-24	10-Feb-25	15	76	12/08/2025	41	35	30/04/2026	31/05/2026	Late objections received. Additional information received from applicant regarding land stability issue. New objection from Shared Environmental Services being considered. To be reported back to Committee
LA04/2024/0626/F	1 Havelock House Havelock Place, Ormeau, Belfast, BT7 1EB	Erection of 104no. social rented residential units (comprising a mix of General Social Housing and Category 1 over 55's accommodation) across two detached blocks [ranging between 3 and 5 storeys], landscaping, communal and private amenity space, ancillary cycle and car parking provision, and other associated site works	MAJ	17-Apr-24	13-Nov-24	30	104	11/11/2025	81	22			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1454/F	The Lockhouse 13 River Terrace Belfast BT7 2EN	New community wellbeing centre and cafe extension to existing lockhouse building	LOC	17-Sep-25	31-Dec-25	15	30	09/12/2025	11	18	28/02/2026	Unknown	Awaiting outstanding SES consultation response

LA04/2025/0288/F	Existing taxi passenger terminal and former retail unit located within 35a King Street, Belfast, BT1 1HU.	Retrospective change of use from ground floor taxi passenger terminal, cafe, office and newsagent to a Homeless Centre, Category D1(B). The centre will provide meals, washing and changing facilities and an internal social amenity area for users. The centre will operate Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 4:00 pm up until 10:00 pm (Amended Description)	LOC	11-Mar-25	24-Jun-25	15	57	17/02/2026	49	8	31/03/2026	31/05/2026	Additional information regarding odour abatement requested from applicant; Environmental Health to then be re-consulted
LA04/2024/1389/F	Newhill Youth and Community Centre, 261 Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7FX	Community garden and improvements to existing unused space, scheme to include allotment area, pizza and BBQ area and pathways (Amended Description)	LOC	07-Oct-24	20-Jan-25	15	79	17/02/2026	71	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1716/F	Santander House, 1 Mays Meadow, Belfast, BT1 3PH	Proposed change of use from, Use class B1(a) office, to short term Transitional Care Unit, Use Class C3 b) comprising of 73 no. ensuite beds, associated ancillary facilities including café, rehabilitation suites and treatment rooms, laboratory, consulting rooms, 2 no. external terraces and all other ancillary, staff and storage rooms. Development includes ambulance drop off bay, replacement of existing windows, and all other associated site and access works.	MAJ	05-Nov-25	03-Jun-26	30	23	17/02/2026	14	8			Permission Granted

LA04/2025/1896/F	Former Belfast Metropolitan College Campus Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PH	Proposed mixed use development comprising of 77 No. social housing units (mix of 26 dwellings and 51 apartments) and a new children's centre, car parking, landscaping, open space, access and all associated site works including the installation of a new substation.(amendment to planning permission ref: LA04/2024/0122/F).	MAJ	06-Nov-25	04-Jun-26	30	23	17/02/2026	14	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/2183/F	Units 2a and 2b 38 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6HR	Removal of conditions 14 and 15 from the permission referenced LA04/2024/0714/F (Contamination)	MAJ	18-Dec-25	16-Jul-26	30	17	17/02/2026	8	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/2216/LBC	Ulster Hall, 30 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF	Installation of Facade Lighting	LOC	19-Dec-25	03-Apr-26	15	17	17/02/2026	8	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1135/F	57 Knock Eden Park, Belfast, BT6 0JG	Demolition of first floor rear return, and proposed erection of new first floor rear extension and additional site works	LOC	18-Jul-25	31-Oct-25	15	39	17/02/2026	30	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/0605/F	341-345 Albertbridge Road, Ballymacarret, Belfast, BT5 4PY	Erection of a four storey building to create 29no. short-term let accommodation units with ancillary roof-mounted solar panels	LOC	09-Apr-25	23-Jul-25	15	53	17/02/2026	44	8	TBC	TBC	Application considered at February 2026 Committee following site visit
LA04/2023/2633/F	St Teresa's GAC, 2 Glen Road Heights, Belfast BT11 8ER	Proposed extension to existing clubhouse to provide indoor sports hall, changing rooms, reception, and fitness suite. Proposed relocation of grass pitch and new 3G training pitch with integrated ball walls. Proposed annex building with club store and matchday shop. Site works including increased parking, fencing, catch nets, floodlighting, dugouts, paths, and other associated amenities.	MAJ	14-Mar-23	10-Oct-23	30	161	17/02/2026	153	8			Permission Granted

LA04/2022/0809/F	Lands to the south and west of Woodland Grange to the north of Blacks Gate and to the east of Moor Park Mews Belfast.	Amendments to approved schemes ref. Z/2008/0993/F (erection of 53 No. dwellings) & ref. Z/2013/0120/F (erection of 46 No. dwellings); to reduce overall density from 99 No. dwellings to 92 No. dwellings and associated and ancillary works.	MAJ	21-Apr-22	17-Nov-22	30	208	17/02/2026	199	8	31/03/2026	31/05/2026	Amended road layout (PSD) drawings submitted by applicant following comments from DfI Roads. DfI Roads reconsulted
LA04/2024/0483/F	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Proposed change of use from Office (B1) and restaurant (Sui Generis) to Hotel comprising of 88 no. bedrooms, two storey rooftop extension, restaurant and bar offerings, gym facilities, including new dormer windows on roof, internal and external refurbishment and alterations, and all associated site works.	MAJ	19-Mar-24	15-Oct-24	30	108	10/03/2026	103	5			Permission Granted
LA04/2024/0480/DCA	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Part demolition of existing buildings (stripping back of roof, shopfront and other external alterations to facilitate change of use and extension of buildings to hotel use.	LOC	29-Mar-24	12-Jul-24	15	107	10/03/2026	101	5			Consent Granted
LA04/2024/0015/F	Lands at Cabin Hill, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4	Erection of 53 residential units (including 43 dwellings and 10 apartments) including creation of access, internal roads, landscaping and associated works (revised information).	MAJ	05-Dec-25	03-Jul-26	30	19	10/03/2026	13	5			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/0973/F	Bradbury Place 30-44 Bradbury Place, Belfast, BT7 1RS	Retrospective change of use from student accommodation to short term lets accommodation (limited to July & August each year only)	LOC	12-Jun-25	25-Sep-25	15	44	10/03/2026	38	5			Permission Granted

LA04/2025/1003/F	81-107 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AT	Proposed use of 300 No. Student Bedrooms/Studios as Short Term Let Accommodation outside of term time.	LOC	16-Jun-25	29-Sep-25	15	43	10/03/2026	38	5	N/A	31/05/2026	S76 being signed, then to be issued.
LA04/2025/1350/F	29 GLENCAIRN STREET EDENDERRY BELFAST BT13 3LT	Change of Use from 3 bed Dwelling (Class C1) to 5-bed, 5-person HMO (sui generis)	LOC	24-Jul-25	06-Nov-25	15	38	10/03/2026	32	5	N/A	To be reconsidered	Deferred for Site Visit
LA04/2025/1272/F	Harberton North Special School 29a Fortwilliam Park, Belfast, BT15 4AP	Erection of temporary mobile classroom village to facilitate future refurbishment and extension of existing Harberton North Special School, comprising 3 no. 2-storey blocks of temporary classroom accommodation, temporary hard play areas, temporary staff and visitor parking areas, tree removal and landscaping. (Amended Plans)	MAJ	31-Jul-25	26-Feb-26	30	37	10/03/2026	31	5			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/0574/F	Surface level car park at lands to east of Lanyon Place Station Mays Meadow, Belfast, BT1 3NR	Erection of eight storey building comprising seven floors of grade A office accommodation, ground floor retail / business units together with car parking (15 no. spaces), cycle parking and plant areas: and public realm improvements including dedicated drop-off area to front of building	MAJ	17-Apr-25	13-Nov-25	30	52	10/03/2026	46	5	N/A	31/05/2026	Applicant to address issues raised by DfI Roads
LA04/2025/0594/F	163 Ballygomartin Road, Belfast, BT13 3NA	Change of use from 4 bedroom residential property (C1) with to 5 bed HMO with occupancy of 5 (Sui Generis)	LOC	30-Apr-25	13-Aug-25	15	50	10/03/2026	44	5	N/A	To be reconsidered	Deferred for Site Visit

LA04/2025/0837/F	Land of the former Mount Masonic Hall, 45 Park Avenue Belfast BT4 1SH.	Demolition of Mount Masonic Hall, erection of 35 no. social housing units in 2 no. blocks with associated private, shared, communal, and public space, 29 no. private car parking spaces, vehicle and pedestrian access from Park Avenue, improvements to pedestrian steps linking Strandburn Drive to Sydenham Park, and demolition of 1no. garage.	LOC	13-Jun-25	26-Sep-25	15	44	10/03/2026	38	5			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/0951/F	Loughside playing fields, Shore Road, Belfast, BT15 3PZ	Proposed 25m monopole with 6no. antennas, 4no. transmission dishes, 2no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto.	LOC	30-Jun-25	13-Oct-25	15	41	10/03/2026	36	5			Permission Refused
LA04/2025/1002/F	24 Rutherglen Street, Belfast, BT13 3LS	Change of use from 4 bed residential dwelling (C1) to 5 bedroom HMO (suis generis) with occupancy for 5 people	LOC	17-Jul-25	30-Oct-25	15	39	10/03/2026	33	5	N/A	To be reconsidered	Deferred for Site Visit
LA04/2025/1692/F	Existing soccer pitch at Marrowbone Millenium Park (approx. 25m north of No. 8 Ardoyne Court), Ardoyne Avenue, Belfast.	Extension of existing ballstop fencing from 5m to 8m along three sides. This will total 220m in length. (Amended Proposal Description)	LOC	21-Oct-25	03-Feb-26	15	25	10/03/2026	20	5			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/0463/F	Decco Ltd 1-5 Redcar Street, Belfast, BT6 9BP	Proposed change of use of Vacant Warehouse to indoor Padel Court Facility to include, Cafe, Changing rooms, Gym, Picklecourts and ancillary site development works	LOC	26-Mar-25	09-Jul-25	15	55	10/03/2026	49	5	N/A	31/05/2026	Delegated authority sought to resolve final response from NIW. Discussions ongoing.

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Never</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		After Council Decision		Sometime in the future		Never	
After Committee Decision									
After Council Decision									
Sometime in the future									
Never									

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

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

1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents the Half Year Update, requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme along with updates on capital letters of offer and contracts awarded.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Programme Half Year Update - Note the overall update on projects that have completed recently and projects currently under construction at 3.3 to 3.5 below and in Appendix 1; and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway. • Awards and Recognition – note that Hosford Community Homes was shortlisted for All-Ireland Housing Awards 2026 in the '<i>Excellence in Housing Innovation</i>' category and Berlin Swifts FC was awarded the Irish FA Grassroots Football Awards - Club of the Year 2025. • Capital Programme Movements - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme — Asset Management System (Integrated Workplace Management System) - Note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £880,000 be allocated. ○ IT Programme — Website Content Management System (CMS) Upgrade - Note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £183,750 be allocated. ○ Woodvale Park Sensory Garden – Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> with a maximum allocation of up to £350,000 (as previously agreed as part of the reallocated SPF funding). • Capital Letters of Offer – to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer. • Contracts awarded in Q4 2025/26 – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded.
3.0	Main report <u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Physical Programme Half Year Update Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the

	<p>city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway. The Half Year Update below is a brief summary of projects completed as well as a sample of projects currently underway.</p>
3.2	<p>Awards and Recognition</p> <p>Members are asked to note that two of the Council’s completed capital projects have been successful in gaining awards and recognition. The Hosford Community Homes was shortlisted for the All-Ireland Housing Awards 2026 in the ‘Excellence in Housing Innovation’ category. The project involved the transformation of an empty building on the Newtownards Road into six apartments and a community space and was delivered by the Council under the TEO Urban Villages Initiative. The project helps people transitioning from hostel accommodation to more permanent housing. In addition, Berlin Swifts FC was awarded the Irish FA Grassroots Football Awards - Club of the Year late last year. The provision of 2-team changing facilities for the club was funded under the Council’s Local Investment Fund (LIF) programme. The award was designed to recognise, celebrate and promote the inspirational work by clubs who provide high quality opportunities for both children and adults in the game.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Recently completed projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet Replacement Programme 25/26 – prioritised purchase and replacement of older and/or poor condition vehicles with Resources and Fleet such as specialised refuse collection vehicles, compact cleaning sweepers, and others. • Sporting Pitches Investment 25/26 – improvement works to pitches at Belfast Met Campus (Montgomery Road) small-sided games pitches, Westlands fencing/gates, and Clarendon Playing Fields ball stop fencing have been completed and now operational. • Playground Improvement Programme – improvements have been completed at Lagmore Activity Park (White Rise) Playground and Mountforde Road playground. • Open Spaces and Streetscene (OSS) Machinery Replacement Programme 2025/26 - replacement of grounds maintenance machinery to maintain service provision across the Council’s estate. • Alleygating Phase 5 – installation of alleygates to various areas across the city. • Historic Cemeteries – Clifton Street – health & safety works at Clifton Street Cemetery. • Strangford Avenue Playing Fields - enabling works for active travel container and gate improvements. • Depot Charging Scheme - improvements to electric vehicle (EV) charging provision on Council depots. • Household Waste Recycling Centres & Civic Amenity Sites — new household waste and recycling containers and skips at various HWRCs and CAS locations. • Belfast Bikes – installation of new Belfast Bikes scheme throughout the city.

- **Black Mountain Shared Space Project – Phase 2** – new social enterprise units and community office suites.
- **Greening & Growing Project** – biodiversity improvement and sustainable food growing development funded through Shared Island programme at the Waterworks.
- **Donegall Pass Community Centre—solar photovoltaics** – installation of solar panels at the community centre.
- **Enhancements to a range of Council assets including** - IT projects via Digital Services such as New core and edge switching in the core sites; City Hall replacement of automatic doors; Ormeau Avenue Car Park upgrade; Cavehill Country Park - access improvements; Waste Transfer Station floor replacement; Blackstaff Way HWRC – service bay repairs; and Falls Park entrance repairs.
- **Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub (BIF and Urban Villages)** – new build development for creative and digital arts entrepreneurs.
- **ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub (Urban Villages)** – development of a new-build community health and leisure facility which comprises a community café, boxing club, minor halls, community gym and office space, and sports hall.
- **Clonduff FC storage facility (LIF)** - installation of storage facility.
- **Lands at Castlehill Manor** – environmental improvements to Belmont Park under Section 76 Agreement developer contributions for open space.

3.4

Physical projects underway:

- **Cathedral Gardens (including Blitz Memorial)** - work is in progress on this £5m project to transform Cathedral Gardens into a world-class public space for people to gather, relax and play. Completion anticipated by Spring 2027.
- **North Foreshore Development Sites Infrastructure Works** – work has started on site for the gas extraction system and is nearing completion. Contractor is commencing works for the foul pumping station fitout. NIE is progressing civil works to bring increased capacity from Whitla Street to North Foreshore, with completion anticipated at the end of 2027.
- **Ballysillan Playing Fields (Urban Villages)** - work continues on site at this £8.4m partnership project with DfI's Living with Water Programme, DfC and Urban Villages. Completion anticipated by Winter 2027.
- **Lagan Gateway Greenway (BIF)** – major investment of £5m in a new navigation lock, iconic foot and cycle bridge and new path connections. Phase 2 procurement exercise has been completed and successful contractor appointed for works on the Annadale side, linking the pathway to Belvoir Forest Park. Completion anticipated by early 2027.
- **Strand Arts Centre (BIF)** – work continues on the £6.4m major refurbishment of the art deco cinema building. Completion anticipated by Summer 2026.
- **Cultural Community Hub at Crumlin Road (BIF)** - construction of a new Cultural Hub on a brownfield site.

- **Michael Davitt’s Community Heritage Centre (NRF)** – work is progressing well on the new build community and heritage centre at Davitt’s GAC. Completion anticipated by Spring 2026.
- **Coffee Culture (BIF/ SOF and Urban Villages)** – demolition works have started and progressing well on the development of a social enterprise café.
- **Belfast Orange Hall (NRF)** – works nearing completion. The project comprises repairs to roof and refurbishment of facades, external walls, windows and external doors.
- **Ardoyne Youth Enterprise (Urban Villages)** – work recently commenced on the construction of a new community centre for AYE.
- **Titanic People Exhibition (Urban Villages)** – redevelopment of the courtyard/ frontage of the existing building at Westbourne Presbyterian Church. Planned completion is anticipated in Spring 2026.
- **Sporting Pitches Investment 25/26** – improvement works to pitches at Marrowbone, Falls Park and Wedderburn Park progressing.
- **Playground Improvement Programme 25/26** – projects progressing under the programme at Ohio Street, Roddens Crescent, and Finvoy Street. Work is underway.
- **Communication Boards** - inclusive communication boards in playgrounds, citywide installation underway.
- **Musgrave Park Sensory Garden** - new equipment delivered, site works are underway.
- **Floral Hall Health & Safety Works** – first phase of health & safety works completed. Options being considered and discussions ongoing with other funders. Works to a temporary roof agreed to make the building watertight.
- **Corporate projects** – a range of capital IT projects via Digital Services to ensure business continuity; Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Collection Scheme, City Hall Christmas Tree Provision, St George’s Market – New Stalls, and ongoing delivery of Fleet Replacement Programme 26/27 via City & Neighbourhoods Services.
- **Developer Contributions** – progressing public realm improvement works at Little Patrick Street and open space projects via CNS.

3.5 ***Physical projects in development:***

The remainder of the Physical Programme covers projects where activity is at earlier stages i.e. tender preparation or before. This includes schemes at the start of procurement at *Stage 3 – Committed* as well as those at *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* and *Stage 1 – Emerging* or equivalent:

Capital Programme: The Capital Programme comprises a vast range of projects including Belfast Stories, Reservoir Safety Programme, LTP Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility, Waste Plan projects, Waterfront Hall – Chiller Units, Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot, New Cemetery, Access to the Hills – Black Mountain/Upper Whiterock Pathway, Glencairn Park/Ligoniel Park Greenway, Sydenham Greenway, Wilmont House, Fernhill House and

Courtyard, Historic Cemeteries, Historic Tiled Street Signs, City Hall Preservation, 2 Royal Avenue, 35-39 Royal Avenue, Communication Boards, Basketball Courts, Bridges Improvement Programme, Parks and Open Space Improvement Programme, Leisure Programme and a range of health and safety projects.

A range of other schemes are also in development including the remaining LIF, BIF, SOF, NRF and UV projects.

Capital Programme - Proposed Movements

3.6 As outlined above, Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
IT Programme — Asset Management System (Integrated Workplace Management System)	Procurement and implementation of a new Asset Management Integrated Work Management System (IWMS).	Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of £880,000
IT Programme — Website Content Management System (CMS) Upgrade	Phased upgrades, enhancements and full replacements to Council websites	Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of £183,750
Woodvale Park Sensory Garden	New sensory garden facility	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of £350,000

3.7 ***IT Programme — Asset Management System (Integrated Workplace Management System)***
 This new corporate AMS (IWMS) system will provide a unified, cloud-based solution offering a complete and accurate repository of asset information alongside robust business process automation, enhanced analytical capabilities, mobile-enabled working, and improved compliance management. The AMS system is fundamental to the management of assets and the Council’s ability to take a strategic approach to the planning and use of assets, the management of risk and delivery of value for money and quality which has been agreed as part of the Transformation and Efficiency programme of work. In August 2025, this project was moved to Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return. It was agreed that an update would be brought back to Committee along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. **Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £880,000 be allocated.**

3.8 ***IT Programme — Website Content Management System (CMS) Upgrade***
 This project aims to upgrade the Council’s CMS platform and to deliver a modern, secure, and accessible set of council websites that meet evolving legislative, user, and business requirements. The Content Management System (CMS) is software that lets the Council’s web

	<p>editors create, edit, organise, and publish content on the council websites. It acts as the backbone for managing text, images, videos, and other digital assets. In December 2025, this project was moved to Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return. An update was to be brought back to Committee along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that it is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £183,750 be allocated.</p>
3.9	<p>Woodvale Park Sensory Garden</p> <p>This project was moved to Capital Programme at Stage 2 – Uncommitted in August 2025 as part of the additional schemes concerning the recoup of capital funding from UKSPF. This new sensory facility at Woodvale Park will be complemented with new toilet facilities including Changing Places provision under Parks and Open Space Improvement Programme agreed in April 2026. Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of up to £350,000 as previously agreed under the re-allocation of SPF monies. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p>
3.10	<p>Capital Letters of Offer</p> <p>Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q4 2025/26 at Appendix 2.</p>
3.11	<p>Contracts Awarded</p> <p>Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q4 2025/26 at Appendix 3.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p><i>Financial Implications –</i></p> <p>IT Programme — Asset Management System (Integrated Workplace Management System) – a maximum of £880,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p>IT Programme— Website Content Management System (CMS) Upgrade – a maximum of £183,750 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p>Woodvale Park Sensory Garden – capital allocation of up to £350,000. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications –</i> Officer time to deliver.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>

	All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Photos of completed projects</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Capital Letters of Offer in Q4 2025/26 – January to March 2026</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Contracts Awarded in Q4 2025/26 – January to March 2026</p>

Physical Programme Completed Projects

October 2025 – March 2026



Fleet Replacement Programme 25/26



Sporting Pitches Investment 25/26

Clarendon Playing Fields



Page 613



Belfast
City Council

Playground Improvement Programme 25/26

Lagmore Activity Park (White Rise)



Page 614



Belfast
City Council

Mountforde Road Playground



OSS Machinery Replacement Programme 25/26

Page 616



Belfast
City Council

Historic Cemeteries – Clifton Street

Page 617



Belfast
City Council

Strangford Playing Fields enabling works



HWRCs & CAS — containers and skips



Belfast
City Council

Black Mountain Shared Space Project - Phase 2

Page 620



Belfast
City Council

Greening and Growing Project



Donegall Pass Community Centre— solar photovoltaics and battery storage

Page 622



Ormeau Avenue Car Park upgrade



Page 623



Belfast
City Council

Cavehill Country Park - access improvements

Page 624



Belfast
City Council

Waste Transfer Station floor replacement

Page 625



Belfast
City Council

Blackstaff Way HWRC – service bay repairs

Page 626



Belfast
City Council

Falls Park entrance repairs



Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub – BIF/UV

Page 628



Belfast
City Council

ABC Trust Health & Leisure Hub – UV



Belfast
City Council

Clonduff storage facility – LIF

Page 630



Lands at Castlehill Manor – Belmont Park improvements



Page 631



Belfast
City Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2**Capital Letters of Offer 01 January – 31 March 2026**

Project	Funder	Amount
Ulster Hall Lighting Supply & Installation	LQ BID	£150,000
Depot Charging Scheme (EV Electric Vehicle Charging)	Dept for Transport	£228,972
<i>The Lockhouse - Gateway to the River/Walkway (Amendment)</i>	<i>TEO</i>	<i>£3,059,252</i>
Ardoyne YC - Refurbishment Heating System	DfC	£50,000
<i>Strand Arts Centre: Local Regeneration Fund (Amendment)</i>	<i>LRF</i>	<i>£4,094,000</i>
<i>Lower Ormeau Youth Hub - St John Vianney (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£200,000</i>
<i>Greater Village Regeneration Trust - BCC TREECO Design & Plans (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£40,000</i>
Ardoyne Youth Club - Heating Refurbishment	DoEd	£30,000
Glencairn Community Hub	DfC	£30,000
Bloomfield Community Association - New Build	DfC	£334,000
<i>BMSSP - Community Office Units (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£539,400</i>

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3**Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation
(January – March 2026)**

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
Main Contractor for Ardoyne Youth Enterprise	QMAC Construction Ltd	21/01/2026
BCC Reservoir Safety Inspections & Reporting	AECOM Ltd	16/02/2026
L1BCC15 Project Manager and Structural Engineer for Wilmont House and Fernhill House	Doran Consulting	20/02/2026
L1BCC10 - NRF_Refurbishment & New Build Extension for GVRT TREECO NI	Collins Rolston Architects Ltd	18/03/2026
USEL Recycling Storage Facility - Main Works Contractor	RMC Building Services Ltd	31/03/2026

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Asset Management i) Cromac Street Car Park – Licence Renewal ii) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal iii) Little Victoria Street Car Park – Advertising Station iv) Ballymacarrett Walkway – Container Licence v) Hanwood Centre Lands - Sublease
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) Cromac Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <p>Approve the renewal of a Licence agreement from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in relation to the Council operated off-street car park at Cromac Street.</p> <p>ii) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <p>Approve the renewal of a Licence agreement from the Department for Communities (DfC) in relation to the Council operated off-street car park at Station Street.</p> <p>iii) Little Victoria Street Car Park – Advertising Station</p> <p>Approve the grant of a Licence to Bauer Media Outdoor NI Limited for an advertising station located at Little Victoria Street car park.</p> <p>iv) Ballymacarrett Walkway – Container Licence</p> <p>Approve the grant of a Licence to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust for a storage container located at Ballymacarrett Walkway.</p> <p>v) Hanwood Centre Lands – sublease</p> <p>Approve of a surrender of the current Licence Agreement with Hanwood Trust Company Ltd & approve the granting of a sublease to Hanwood Trust Company Ltd.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>i) Cromac Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Cromac Street car park is owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and is held by the Council under Licence. The current Licence is for a term of 1 year which expired on 31/03/2026. This Licence was subject to a fee of £48,000 as assessed by Land & Property Services (LPS) based on 30% of the actual income generated by the car park in the previous year. NIHE have agreed to grant a new Licence to the Council for a further term of 1 year to 31/03/2027 on the same terms with LPS to assess the revised fee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>

	<p>The Licence renewal would be drafted by NIHE and Councils Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates team. Council will be responsible for payment of the Licence fee being 30% of the actual income generated by the car park in the previous year, currently £48,000 pa. Council will retain all revenue generated from its operation of the car park.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>ii) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Station Street car park is owned by the Department for Communities (DfC) and is held by the Council under Licence. The current Licence is for a term of 1 year expiring on 30/06/2026 and is subject to a fee of £58,500 as assessed by Land & Property Services (LPS) based on 30% of the actual income generated by the car park in the previous year. DfC have agreed to grant a new Licence to the Council for a further term of 1 year to 30/06/2027 on the same terms with LPS to assess the revised fee. Both DfC and Council have a mutual break option given the Queens Quay development plans.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Licence renewal would be drafted by DSO on behalf of DfC, and Councils Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates team. Council will be responsible for payment of a Licence fee being 30% of the actual income generated by the car park in the previous year, currently £58,500 pa. Council will retain all revenue generated from its operation of the car park.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>iii) Little Victoria Street Car Park – Advertising Station</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council previously entered into an Agreement with Clear Channel NI Limited to place an advertising station within Little Victoria Street car park from 1 April 2020 for a term of 5 years at the rate of £6,400 pa. Clear Channel NI Limited have been bought over by Bauer Media Outdoor NI Limited ('Bauer Media'). It is proposed to grant a new 5-year Licence to Bauer Media. Following negotiation and based on comparable evidence it is proposed to increase the fee to £6,500 pa subject to review in year 3. Members are asked to approve the grant of a new Licence to Bauer Media for the advertising station located within Little Victoria Street car park.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Councils Estates Management Unit will instruct Legal Services to draft the Licence. Bauer Media will be responsible for payment of the annual Licence fee of £6,500 pa.</p>

	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p>iv) Ballymacarrett Walkway – Container Licence</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council previously granted a Licence to Sustrans to place a storage container within compound lands adjacent to Ballymacarrett Recreation Centre for the purpose of storing bicycles and other equipment to promote active travel. The Licence commenced on 27 June 2022 for a term of 9 months in consideration of £10.00 per month. Sustrans have changed their name to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust. It is proposed to grant a new 9-month Licence to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust on similar terms for a new site within the compound lands. Members are asked to approve the grant of a new Licence to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust for a storage container located at Ballymacarrett Walkway.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Councils Estates Management Unit will instruct Legal Services to draft the Licence. Walk Wheel Cycle Trust will be responsible for payment of the Licence fee of £10.00 per month.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p>v) Hanwood Centre Lands – sublease</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Hanwood Trust Company Ltd (HTC Ltd) have requested that their current Licence which commenced 01.11.2008 for a period of 21 years for Hanwood Centre lands is surrendered and that HTC Ltd are granted a new lease for a period of 15 years. The new lease has been requested by HTC Ltd to assist with funding applications. The Council hold a 999 year lease from NIHE dated 31.10.2007 which makes provision for a sublease to Hanwood at nominal consideration. Members are asked to approve the surrender of the current Licence Agreement & approve the granting a sublease with HTC Ltd. Head Landlord consent has already been granted by NIHE to the proposed new lease between BCC & HTC Ltd. See Map at Appendix 5 showing Hanwood Centre Lands of 0.865 acres.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. The rent will be one peppercorn (if demanded).</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>

Appendix 1 – Map illustrating Cromac Street Car Park.

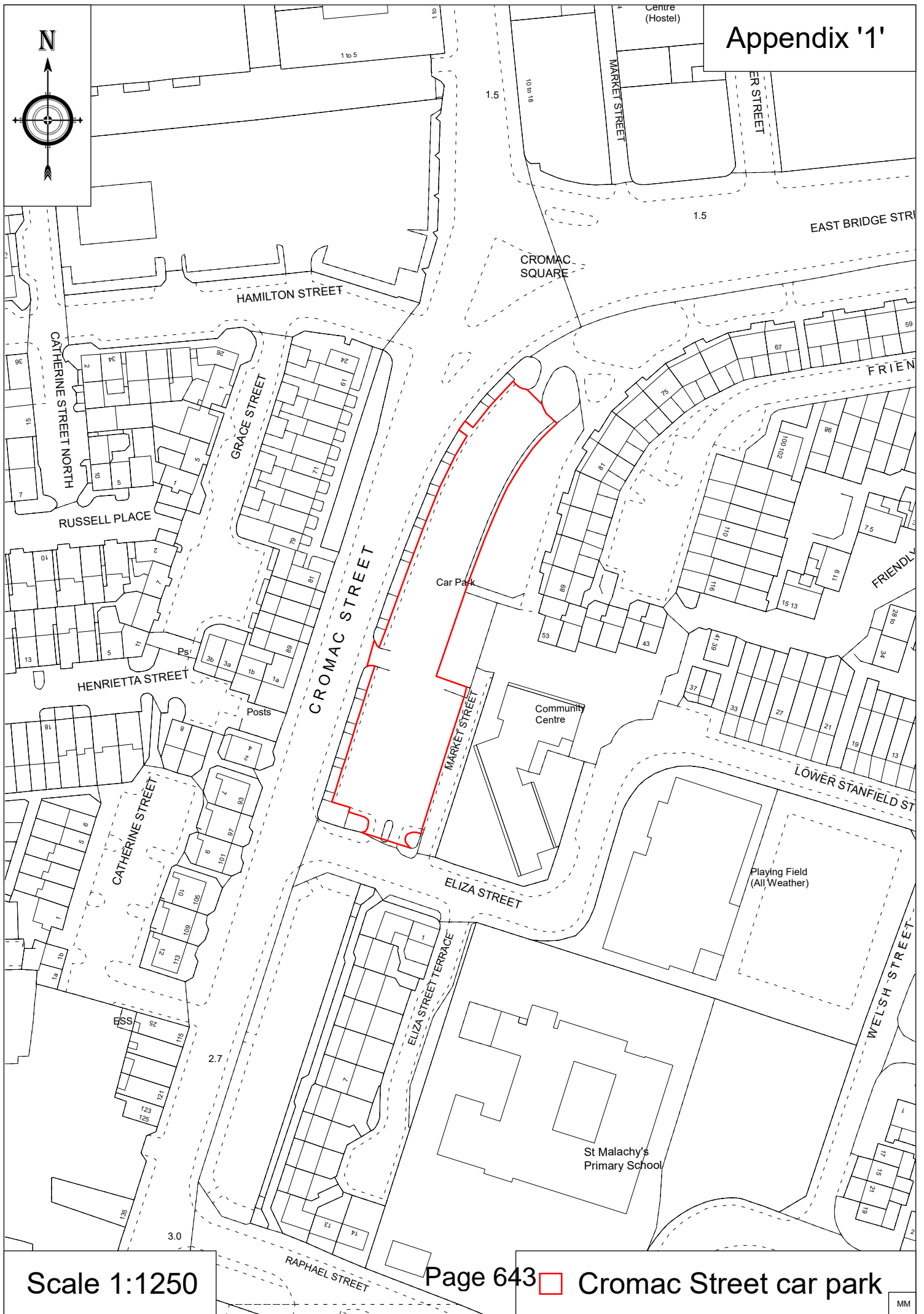
Appendix 2 – Map illustrating Station Street Car Park.

Appendix 3 – Map showing the location of the advertising station within Little Victoria Street Car Park.

Appendix 4 – Map showing the location of the storage container at Ballymacarrett Walkway.

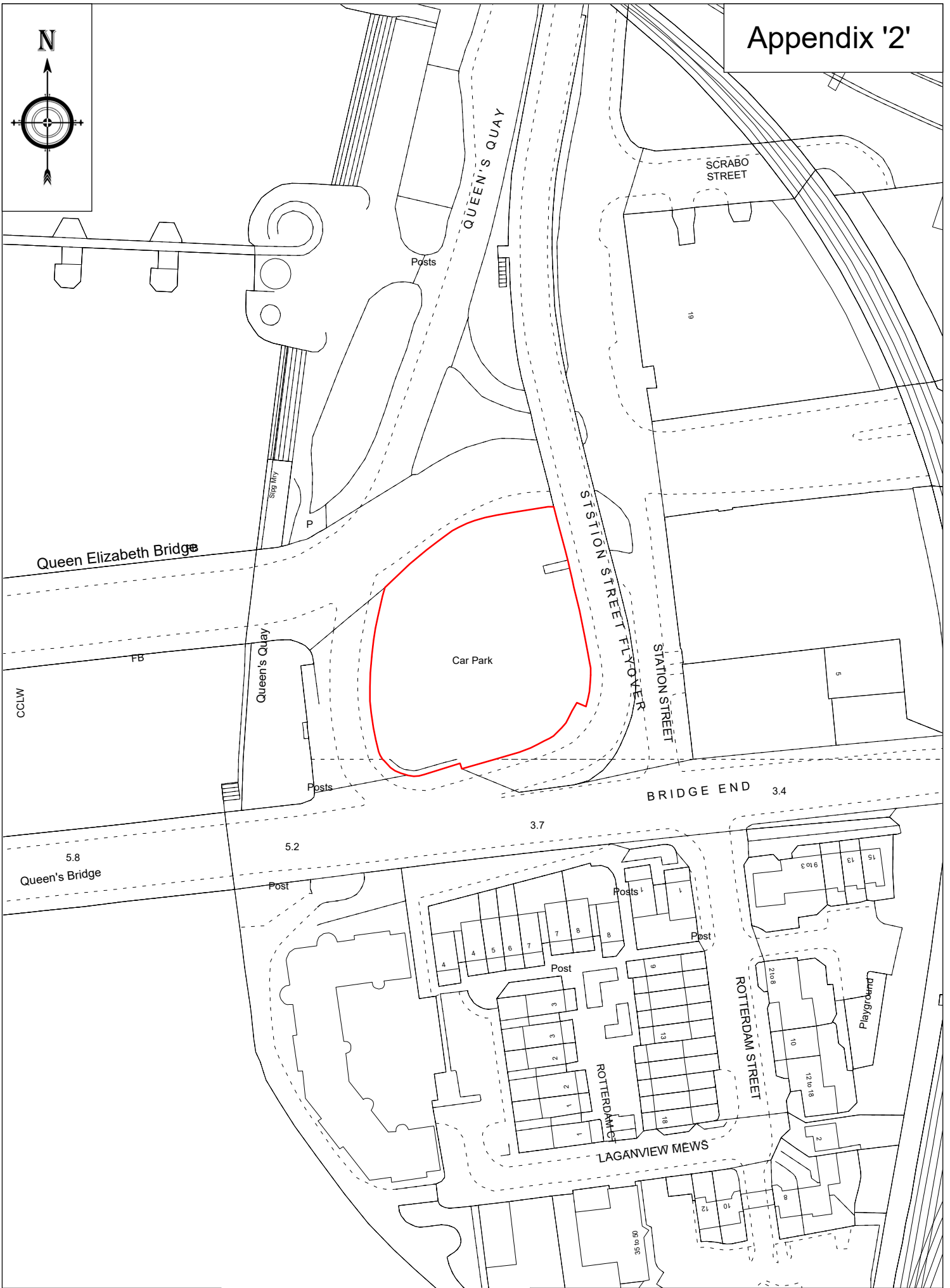
Appendix 5 – Map showing Hanwood Centre Lands of 0.865 acres

This page is intentionally left blank



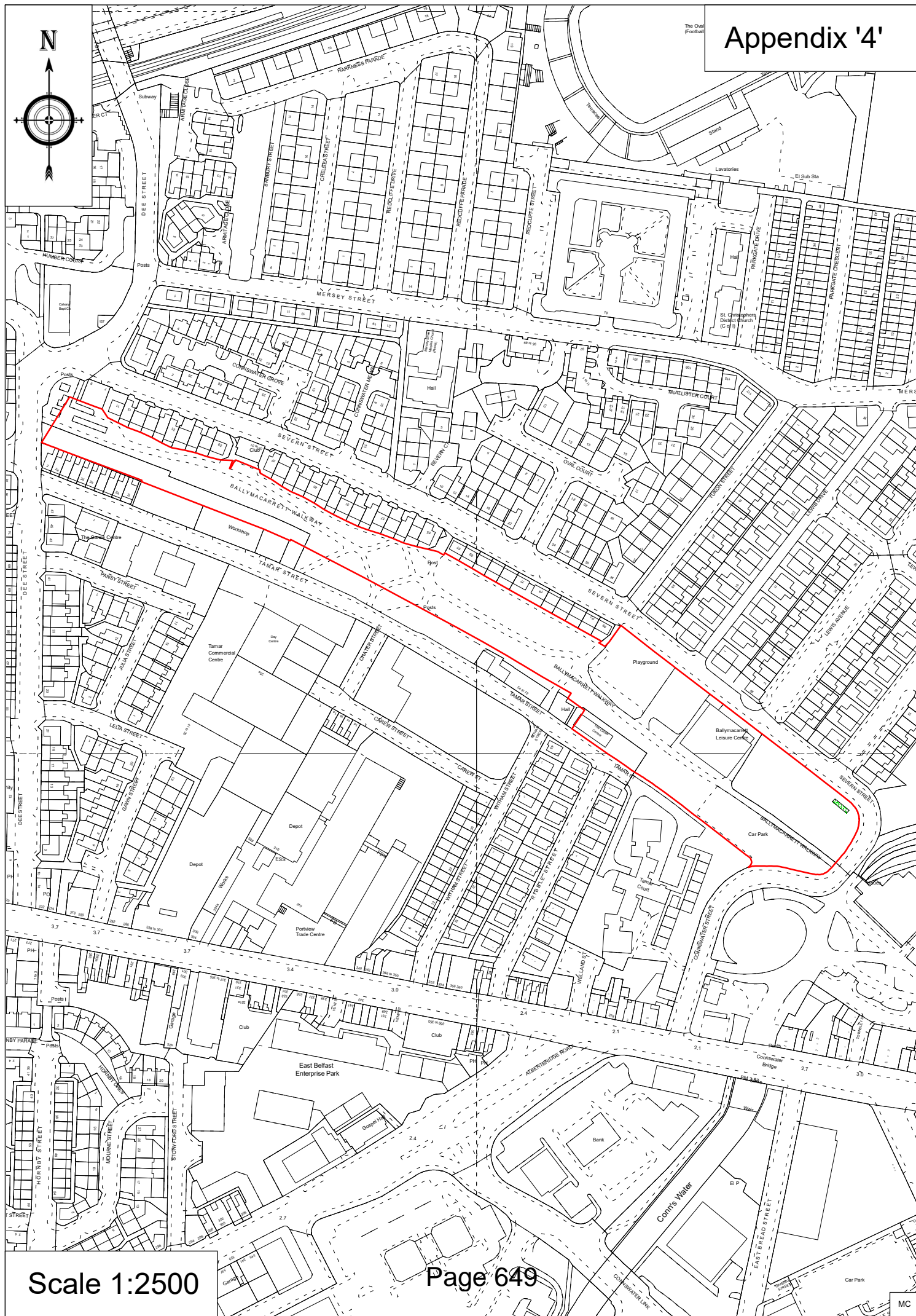
Scale 1:1250

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank

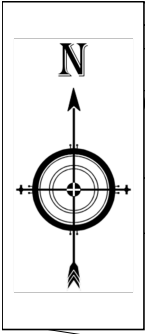
This page is intentionally left blank



Scale 1:2500

This page is intentionally left blank

ARDCARN L



13 14

88

80

74

Playground

55

Community Centre

49

Grace Baptist Church

7

43

39

29

9

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Lewis Murray, Strategic Category Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000. 				
2.0	Recommendations				
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1). Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2). 				
3.0	Competitive Tenders				
	<p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender.</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1).</p>				
4.0	Modification to Contract				
	The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a as set out in Appendix 1 (Table 2).				
6.0	STA and Contracts <£30k Reporting				
	<p>At SP&R in October 23 the Committee agreed that 'the quarterly finance report should, in future, include information on expenditure on Single Tender Actions and on the number and value of contracts under £30,000'.</p> <p>Information on expenditure broken down by individual STA contract records is not readily available from the Council's current financial system. However, CPS centrally record the number and maximum total value of STA contract records. Quarter 4 2025/26 is provided below:</p> <p>STAs awarded FY 25/26 Qtr 4</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of STA contracts</th> <th>Total value of STA contracts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>£227,955</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of STA contracts	Total value of STA contracts	18	£227,955
Number of STA contracts	Total value of STA contracts				
18	£227,955				

	<p>Records for contracts (including title; supplier name; value; duration etc) valued below £30,000 are not centrally held by CPS and are maintained on departmental registers. Below is a quarterly return by all departments on contracts awarded valued below £30,000 during FY 25/26 Qtr 4.</p> <p>Contracts <£30k awarded FY 25/26 Qtr 4</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of <£30k contracts</th> <th>Total value of <£30k contracts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>38</td> <td>£716,809</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of <£30k contracts	Total value of <£30k contracts	38	£716,809
Number of <£30k contracts	Total value of <£30k contracts				
38	£716,809				
6.0	Tender pipeline				
	<p>To support transparency and assist supplier planning, Members should note that Future Tendering Opportunities are published bi-annually on the Councils website. The current update Tendering opportunities covers future tendering opportunities up to 31st March 2027.</p> <p>Note: CPS consult with Departments to help populate this procurement pipeline and are reliant on Departments sharing their available procurement plans.</p>				
7.0	Financial & Resource Implications				
	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.				
8.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment				
	None				
9.0	Appendices – Documents Attached				
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 - Competitive Tenders • Table 2 - Modification to Contract 				

This page is intentionally left blank

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Provision for the Implementation and Delivery of West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership's Network Support Project	Up to 4.5 years	£169,312.50	D Sales	West Belfast DPCSP wishes to appoint a contractor to support local structures to identify and address local policing and community safety issues.	Y	N	Y
To provide and supply the hire of 1 x RCV 18t narrow back vehicle with twin rear win-lifters (including maintenance)	Up to 2 years	£103,480	D Sales	A new lease agreement is required from 01 August 2026 to 31 July 2028 to allow for the continuation of services until the procurement of 1 new 18T RCV is complete. Current lead time of new vehicle is 14 months from point of order.	Y	N	N
Waste Management Services to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann	Up to 2 years	£342,000	D Sales	Waste management services to support delivery of the Fleadh 26 with option to cover Fleadh 27, if required. Approved Feb 2026 SP&R. Estimated 2 year value now included.	N	N	N
Replacement Heating Installation & Associated Works at Vehicle Maintenance Workshop & Garages	Up to 12 weeks	£150,000	S Grimes	Replacement heating systems required as current no longer meets the operational requirements. Due to the age and condition of the plant and equipment it is no longer economically viable to repair/maintain.	N	N	N
Supply & Installation of Replacement Boilers &	Up to 12 weeks	£100,000	S Grimes	Replacement boilers required as current no longer meets the	N	N	N

Appendix 1

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Associated Works at Belfast Castle				operational requirements. Due to the age and condition of the plant and equipment it is no longer economically viable to repair/maintain.			
Corporate Asset Management System (AMS)	Up to 1 year	£68,000	P Gribben	The Corporate Asset Management System (AMS) is provided by Concerto (Bellrock) and this contract is due to expire on 01/07/2026. Whilst a procurement process is underway to replace the existing system, the implementation will not be complete in advance of the current contract expiration. A new 1-year agreement is required to support the procurement and implementation of a replacement system.	N	N	N

Page 658

Table 2: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification – Period & Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Email Filtering Service (T2699)	Up to 3 years & £150,000	Additional 6 weeks	S McNicholl	Tender for 3 years was approved at Nov 25 SP&R. During negotiations at award an additional 6 weeks to contract term was required which resulted in a reduction to contract price.	Softcat plc



Subject:	NICVA Summit 2026
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a request from NICVA requesting sponsorship of their upcoming NICVA Summit event. An overview of NICVA's proposal is attached at Appendix 1.

20	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider NICVA’s request for sponsorship of £20,000 for their 2026 Summit event.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As outlined in Appendix 1, NICVA have requested a contribution of £20,000 from Belfast City Council to support the 2026 Summit, with the full delivery costs of the event estimated at over £70,000.
3.2	NICVA highlight that this investment will directly support the delivery of a ‘vital platform for collaboration, learning and advocacy, ensuring that organisations across Belfast and beyond can participate and that the value of the voluntary and community sector is clearly demonstrated and strengthened’.
3.3	Council previously agreed to provide sponsorship of £10,000 to NICVA for their Future Thinking Summit which took place in October 2024 – a copy of this request is attached at Appendix 2.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	There is currently an allocation of £10,000 to support the NICVA Summit 2026 within existing City and Organisational Strategy departmental budgets.
3.5	Should Members be minded to approve the request for an additional £10,000, consideration of the source of the additional funding and potential realignment of City and Organisational Strategy budgets will be required.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – NICVA Summit 2026 – case for support proposal Appendix 2 - NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 – SP&R Committee report



NICVA Summit 2026 Case for Support Proposal

As CEO of NICVA, I am delighted to invite you to partner with us as a supporter of the NICVA Summit 2026.

In October 2024, NICVA hosted its inaugural Future Thinking Summit, bringing together senior leaders from across Northern Ireland's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector alongside government, public sector, and civic society partners. The response was overwhelming. The Summit highlighted both the scale of the sector's contribution and the urgency of the challenges it is addressing, from health inequalities and economic inactivity to community resilience, skills, climate, and social cohesion.

The VCSE sector in Northern Ireland employs tens of thousands of people, mobilises volunteers in every community and delivers essential services that underpin inclusive economic growth and social wellbeing. It is a major delivery partner for government and a critical driver of social value. As demand for services increases and funding and policy landscapes continue to shift, strong leadership, innovation and cross-sector collaboration have never been more important.

Building on the success of 2024, the 2026 Summit will be bigger, more ambitious, and more influential. With over 400 vol/comm leaders, trustees, senior managers, and decision-makers expected to attend, the Summit will bring together those who work in every community in Northern Ireland, deliver services with and for communities and shape long-term strategy across the sector.

Funding the NICVA Summit will enable community organisations to **demonstrate their impact, access vital resources, build strategic partnerships**, and **strengthen their capacity to deliver meaningful, lasting impact across their communities**. It also provides a critical platform to demonstrate and deepen understanding of the value of the sector; without funding support, the Summit simply could not take place.

Celine McStravick

CEO NICVA

Event Overview:

We are thrilled to announce our NICVA Summit will take place in the ICC Waterfront, Belfast on the 10th of June 2026. The landmark conference for the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Northern Ireland. Building on the success of 2024, the 2026 Summit will be bigger, and more ambitious, bringing together leaders, influencers, and changemakers to address key issues, share best practices, and drive meaningful social change.

Summit 2026 Key Outcomes:

- **Value:** demonstrate the breadth and depth of the voluntary and community sector and the significant impact it makes.
- **Inspire:** Gain insights from innovators and industry leaders who are shaping the future of the voluntary sector, as well as influencing policymakers with insights and evidence from the sector.
- **Connect:** Network with peers, build new relationships, strengthen existing ones within the community, and foster partnerships that will drive real and meaningful social change.
- **Strengthen:** Equip the VCSE with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate effectively and build a stronger, more connected sector.

Audience:

We expect to attract 400+ people including;

- **Sector Leaders:** voluntary and community organisations.
- **Policymakers:** Government officials and policymakers focused on civic issues.
- **Practitioners:** On-the-ground staff and volunteers driving change.
- **Stakeholders:** Businesses and organisations invested in community well-being.

Content:

Developed with and for the Voluntary and Community sector, the Summit will cover a wide range of emerging themes including;

- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Environmental and Climate change
- ✓ Community development/people and place

- ✓ Health
- ✓ Children and social care
- ✓ Arts and culture
- ✓ Faith and community
- ✓ Housing and homelessness
- ✓ Economic inactivity
- ✓ Equality and Diversity
- ✓ NI Partnership Agreement

Each theme will showcase the role of the Vol/Comm sector in addressing that issue and provide a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Funding Needs:

We are committed to making the NICVA Summit 2026 inclusive for attendees - this is crucial for maximising participation and impact. We aim to cover the majority of event costs through partnerships to keep attendance fees as low as possible. Your support will help us with:

- Venue and Logistics: Cover the costs of the venue, equipment, catering and other logistical needs.
- Speakers and Sessions: Fund travel and honoraria for key speakers and session facilitators.
- Materials and Resources: Provide attendees with high-quality materials and access to resources.

Our Ask

The NICVA Summit is not a profit-making event. We will be charging less than £80 per person for attendance to ensure accessibility across the sector; however, this means we must raise over £70,000 to cover the full costs of delivery. To enable the Summit to take place at the scale and quality required, we are seeking a contribution of £20,000 from Belfast City Council. This investment will directly support the delivery of a vital platform for collaboration, learning, and advocacy, ensuring that organisations across Belfast and beyond can participate and that the value of the voluntary and community sector is clearly demonstrated and strengthened.



Subject:	NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 (22 October 2024)
Date:	25 th October 2024
Reporting Officers:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty.

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

- After Committee Decision**
- After Council Decision**
- Sometime in the future**
- Never**

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To bring forward for Members consideration a recent request received seeking financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 (22 October 2024).

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider a request received to provide financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024, which took place on 22 October 2024.
3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="240 309 400 338"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="240 353 1524 638">3.1 As Members will be aware, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) is a membership and representative umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. With over a thousand members - ranging from household name charities to grass roots community groups - NICVA lobbies and campaigns to advance the interests of the people and communities that their members support. NICVA offers a wide range of practical services, products and support to their members to help them find innovative solutions for social challenges.</p> <p data-bbox="240 701 746 734">3.2 NICVA's strategic goals are as follows:</p> <ol data-bbox="288 757 1476 1041" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support - Helping the VCS to innovate, develop and improve to meet the needs of the communities it serves; 2. Influence - Helping the VCS to influence policy; 3. Develop - Helping the VCS consolidate and develop the use of data, digital and technology; and 4. Invest - Ensuring continuous improvement to provide the best service to our members. <p data-bbox="240 1104 1508 1294">3.3 Officers have received a request for Council to provide financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024, which was held on 22 October 2024 in W5 and W5 Life, Belfast. Unfortunately, due to the timing of this request, it was not possible to bring the request to SP and R Committee ahead of the NICVA Summit taking place.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1357 1516 1547">3.4 The Future Thinking Summit was modelled after the successful Scottish Gathering and the renowned annual Wheel Conference. The summit was designed to bring together leaders, influencers, and changemakers to address key issues, share best practices, and drive meaningful social change.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1610 938 1644">3.5 The Key Outcomes from the Summit were as follows:</p> <ul data-bbox="288 1666 1516 1906" style="list-style-type: none"> • Value : demonstrate the breadth and depth of the voluntary and community sector and the significant impact it makes. • Inspire: Gain insights from innovators and industry leaders who are shaping the future of the voluntary sector, as well as influencing policymakers with insights and evidence from the sector.

- **Connect:** Network with peers, build new relationships, strengthen existing ones within the community, and foster partnerships that will drive real and meaningful social change.
- **Strengthen:** Equip the VCSE with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate effectively and build a stronger, more connected sector.

3.6 The Summit was developed with and for the Voluntary and Community sector, covering themes including digital transformation, green economy, mental health, poverty, place-based collaboration. The summit used a variety of formats including:

- **Keynote Sessions:** Inspiring talks from leading influencers and policymakers.
- **Parallel Sessions:** Member-led discussions showcasing best practices and innovative approaches.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Facilitated sessions for building meaningful connections.
- **Resource Hub:** Access to vital information and learning materials.

3.7 To ensure this event was accessible to all, NICVA made the Summit free for attendees, including;

- **Sector Leaders:** voluntary and community organisations.
- **Policymakers:** Government officials and policymakers focused on civic issues.
- **Practitioners:** On-the-ground staff and volunteers driving change.
- **Stakeholders:** Businesses and organisations invested in community well-being.

3.8 Further details on the summit can be found at: [NICVA Summit 2024 Programme — NICVA Summit](#).

Request for Financial Support

3.9 NICVA has requested that Elected Members consider how this summit provided opportunities for capacity building, connections and confidence within the sector and is asked to consider providing financial support the following aspects of the summit:

- **Venue and Logistics:** Contribute to costs of the venue, equipment, and other logistics.
- **Speakers and Sessions:** Contribute towards the cost of travel and honoraria for key speakers and session facilitators.
- **Materials and Resources:** Contribute towards providing attendees with high-quality materials and access to resources.

3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is proposed that this request is supported via £10,000 from the in-year City and Organisational Strategy budget, which is in line with level of support provided to similar events in the recent past. There are no additional finance or resource implications contained within this report.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	Summit of the Cities 2026
Date:	24 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 													
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											
Call-in													
<p>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>													

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee’s attention a request from MW Advocate Ltd for the Council to sponsor a forthcoming event “Summit if the Cities 2026” to be held in City Hall on 24 th June 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the attached flyer which outlines the event; and • consider the request for the Council to sponsor the event to the value of £10,000.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that at the January meeting of this committee they agreed the use of the city hall to host an event titled “Summit if the Cities 2026”. This event will bring together leaders and delegates from all 12 cities across the island of Ireland to celebrate their history, share ideas, forge partnerships and accelerate practical action on the issues shaping urban life with panel discussion and speeches.
3.2	MW Advocate Ltd, who are organising the event, have recently made a request to the Council to sponsor this event to be held on 24 th June 2026 in the City Hall. As outlined in the Appendix 1, the focus of the event is shaping the island’s urban future – our cities & our communities.
3.3	Following on from the success of the Belfast & Derry Summits this event is the first event on the island to have attendance from all 12 Cities and is expected to be attended by 200-300 delegates from every city.
3.4	The keynote speaker is former Mayor of New York Bill DeBlasio on his first visit to Northern Ireland. Other speakers will include senior UK, ROI and NI government, city leaders from Britain and Ireland and thematic speakers around trade/finance, AI & government, arts/culture/heritage/tourism, planning, regeneration and how we finance growth and engaging community voices. Gavin White - Manchester Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration will be one of the expert speakers.
3.5	The council has been asked to consider a potential sponsorship of £10k for the event.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	Any financial implications from this report will be covered by existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 –Summit of the Cities 2026 information



SHAPING THE ISLAND'S URBAN FUTURE - OUR CITIES & OUR COMMUNITIES

The Summit of the Cities is a landmark gathering of every city on the island of Ireland, who, for the first time ever, will come together in Belfast on 24th June 2026.

Government leaders, policy-makers, entrepreneurs and cultural voices from the island's 12 cities will join global leaders and experts to share ideas, confront common challenges, foster collaboration and create a bold vision for a new era of city leadership.

The keynote address at the inaugural Summit of the Cities will be former Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio.



Bill De Blasio, Mayor of New York, 2014-2021

Also in attendance will be senior Ireland, Northern Ireland & UK Government Ministers.

The first ever Summit of the Cities will:

- Provide a **platform for Leaders & Chief Executives for the island's 12 cities** to connect, share what's worked, address challenges and discuss the future of our cities and their communities across a range of key issues.
- Introduce global perspectives through keynote speakers and **curated specialist sessions** with urban leaders, policy pioneers, trade & commerce leaders and international advisors. These will include **cross-border trade, AI and government, arts/culture and heritage, and financing city growth.**
- Create a meaningful interface where local government can constructively engage with each other, with public & private sector and with Ireland, NI and UK government leaders on **key topics** including **all-island rail connectivity, air connectivity, infrastructure, planning, education, regeneration, poverty reduction, housing, transport, hospitality, nightlife and economic development.**

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 9 th March 2026
Date:	24 th April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager (6015)

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on the 13 th April 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on the 13 th April, including:
2.2	<p><u>Revised Schedule of Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership agreed to change its monthly scheduled meetings from Mondays to Wednesdays from May 2026 and recommends that Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note and agree this change.
2.3	<p><u>Members Update – NIHE Presentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared City Partnership recommends that members note the presentation.
2.4	<p><u>Good Relations Quarter 4 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.5	<p><u>Community Recovery Fund Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee notes the contents of the report and agrees the proposed approach.
2.6	<p><u>PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.7	<p><u>Peace Plus Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.8	<p><u>Peace Plus Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.9	<p><u>Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared City Partnership welcomed Denis Long and Finvola McIntyre to the team and wished Emma Kennedy all the best on her maternity leave.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	The key issues on the agenda at the 13 th April 2026 meeting were:

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Papers of the 9th March 2026 • Revised Schedule of Meetings • Members Update – NIHE Presentation • Good Relations Quarter 4 Update • Community Recovery Fund Update • PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update • Peace Plus Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update • Peace Plus Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update • Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update • Any Other Business <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the following minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1: Minutes of the Shared City Partnership from the 13th April 2026, Appendix 2 NIHE – Housing for All Presentation and Appendix 3 Quarter 4 Good Relations Action Plan Delivery Summary.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> All financial implications are covered through existing budgets, and the Good Relations Action Plan is included in the current estimates process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership from the 9th March 2026 Appendix 2 – NIHE – Housing for All Presentation Appendix 3 – Quarter 4 Good Relations Action Plan Delivery Summary</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 13th April, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson); and
Alderman Copeland, Councillors Abernethy, I. McLaughlin and D
Lyons.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. N. Creagh, Department for Communities;
Ms. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Sector;
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;
Ms. I. Sherry, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. D. Long, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lynch, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations);
Ms. F. McIntyre, Project Officer (Good Relations);
Ms. G. Mullin, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor B. Smyth and Independent Members Mr. J. Donnelly, Supt. A. Hagan and Ms. A. Roberts.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th March.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Duffy and Ms. Arthurs also declared an interest under item 4, Community Recovery Fund, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillor Duffy also declared an interest under item 5, PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update, in that he was associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillors Duffy and Abernethy and Ms. Arthurs and Ms. Sherry declared an interest under item 5a, Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Revised Schedule of Meetings

The Partnership agreed that its meetings would be held at 1:30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th May;
Wednesday 3rd June;
Wednesday 5th August;
Wednesday 2nd September;
Wednesday 7th October;
Wednesday 4th November; and
Wednesday 9th December.

Members Update

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Ms. Mullin provided the Partnership with an overview of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Housing For All Shared Housing Programme.

Following discussion Ms. Mullin informed the Partnership that the Housing Executive was undertaking research on data supplied from Department for Infrastructure archives to develop their delivery of the programme and to and improve measurability of its outcomes and impacts.

Mr Gunn confirmed that the Housing Executive was reviewing its housing allocations systems which would include looking at intimidation points and the banding system. He undertook to provide an update on Primary Social Needs to a future meeting of the Partnership.

The Partnership thanked Ms. Mullin for her presentation.

Noted.

Good Relations Q4 Update

Mr. Robinson provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan during the 2025-2026 Quarter 4 period.

He reminded Members that The Executive Office awarded the Council £180,000, in addition to the £12,700 awarded in December 2025, which would be used to offset the Council's costs in delivering the Beacons programme as well as contributing to salary and administrative costs associated with the delivery of the Good Relations Programme.

These new awards, added to the original £600,000 and previous additional awards of £20,000 and £27,000, brought the total value of the Good Relations Action Plan to £839,700. While the initial £600,000 was awarded at 75% and matched with 25%

by the Council, all of the additional in-year awards are 100% funded by The Executive Office.

The following summary progress update on activity and allocations was presented to the Partnership:

Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 4	Total allocated
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£160,000	Projects awarded funding in Q1 continuing	£0
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	£20,000	Activity delivered in March 2026	£0
BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	£40,000	All activity delivered in Q2.	£0
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£20,000	March Migrant Forum meeting plus staff training initiatives.	£3,504
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme	£70,000	Contribution to IWD event	£700
BCC6	Interface Engagement programme	£70,000	IWD interface project	£3,950
BCC7	Shared Education Schools Programme	£20,000	Activities being delivered in Q4	£0
BCC 8	Strategic Connections and Support Programme	£48,862.20	2 initiatives supported	£0
	TOTAL	£448,862.20		£8,154

Mr. Robinson highlighted that delivery of the Action Plan during this period had been achieved with some underspend resulting from two projects not proceeding. He confirmed that the Council would request that this and any further underspend be reallocated into the programme's core administration costs.

Community Recovery Fund

Ms. Kennedy provided the Partnership with an update on the Community Recovery Fund which was introduced to support those areas of the city impacted by the public disorder in the summer of 2024.

She reported that the Council continued to oversee 21 active projects, with four having completed delivery and entered the monitoring, evaluation and vouching phases. It was anticipated that 18 of these projects would be completed within the original delivery timeframe of September 2026, with the remaining three having requested a further extension until the same date of September 2026.

She further reported that a further two organisations had requested additional funding to extend their projects until September 2026 and the Council was awaiting their formal proposals. It was recommended that SCP agree the programme and approach detailed in the report for these programmes.

The Partnership noted the update and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation Contract Awards and Procurement

The Secretariat continue to support the mobilisation of the Action Plan through procurements and stakeholder engagement for the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme.

The monitoring of implementation and results across the Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture and Diversity theme is ongoing, as outlined in each of the Thematic Reports.

3.2 Financial Controller

The verification control work of PEACEPLUS expenditure reports by KPMG is ongoing. Responses to clarifications for Claim Periods (P) 1-5 have been completed, with all expenditure deemed eligible.

Officers will liaise with SEUPB and KPMG on extending the 5 day response timeframe for clarifications, where necessary.

3.3 Claims and Reporting

As reported in March 2026, the total expenditure across the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, up to Period 8 (31

Dec 25) is £1.8m approximately, with the value of claims submitted to SEUPB at £1.77m approximately.

As referred at 3.2 above expenditure for Period 1-5 has been fully verified. Reimbursement of the £488K has progressed. The exchange rate fluctuation associated with the reimbursement will be reported to members in April 2026.

Verification control work of Period 6 expenditure (£386.5K) is currently underway.

Members are advised that SEUPB requested that all retrospective reports and claims up to Period 8 (Oct-Dec 25) are submitted on the JeMS system by 31 March 2026, which has been achieved. The change in the submission timeframe added to work pressures across the team.

3.4 Forecasting and Expenditure Targets

As reported in March 2026, the Programme Board advised that formal correspondence should be issued to SEUPB regarding the assumptions relating to the achievement of the Expenditure Performance Targets, which is currently being progressed.

Members are requested to note that further correspondence has been received from SEUPB detailing Council's Spend Targets and requesting Council's acceptance of the targets.

It should be noted that the expenditure forecasts submitted in December 2025 will unfortunately not be achieved due the level of project performance, longer procurement and contract award processes, outstanding invoices as well as resourcing pressures.

Revised forecasting submitted to SEUPB for March 2026, highlighted a shortfall against the December 2025 forecasts of approx. £477K for Period 9 (January-March 2026), £200K for Period 10 (April-June 2026), and additional spend for Period 11 (July-September 2026), of £37K and Period 12 (October-December 2026) of £360K. The revised forecasts were submitted SEUPB by 31 March 2026.

The Partnership is requested to note that the Programme Board recommended that the Acceptance of the Spend Target Memo is signed by the Chief Executive subject to the assumptions the forecasts are based on.

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Delivery of project activity and progress towards the achievement of participant targets is progressing, as outlined in the Thematic Reports.

Updated monitoring data from delivery partners is currently being finalised, as such an updated Dashboard reflecting deliverables and results to 31 March 2026 (Period 9) will be presented at the next Partnership meeting.

Monitoring system issues are continuing, and weekly troubleshooting meetings are held to address urgent project issues.

Staffing

The Partnership is reminded of the resource pressures within the PEACEPLUS team due to 4 vacancies and maternity leave.

A new Project Manager has been appointed and commenced on 30 March 2026.

The recruitment exercise for the business-critical Monitoring and Data Analyst resulted in no appointment and has been readvertised. Appointment of the Finance and Claims Support Assistant was also unsuccessful.

Recruitment for a new Project Support Officer, who has moved internally, is also being progressed.

The Partnership will be updated of the outcome of recruitment efforts for all roles in due course.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is reimbursed by SEUPB and is eligible from 1 January 2024. As referenced at 3.5 above, PEACEPLUS claimable expenditure to 31 December 2025 is approx. £1.771m.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations, and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Thriving and Peaceful Communities (TPC) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Delivery

An overview of project progress within the TPC theme is outlined below.

TPC 1 Community Empowerment – Lead Delivery Partner NICVA

Project Partners: Forward South Partnership (FSP), East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB), Falls Community Council (FCC), Greater Shankill Partnership (GSP) and Marrowbone Community Association (MCA).

181 participants are actively participating in the project and 94 have completed activity from an overall target of 1000.

Delivery of the Cohort 1 L2 OCN in Community Development (17 participants) has been completed and participants have received accreditation from OCN, with varying levels of contact hours achieved. The SCP is requested to note that the Programme Board agreed to delegate authority for the Good Relations Manager and the Programmes Manager to review and authorise the level of contact hours achieved for this cohort, ensuring achievement of the minimum contact hours and in line with the previously agreed tolerances.

Cohort 2 (21 participants) is continuing to engage in the L2 OCN in Community Development.

A second Citywide networking event took place during February with 75 people attending. The citywide Capacity Building Forum also convened and considered feedback from the networking event and upcoming non-accredited training.

Baselining is now completed for Local Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP) 01 (Court), with baseline reports to be submitted to Council. Delivery of sessions are continuing for LCEPs 02 (Blackmountain), 08 (Balmoral/Botanic), and 09 (Lisnasharragh/Ormiston/ Titanic), to brainstorm and refine action plans including social action project proposals.

Upcoming activity includes a further Citywide Capacity Building Forum, East/West Best Practice Visit to Connswater Greenway and City Cemetery, and Non accredited training – Developing Cases for Support and Funding Applications.

Officers are continuing to liaise with NICVA on the M&E requirements to ensure data integrity and to update mechanisms for easier reporting across NICVA's CRM system and the PEACEPLUS M&E system.

3.3 TPC 2 Health & Wellbeing - Lead Delivery Partner Ashton

Project Partners: Shankill Partnership Board, East Belfast Community Development Agency, West Belfast Partnership Board, & North Belfast Community Partnership.

Delivery has commenced in January for both the Men and Women's cohorts, and a Men's Health Fair was held in January in East Belfast. Project meetings are ongoing within the localities, and the first Citywide Shared Learning Group meeting took place on 19th January. Citywide mapping of services activity is ongoing.

Final approval of the change request to reduce participants numbers in the Programme Oversight Group (POG) and increase participation in the wider programme has been finalised, which enabled release of the Phase 1 Contract Initiation payment.

A total of 215 participants is registered to Men's Cohorts within the February reporting period across East Belfast (50), West Belfast (25), North Belfast (55) and the Greater Shankill (80). It was also reported that participants have achieved the required contact hours

within the Women's Cohort (38) and Men's cohort (55) in North Belfast, and 90 wider participants attended a Men's Health Fair on 28 January 2026 in East Belfast.

On this basis the level of reported achievement is 465 participants registered and 233 completed. Members should note that M&E data is to be uploaded and verified

The Partnership is also requested to note that a request to extend the Areas of Interest and Influence is currently being finalised, and which will require SEUPB approval. Officers are currently liaising with Ashton to finalise the detail and enable flexibility of delivery in line with the current processes.

3.4 TPC 3 Youth Empowerment, Inspiring Future Belfast

Lot 1: 9–12 year olds (Juniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Giga Training

Project Partner BEAM Creative Network.

The delivery partner is continuing to plan for delivery of Year 2 activity via schools in West and Shankill Areas, with 6 school partnerships, a community programme and 2 Digital and 2 Arts Academies.

Delivery of activity will progress in April – June 2026, which is in line with the agreed implementation plan.

3.5 Lot 2: 12–15 year olds (Intermediate) - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network (ACN) Project Partners: Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club, Lagmore and Rosario Youth.

Project Partners: Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club, Lagmore and Rosario Youth.

Delivery of activity including cross border study visits and residential for Cohort 2 (100 participants) is being finalising. One cross community group was unable to attend the residential activity due to an unforeseen issue; therefore, a further residential is being planned.

M&E data for the completed participants indicates that 97 young people will complete the required activity and contract hours.

As reported in March 2026, the delivery partner had experienced challenges in the delivery of residential activity with the schools' groups. Members are requested to note that following discussion with SEUPB, it was agreed that 2 cross border day trips could replace the residential in this instance. The two trips are being delivered during March 2026.

Planning for the recruitment of the next participant cohort (73) is underway and will progress further after Easter (April 2026).

The Partnership should also note that the Delivery Partner continues to highlight issues associated with delivering residential activity including the availability of venues, accommodation and transport costs as well as safeguarding issues. On this basis the Delivery Partner is considering a change request.

3.6 Lot 3: 16–18 year olds (Seniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Streetbeat Youth Project
Project Partner YEHA (Youth Educational Health Advice).

Delivery of Year 2 / Cohort 2 leadership sessions are progressing engaging 70 young people across 5 groups. An outdoor adventure day bringing all the groups today is planned for 2 April 2026. M&E data for Cohort 2 is currently being confirmed.

Members should note that following completion of Cohort 1 activity, 9 young people have progressed on to volunteering activity, additional to the project requirements, which clearly outlines the positive impact the project has had on their confidence, self-esteem and personal development.

3.7 Lot 4: 19-25 years olds (Young adults) – Lead Partner GEMS NI
Project Partners: Diverse Youth NI (DYNI), Training Network for Women (TWN).

A residential debrief and employability sessions for Cohort 1 participants (26) are scheduled for March / April 2026.

Following the international residential to the Centre for Peacebuilding in Sarajevo, some participants are exploring an internship with the Centre. A reflection and celebration event for the participants is being progressed for 16 April 2026.

As reported in March 2026, the issue of travel documentation checks is being progressed by the DP with the Aviation Authority to ensure the safeguarding of participants.

Recruitment planning of 40 participants for Cohort 2 is underway, and it is envisaged activity will commence in April/May 2026, with an international residential to the Basque region in September/October 2026.

3.8 TPC 4 Sport for Peace - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network

Project Partners: Sport Changes Life Foundation, PeacePlayers NI and Community Sports Network.

Delivery of activity with Cohort 2 participants across the pillars is progressing.

31 Participants from St Mary's and Ulster University continue to engage in Pillar 1 coach education (16–18-year-olds). Members are requested to note that the shortfall of 14 participants of the 45 target will be made up by September 2026. The Delivery Partner is also considering requesting a realignment of targets and payments.

The delivery of Pillar 2 cross community sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) with 300 participants (Cohort 2) is ongoing.

Recruitment of participants for Cohort 3 community groups is underway, with imminent registration from St Malachys and Albert Foundry group.

Delivery of Pillar 3 mentoring element for Cohort 2 is underway with 4 participants actively engaged.

The Terms of Reference for the Pillar4 research has been provided and is being reviewed by officers.

3.9 TPC 5 Employability Language Up – Lead Delivery Partner People1st

Project Partners: Belfast City Mission, Conway Education, Donegall Pass, Fane Street Primary, Food Stock, Footprints, Holy Rosary Primary, Mears, Refuge Language, Russian Speaking Community, Street Soccer NI, The Suitcase Project, Wee Chicks, Windsor Women's Centre.

During the reporting period, 1 cohort has completed Strand 1 vocational language activity and 2 new cohorts focussing on Hospitality and Catering & Construction have commenced.

To date 339 participants have been recruited onto the project, which exceeds the current recruitment target and a total of 75 participants (cumulative) have achieved the meaningful contact hours required across both strands. This represents 41% progress towards the phased target of 184 participants (March 2026). Members should note it is likely there will be a delay in the DP achieving the target.

Engagement is city-wide, with particularly strong participation in South Belfast, and post attitudinal survey responses range from 83% - 100% across all 9 questions.

3.10 TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner MayWe

Project Partners: BEAM Creative Network

Project activity is progressing with 235 participants actively participating in 3 sub projects (1, 2 and 5) from a total target of 496.

Project 1: Polyphonic (133 actively participating) Target 120

Joint art sessions across area groups are continuing and the Echoes and Embers showcase events took place on 22 and 28 March 2026. The social action digital art project was integrated into live performances and will also be adapted for use across social media and digital platforms to extend Echoes & Embers' reach and impact beyond the live events. All deliverables (capacity building, joint art sessions, site visits, mentoring, artwork development, social action and showcases) are being finalised.

Project 2: Suitcases & Skies (84 actively participating) Target 120

Area recruitment for South Belfast groups has been completed with Sona and ETC Morton Community Centre (NIHSC Trust)) engaged. Joint art sessions will continue until the final rehearsals at end of April 2026, and showcases are scheduled for mid-May at Chultúrlann and the Ulster Hall. The site visit took place at the Ulster Hall which enabled participants to get familiarised with the main theatre, backstage areas, green/dressing rooms and mobile accessibility needs. An art masterclass centring on the role of arts and crafts in set design followed.

Additional training for auxiliary roles such as tech, sound, lighting and stage management, has been offered, to build confidence and address the needs of participants. The DP has offered substantially more engagement hours (50) than the minimum hours to participants (36).

Members are requested to note that the 4 short site visits have been combined into a site visit and art masterclass. This revised delivery approach has enabled engagement and been more manageable with the groups with additional needs. This combined approach is under consideration for future cohorts.

Project 5: Media Production (21 participants recruited, 18 actively participating) Target 16

Participants continue to attend activity being delivered through subprojects 1 & 2 to capture footage and content for the newsletter, socials and documentary. Participants have been reviewing documentary footage to look closer at plotlines and storyboarding as the final performances approach.

4.1 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

4.2 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Delivery

Projects are at various stages of implementation, and an overview of project progress is outlined below.

3.2 CCD1 – Interfaith and Belief Lead Delivery Partner: Corrymeela Community

Consortium Partners: Redeeming Our Communities, Belfast Islamic Centre, NI Inter-Faith Forum

Participant engagement has increased slightly to 58 participants registered, across the 3 Streams of activity. The Delivery Partner continues to engage a range of groups across the city.

Pilot sessions of the Stream 1: Outreach Education resources took place on 7 March 2026. The education resources continue to be refined after the session. 2 interfaith walks/café events took place on 26 and 29 March 2026, a further walking tour is being planned for May 2026. It is envisaged attendees of these events will be recruited to the wider project. Engagement with schools on awareness sessions continues to be planned.

Stream 2: Unity and Welcoming Programme: Mapping of the welcome, care and social action work provided by faith and belief groups is progressing via an online survey, although responses have been limited. Further supplementary research to support the survey is progressing.

Stream 3: Co design sessions on celebrating faith and belief festivals are continuing. A festival event focussing on the fasting and feasting beliefs of the Muslim, Christian, Navratri and Ba’Hai faith took place in March 2026, and was well attended. An outline schedule of faith festivals for 2026 is currently being finalised. The Partnership will be updated in due course.

As reported in March 2026, the project remains behind schedule, and a plan for the delivery of the sessions has been requested.

3.3 CCD2 – Community Connections Lead Delivery Partner (DP): GEMS NI

Consortium Partners: Business in the Community, Belfast City of Sanctuary, Diverse Youth NI, Migrant Centre NI, Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

A further 19 new participants have engaged with the project, and 2 participants reached the required contact hours to be deemed achieved. A total of 65 participants is registered with 40 participants actively participating and 7 have completed the required hours.

To date 33% of the Phase 2a target of 121 participants registered and actively participating has been met.

The Delivery Partner continues to experience recruitment challenges which is impacting upon the delivery of project targets. The complexity of the project, high contact hours (50) and format of Welcome Hubs was acknowledged,

Members are requested to note that progress and performance have been highlighted to the DP, and the project has been flagged in the quarterly risk register as “red” status.

The DP is to provide:

- (i) a realigned implementation plan outlining all key deliverables,
- (ii) an outline of key issues experienced to date, ongoing issues and mitigations being put in place to ensure realigned targets will be met.

The information will be considered by officers and reported further to the Partnership.

3.4 CCD 3 – LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Project - Lead Delivery Partner: The Rainbow Project Project Partners: Cara Friend, HRe NI

The Partnership is advised that a change request to expand the membership of Strands 1 and 2 to include minority LGBTQIA+ groups. was approved via the Delegated Authority.

Following receipt of outstanding information, a second change request to realign targets and timescales has been received and the change request is under consideration for approval via the same Delegated Authority process. There are currently 25 active participants and 50 achieved participants, which is in line with the realigned targets.

The Co-ordination and Strategic Planning strands of the project have been the main areas of delivery to date, and the Research strand has commenced during March 2026. The Outreach strand is due to commence by the end of April 2026, which will see an increase in registered and achieved participants.

The DP has met the required deliverables to enable the outstanding Phase 2a payment and the Quarter 4 2025 Management and Administration (M&A) payment to progress. It is anticipated that project requirement and payments will be up to date by April 2026.

3.5 CCD4 – Community Empowerment Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners

**Lead Delivery Partner: Coiste na nIarchimí Project
Partners: Tar Anall, Action for Community Transformation,
Charter NI, and Tar Isteach**

The project launched via a photo opportunity, attended by the Chair of the Partnership, and press release on 5 March 2026.

Community engagement is progressing, with 61 registrations across the Hens Shed, Support Engagement, Storytelling, Counselling, Advice and Welfare training elements. Storytelling narratives are currently being compiled and estimated to be completed by June 2026.

Following confirmation from SEUPB on aspects of delivery, course options for the counselling training are being confirmed.

CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.6 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access

The assessment process has now concluded and contracting will be progressing to the Contract Award stage.

3.7 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces (Come On Over) Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe

11 participants are actively participating in the Steering Group, with the first strands of activity designed by the steering group includes capacity building for cultural venues and for grassroots groups scheduled for delivery at the end of March 2026.

Four additional venues are in discussions with MayWe about joining the project and communications have also progressed with a dedicated socials channel established to publicise the project.

3.8 Lot 3 – Festivals and Flagship Events Lead Delivery Partner: Féile an Phobail

42 participants are actively participating in the Mentors/Mentees, Flagship Events Steering Group and Musical Fusions Steering Group elements of the project.

A Musical Fusions steering group focussing on preparatory planning for delivery of the programme in 2027 met in February. Mentoring sessions, scheduled for March/April, will focus on leadership and communications.

Confirmation of the co-designed social action animation activity and clarity regarding the content, PEACEPLUS element, contribution and participant engagement of the first Flagship Event in March 2026 is being progressed

The Flagship Events Capacity Building OCN delivery commenced mid-March 2026. As reported in March 2026, further information on regarding the proposed Festival and Flagships events is being sought, in advance of the next flagship event social action animation activity planned for May 2026 (May Day Festival).

**3.9 Lot 4 – Culture and Shared Built Heritage - Lead Delivery
Partner: Arts Ekta
Project Partners: Cairde na Cille, Kabosh Theatre**

Year 1 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) has been fully verified. Of a target of 625, 408 participants were confirmed to be actively participating while 362 participants completed. Payments for Oct-Dec 2025 quarterly management fee and phase 2b payment have been progressed. The project is comfortably exceeding targets for the phase of delivery.

Cohort 2 of Tour Guide Training commenced their course in February, and workshops have commenced for the Eastside Arts cohort for the 2nd theatre piece. This was showcased in March. Other activity in March included the Faith based trail schools' engagement and co-design work and planning for the third theatre piece in the city centre (Paperclips).

Members are requested to note that participants (20) from Lagan College engaged in the Faith Based Trail are considered as outside of the Belfast Area due to the safeguarding of participants under 18. This number of participants from outside the Belfast area is to the 10% threshold and will be closely monitored by officers.

4.1 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

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

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

A member highlighted that the change in approach for Good Relations funding from The Executive Office was impacting the Community and Voluntary Sector in delivering projects.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Community Regeneration and Transformation Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with an update on delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Capital and Animation Update

As previously reported, the design teams for all projects have been appointed.

3.2 CRT1: LGBTQIA+ Hub:

The layout and concept designs have been finalised between the design team and the stakeholders. The detailed design phase has now commenced, and that will include progressing through statutory approvals. Planning application is being finalised and submission is imminent.

The groups have now agreed their legal status as a company limited by guarantee and are seeking final approval from their Boards with the intention to establish the company by end March 2026. Early concerns regarding rent affordability these are being worked through with senior staff from Property and Project's Estates Unit.

3.3 CRT2: Annadale:

The project is progressing well, with only a minor delay to the submission of the planning application, it is

anticipated that the application will be submitted by April 2026. Subject to the outcome and duration of the planning process, the capital works are expected to be completed by June 2027.

A project update was provided to the Annadale Stakeholder Steering Group on 25 February 2026. Representatives from the Stakeholder Steering group were invited to the upcoming Event Management Training and were asked to suggest suitable contractors for the initial Annadale Open Space programming work, as part of the project scoping..

Discussions on coordinating further work on site designs and operational use and management of the site took place as part of the Annadale Internal Steering Group on 12 March 2026. The final drawings and site designs are to be shared with the Stakeholder Group.

Officers agreed to align timeline for the Community Events specification with Council's events schedule. Quotation documents for environmental activities, play sessions, detached youth work and the events programme are being finalised, with release expected in April 2026.

Officers continue outreach for participants for the Event Management Training scheduled for late March 2026.

3.4 CRT3: Distillery Street:

An in-person community consultation, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, on the project designs took place in Nubia Street on 2 March 2026. Issues arising from this consultation has been escalated. Further meetings and discussions are being progressed.

Members are requested to note that the issue of the animation tender may be delayed ensuring alignment with the community consultation, finalised designs and the planning application.

3.5 CRT4: Access to the Hills:

Land ownership, the abandonment process for land at Wolfhill Road, and the submission of 3 planning applications for the project were discussed at the Stakeholder Steering Group meeting on 12 March 2026.

Project design is now at RIBA Stage 3. Land ownership agreements, the construction environmental management plan and archaeological surveys are

ongoing which will inform the final designs and enable planning permission to be submitted.

The procurement for animation activity closed on 27 February 2026, and the assessment process is currently ongoing. It is anticipated that the contract will be in place in April 2026.

3.6 CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre

The capital element has progressed to RIBA stage 3 and PQQ documents for the construction contractor are due to be finalised by the end of March 2026.

Submission of the planning application for the signage is also being finalised and submission is imminent. It should be noted that planning will not impact any construction works.

It is estimated that the construction ITT will be issued by end of April 2026.

Members are advised that the contract for delivery of the animation activity has been awarded to the Bright Umbrella Drama Company, and the contract initiation meeting is scheduled for 26th March.

3.7 Governance update

The Programme Manager and Programme Delivery Manager continue to liaise on project progress. Dates for the next Capital Project Board meeting are being finalised, and a request to SEUPB to nominate a representative to the Board is being progressed.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Any Other Business

The Good Relations Manager introduced Ms. Long and Ms. McIntyre, who had recently joined the Good Relations Unit, to the meeting.

He also informed the Partnership that this would be Ms. Kennedy's last meeting before taking maternity leave and the Members wished her well.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 6th May

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank



**Housing
Executive**

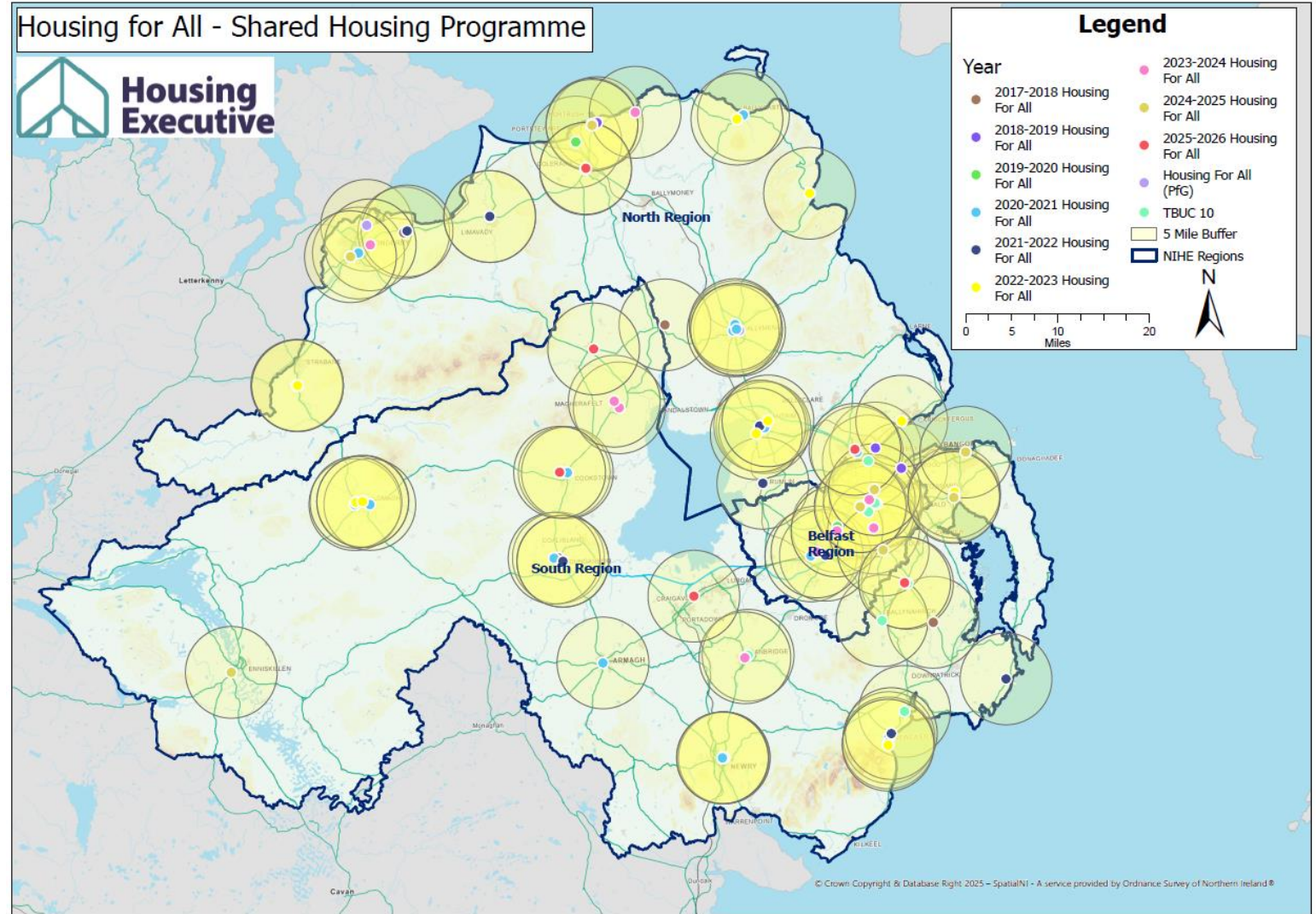
Page 699

Housing for All **Shared Housing Programme**

Grainne Mullin
Head of Housing for All
13th April 2026

‘Housing for All’ Overview

- Page 700
- 11 Housing Associations
- 91 Developments
- 55 complete & shared
- 3,174 households & beyond
- 41 local Advisory Groups (23 Merged as located close to others).



5 Year Good Relations Plans

Longevity of programmes and opportunities provided by sustained investment over a period of time.

- **Promotion**
- **Engagement**
- **Bonding**
- **Bridging**
- **Learning**
- **Sustainability**



Local Advisory Groups

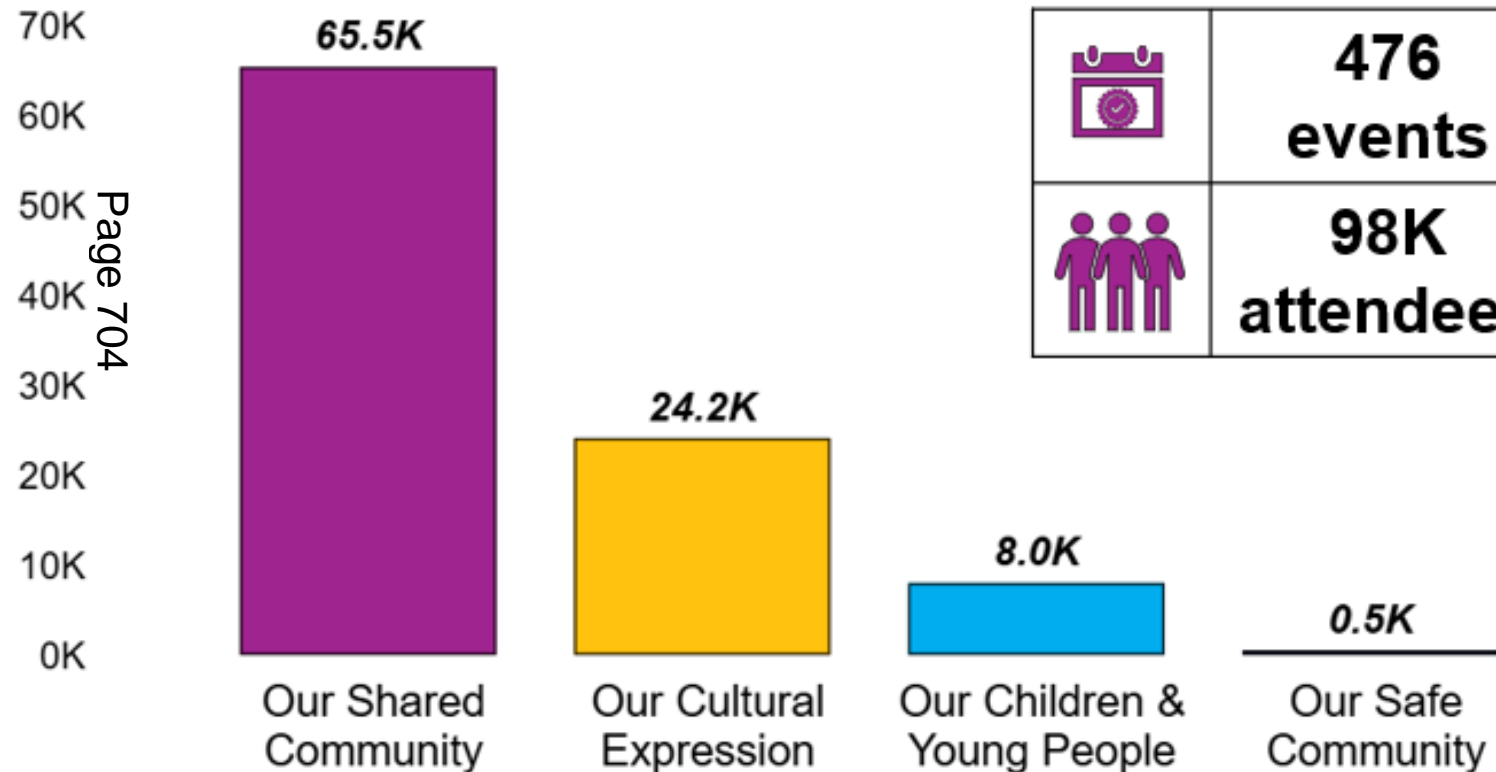
- Managed by Housing Association
- Meet Quarterly – ToR and Code of Practice
- Includes Statutory Agencies, Community Groups/Youth Groups, Schools, Colleges & Elected Representatives
- Identify **Gaps** in Good Relations delivery
- Work Collaboratively
- Advise on content & oversee delivery of GRPs
- Merged Advisory Groups collaborate & maximise opportunity





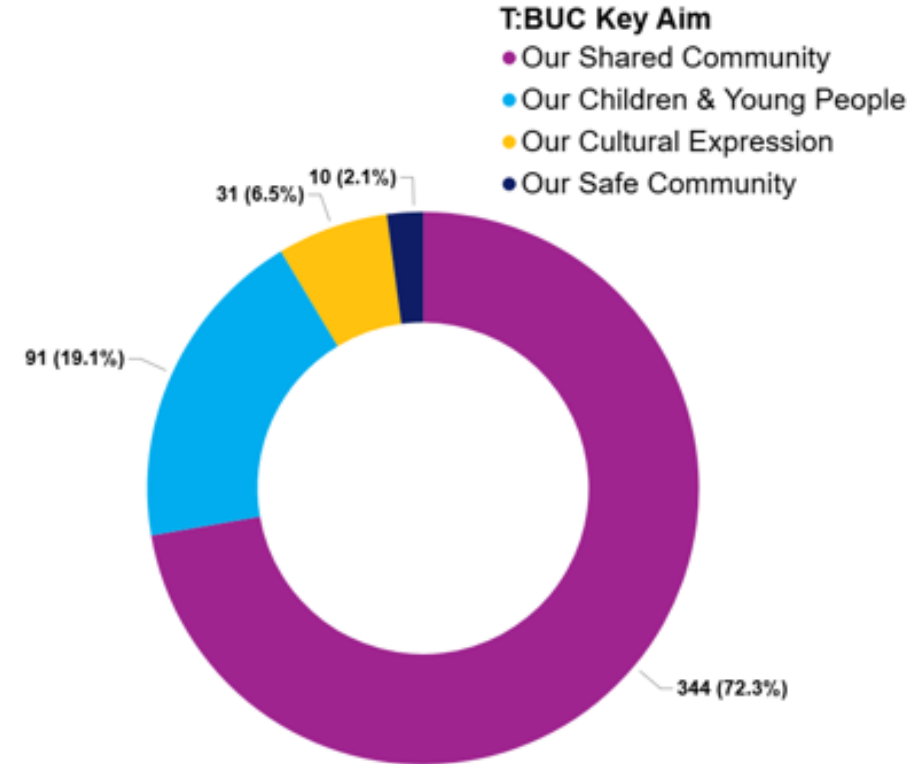
High-level overview of 2024/2025 Shared Housing events

*Estimated no. of attendees
(including festivals)*

*Shared Housing events in FY 2024/2025,
by T:BUC Key Aim*

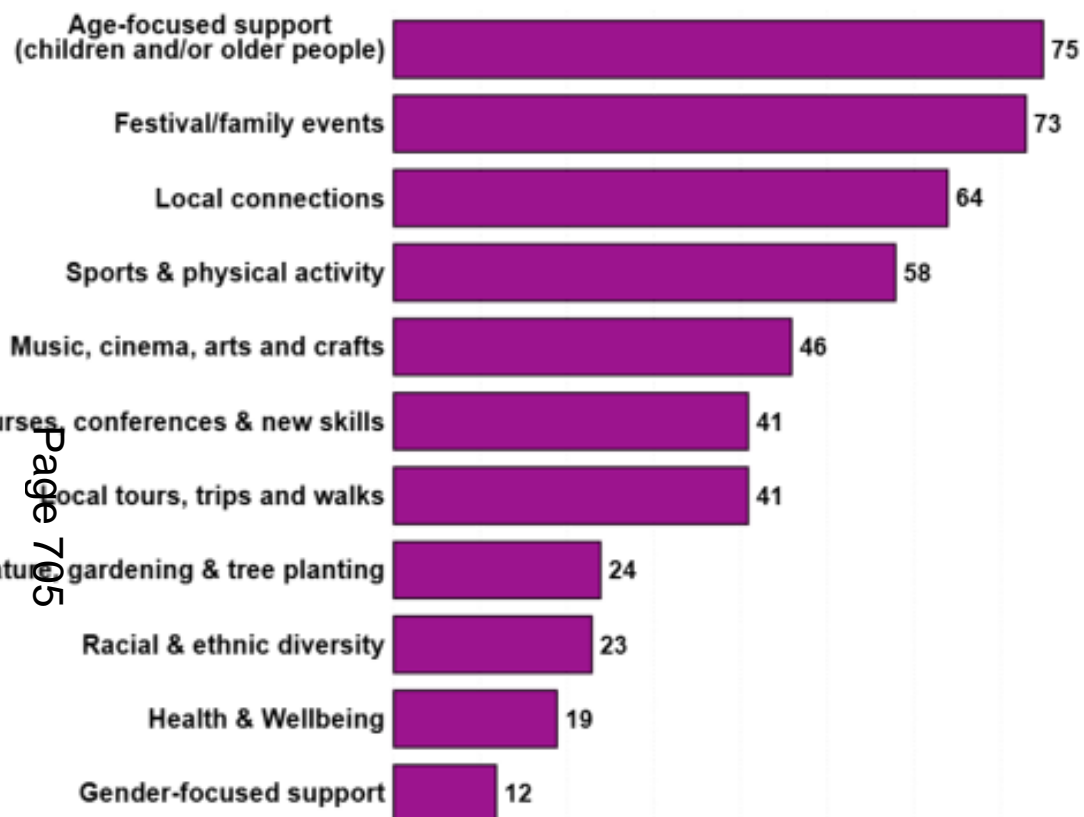


	476 events
	98K attendees

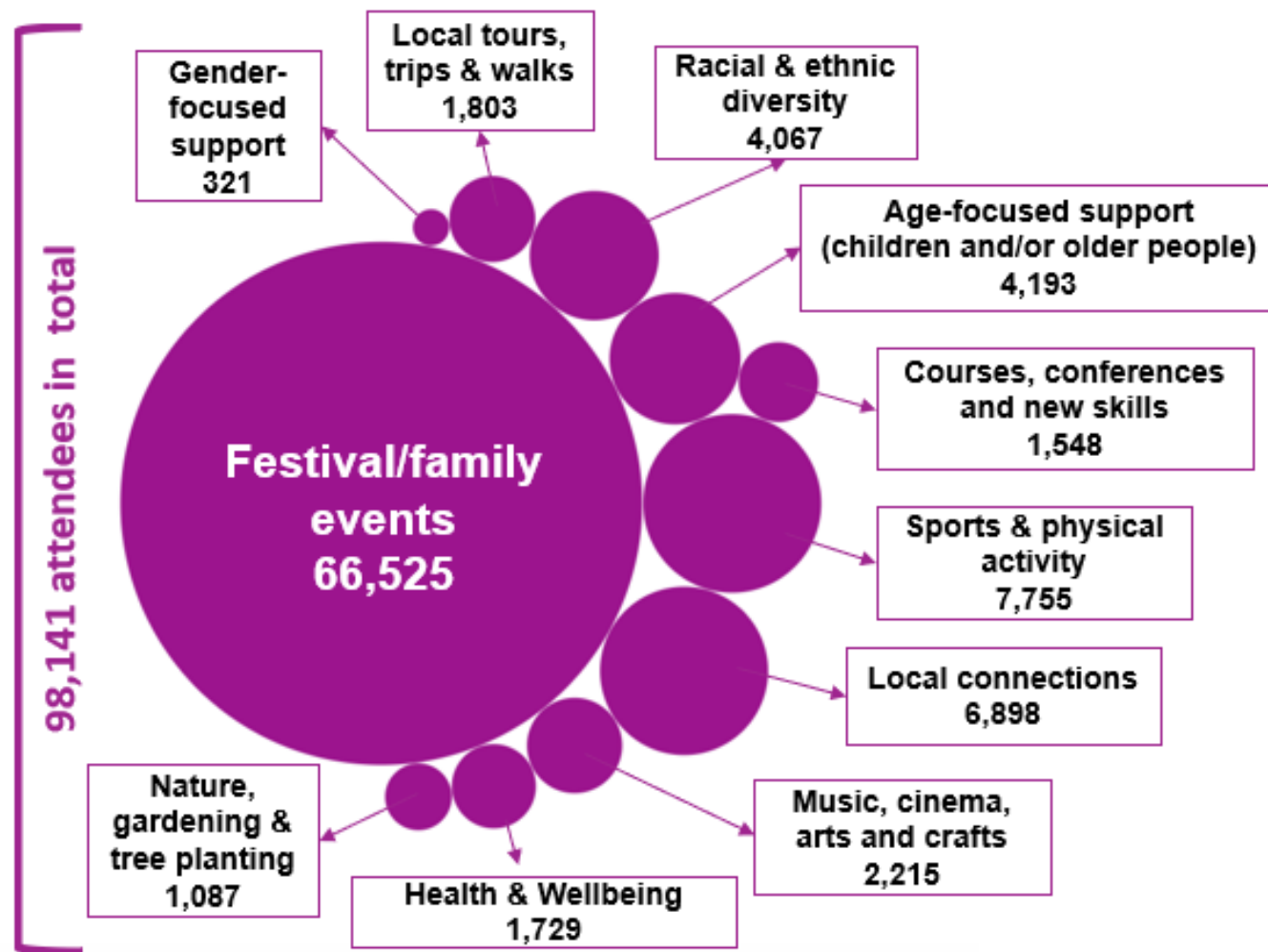


Main focus of 2024/2025 Shared Housing events & attendance

No. of events by their main focus



Estimated no. of attendees by main focus of the event



Note: most Shared Housing events were multifaceted and combined elements of two and more activity types. In this slide, only one type/focus was highlighted for each event to avoid data duplication.




Belfast Bands Forum

CULTURE IN CONFIDENCE: MEDIA TRAINING

9-Week Training Course

- UNDERSTAND HOW THE MEDIA WORKS AND HOW TO MANAGE PRESS ENGAGEMENT.
- BUILD DIGITAL CONFIDENCE
- DEVELOP CLEAR, AUTHENTIC MESSAGING
- HANDLE INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY WITH PROFESSIONALISM.
- USE SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTIVELY
- RECOGNISE AND CHALLENGE NEGATIVE NARRATIVES

LOCATION : ALTERNATIVES , 137 AGNES ST, BELFAST BT13 1GG
18TH FEBRUARY 2026, 7PM
REGISTER @ BELFASTBANDFORUM@OUTLOOK.COM

Ark HOUSING **woven**

Northern Ireland Executive **T:buc** **Housing for all** **Housing Executive**

Urban Living Project

- Dedicated Project manager
- City Centre Waiting List
- Dargan House Loftlines
- Mixed Use/ Mixed Tenure/ Shared
- Collaboration & knowledge sharing
- City Centre Housing Providers Forum
 - Including Belfast AG overview
- Action Plan for Sustainable City Centre Living
- Research, Mapping & Evaluation



Contact Information

Page 708

- HousingForAll@nihe.gov.uk
- Grainne1.Mullin@nihe.gov.uk
- Cathy.Wright@nihe.gov.uk

2025/26 Quarter 4 Action Plan Summary Report

Code	Key Priority	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 4	Q4 allocation
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Good Relations Small Grants Prog Criteria focusing on the 4 T:BUC themes and providing opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote Good Relations.	Total: £160,000	48 projects awarded letters of offer in Q1 continuing to be delivered.	£0
BCC2	Cultural expression	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme to embed Good Relations Outcomes into events marking the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	Total: £20,000	Programme agreed to support an inclusive carnival parade in March 2026	£0
BCC3	Cultural expression	Positive Cultural Expression Programme – to facilitate the positive expression of cultural heritage through the provision of bonfire beacons on the 11 July.	Total: £40,000	All activity delivered in Q2.	£0
BCC4	Shared Community	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme To develop and deliver a range of programmes of events and training on good relations/diversity issues.	Total: £20,000	March Migrant Forum meeting Staff anti-racism training	£304 £3,200 Total: £3,504
BCC5	Shared Community	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme To facilitate partnership working on the inclusion and participation of new communities. This programme will build on this engagement and continue to support initiatives that seek to support the integration and inclusion of all Communities, through good relations related projects as well as supporting advice giving organisations.	Total: £70,000	Support for the Happy Women's Group for events marking International Women's Day	£700 Total: £700
BCC6	Safe Community	Interface Engagement Programme Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop and deliver a city-wide initiative on anti-sectarianism and anti-racism to include other agencies and government 2. support progress towards the softening, transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. 	Total £70,000	Programme by Imagine Peace Barriers for International Women's Day	£3,950 Total: £3,950
BCC7	Children & Young people	Shared Education Schools Programme This initiative will be delivered in partnership with Education Authority and will focus on developing the Pupil Voice in Shared Education Partnerships. 4 Post-Primary Shared Education Partnerships (220 pupils) will be recruited onto the programme. The purpose of the programme is to engage pupils from different communities in a range of Pupil Voice		Events delivered in March 2026	£0

		Programmes that seek to explore sensitive and controversial issues through a variety of engagement sessions.	Total £20,000		
BCC 8	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Strategic Connections and Support Programme The aim of the Programme is to target resources through a Strategic Connections and Support Programme distributed on a themed basis for localised programmes, events and activities – across the City.	Total £48,862.20		£0
			£448,862.20	Quarter 1 allocation	£271,990.67
			£448,862.20	Quarter 2 allocation	£88,716.67
			£448,862.20	Quarter 3 allocation	£65,350.66
			£448,862.20	Quarter 4 allocation	£8,154.00
			£448,862.20	Total allocation	£434,212.00

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 16th April 2026

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Micky Murray

Councillor Sarah Bunting

Councillor Brian Smyth

Councillor Séamas de Faoite

Alderman Sonia Copeland

Councillor Ciaran Beattie

Councillor Ryan Murphy (*joined meeting for Cllr Beattie*)

Apologies: Councillor Natasha Brennan

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive

Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

Colin Campbell, Divisional Solicitor

David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services

Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects

Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place & Economy

Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services (*for Item 3*)

Mark McCann, City Innovation Manager (*for Item 3*)

Brenda Murphy, City Innovation Broker (*for Item 3*)

Jim Girvan Director of Neighbourhood Services (*for Item 6*)

Eunan McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing & External Affairs

Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Finance Update

The Director of Finance updated on the current financial position of the Council, Members noted the update and that further discussions will take place at the next Transformation and Efficiency workshop. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will be presented to members at the workshop in order to inform the discussions to ensure integration with both the corporate planning process and capital strategy so that any budgetary gaps can be identified in a timely manner. Members also noted current central government budgetary pressures and the potential implications for Council, updates on this will be provided going forward.

The Director also provided an update on the discretionary funding reserve and advised that significant further funding requests had been received since March SP&R Committee. He outlined for Members a high-level overview of those requests received and provided an update on those requests that February SP&R Committee had approved. Members noted the current

funding allocation available and that recommendations will be included in the report to April SP&R Committee for consideration.

2. Events Space

The Director of Property and Projects presented an update on the work which has taken place to identify and assess suitable event sites across the city following the decision by Council to restore playing pitch provision at the Boucher Road Playing Fields site. The Director outlined the engagement that had taken place to date with key stakeholders and the viable options that have emerged following that process. It was noted that further exploration is required, including site surveys, programming considerations and continued engagement in advance of a detailed proposal being brought to SP&R Committee. The report will be brought to May SP&R Committee in order to allow for exploration work to be undertaken. A number of queries were raised by Members for which the Director provided clarity. In relation to some of the specific queries around event management and infrastructure issues it was agreed that a special PGL's meeting is arranged along with key stakeholders to discuss further.

3. Bloomberg Fund Update

The Director City & Neighbourhood Services and the City Innovation Manager provided an update on the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayoral Challenge award following acceptance of the letter of offer. It was noted that work will now commence to deliver a two-year programme to transform alleyways across the city that's supportive of a neighbourhood's needs and ambitions. Members noted the key milestones for the programme of work, programme resources and governance arrangements. Members provided feedback in terms of potential piloting approaches for those groups that already existed and the Director to consider further in line with the programme of work going forward. The detail discussed will be included in a City Innovation update report to April SP&R Committee

Arising from discussion, Members made a number of points about the council's alleyway programme including the allocation of funding set aside in specified reserves for the transformation of alleyways. Officers agreed to explore with a view to bringing a further report back to committee.

4. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026

The Strategic Director of Place & Economy presented a summary update in relation to the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann work programme and outlined the work underway across a number of core workstreams including, event management, traffic management and accommodation.

Members raised some points in relation to park and ride arrangements and waste management for which clarity was provided. In relation to a point raised about funding for fringe events the Director to follow up with the Director of Finance. A report on the detail discussed will be brought to April SP&R Committee.

5. Planning Update

The Strategic Director of Place & Economy updated the Forum on a number of planning matters which were currently live including an update in relation to short term lets.

6. AOB

Transformation & Efficiency Workshop

Members agreed that the Transformation and Efficiency workshop be reconvened on Thursday 30 April following postponement of the workshop in March.

Illuminate Requests

The Divisional Solicitor outlined for Members a number of illuminate requests received. Members noted the following requests would be agreed under the City Solicitors delegated authority.

- **Golf Now Sports Awards** – 17 April 2026
- **Family Memory Walk** – 19 April 2026
- **World Refugee Day** – 20 June 2026
- **Baby Loss Awareness** – 18 October 2026

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Director of Property and Projects gave an update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF) and referred to March SP&R Committee whereby Members had asked that consideration is given to options for increasing the fund. The Director outlined the current NRF projects and the anticipated funding gaps for each given the current challenges in the construction industry and the wider global impact on capital projects. The Director did caveat that what was presented to Members was a high level estimate only and that this was subject to fluctuation given the current market. It was noted that any increase in the fund would need to be considered alongside the year end financial position to be presented to SP&R Committee.

Members noted that officers in the Property and Projects Department continue to work closely with applicants to explore other funding streams that could offset any gaps that have arisen.

European City of Sport 2026

The Director of Neighbourhood Services sought the view of Members in relation to the monies allocated by SP&R Committee for the additional programme support for European City of Sport for 2026. It was noted that whilst grass roots participation was the main focus for the monies, sponsorship of sporting bodies events could be considered. The Director to consider the feedback provided and an update brought back in due course.

The Director to follow up on the request for funding for a grass roots project that was highlighted by a Member.

Northern Ireland Football Fund

The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and Director of Property and Projects advised that the application process for grassroots football facilities funding across Northern Ireland had recently been launched. Stream two of the programme is open to Councils and Members noted the site that officers recommended putting forward for this funding stream and the rationale for the recommendation proposed. A report will be brought to April SP&R Committee for Members consideration.

St George's Market

The Strategic Director of Place & Economy briefed Members on recent commentary on social media in relation to St George's Market and Members noted the update provided and that the issue was being reviewed by Legal services.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Christopher Burns, Interim Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in

	respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 3 April 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is set out below.
3.2	Functions are invited for a range of purposes, including those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which support other events in the city; are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast, • celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary by an organisation or body with close links to the city or Northern Ireland or those, • organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.
3.3	Functions that may not be allowed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are those which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council, • or private events or functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Committee will recall that at its meeting on 23 rd January 2026 it considered an update on the City Hall Income Generation Project and subsequently agreed the revision of criteria for the use of Belfast City Hall and the provision of room hire fees and additional charges / recharges for event services. The events listed in the schedule of Appendix 1 have been reviewed against this new criteria and room hire prices applied on this basis.
3.5	A report on some of the issues raised at the Committee’s last meeting around additional charging will be presented in May. However due to the proposed date of this event, it was necessary to bring the request to this month’s Committee.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.6	None.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 3 April 2026.

This page is intentionally left blank

APRIL 2026 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	CHARGES
Dunlewey Addiction Service	11 June 2026	Celebration of Volunteers – showcase event to celebrate the achievements of service users and recognise the contribution of volunteers. Numbers expected; 50	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NO ROOM HIRE• Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>

This page is intentionally left blank

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider request from Hindu Council of Ireland for the use of City Hall grounds on 21 June 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on 21 June 2026 for International Day of Yoga Celebrations. 2. Authorise the event to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment and appointment of an event controller to ensure delivery of a safe public event.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.
	<u>The Proposed event – International Day of Yoga Celebrations</u>
3.2	The proposed event to mark International Day of Yoga would take place on the front East lawn only and areas such as the West Lawn, the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the building will not be affected. The event includes speeches followed by an outdoor yoga session being led to increase the awareness of healthy lifestyles through the benefits of yoga. Organisers welcome the participation of community members from all walks of life regardless of their faith or background. Organisers expect around 100 participants.
3.3	The event would be free to enter. The organiser would provide stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would comply with the Council's standard conditions for hire etc.
3.4	Members will also be aware that for many years the same organisation have used one of the lawns to mark this date and the event has always been successfully delivered without issue.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None. Costs will be met within existing budgets.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank

Disability Working Group

Tuesday, 24th March, 2026

MEETING OF DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Brooks (Chairperson); and
Councillors de Faoite and Smyth.

In attendance: Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer;
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer;
Ms. L. Wilson, Client Manager (Physical Programmes);
Ms. C. Donnelly, Committee Services Officer; and
Mr. A. McMullan, Member Services and Digital
Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Alderman Copeland and Councillor Abernethy.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th September, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Disability Action Plan

Mr. Johnston provided the Working Group with an overview of the draft Disability Action Plan 2026-2029. He reminded the Members that the Action Plan would demonstrate the Council's compliance with Section 49A and Section 49B of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) which placed a duty on designated public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons and to encourage participation by disabled persons in public life.

He reminded the Working Group that the development of the Action Plan was guided by four themes, namely: Leadership, Delivering for our Communities, Knowing our Communities, and Skilled and Diverse Workforce.

Members of the Working Group provided feedback to the officers present, expressing their reservations with the level of ambition demonstrated in the Action Plan, and that they were happy to work with officers to develop this further.

After discussion the Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed to:

- Defer further consideration of the Action Plan to a future meeting of the Working group, to which all Members of the Council would be invited, in advance of the launch of the public consultation;
- Request that the minutes of the Disability Working Group be placed earlier on the agenda for future meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and
- Invite Black Moon and Gig Buddies Belfast to a future meeting of the Disability Working Group to provide an update on their work relating to accessibility at events. This invitation would also be extended to relevant officers in the City and Neighbourhood Services and the Property and Project Departments

Strategic Roadmap Update

The Working group considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out next steps in the strategic roadmap.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members were updated at a Disability Working Group meeting on 9 April 2025 of the preliminary work in the development of a strategic roadmap for delivering an accessible city for all by 2035. The Disability Working Group provided important insight into their ambitions for an accessible city.

An internal 'International Day for People with Disabilities' event was held on 3rd December 2026 at the City Hall which showcased lived experiences from people with disabilities and the work the Council is currently doing to make our services and facilities more accessible and inclusive. At the event, Councillor Brooks, the Chair of the Disability Working Group reaffirmed the Council's commitment for Belfast to be an accessible city by 2035.

During the last quarter of 2025/26, a draft Disability Action Plan 2026-2029 was developed. A separate report has been submitted to the Members.

A new action measure has been added to the draft Disability Action Plan, highlighting a strategic and

leadership commitment for the Council to commit to the planning, the design process and the implementation for Belfast to become an accessible city for people with disabilities residing, working or visiting Belfast. The performance indicators for this action measure are:

1. Consult with Members, Corporate Management Team, City Partners, disability stakeholders and people with disabilities to host a large event to gather on what an accessible city roadmap would look like.
2. Establish a working group to deliver the planning and design process of the roadmap.
3. A strategic roadmap paper is produced with a costed plan.
4. The implementation of the roadmap to begin.
5. Provide updated reports at quarterly Members Disability Working Group meetings
6. Provide updated reports at Corporate Management Team meetings

In the draft Disability Action Plan 2026-2029, we have other action measures in place which will support the development and implementation of the roadmap including:

1. Complete an Accessibility Audit
2. Carry out a demographic data scoping exercise on people with disabilities residing in Belfast

4.0 Next Steps

The work undertaken to date in the drafting of the new Disability Action Plan, listing strategic action measures will make a significant contribution to what a roadmap towards an accessible city may look like.

Reports will be brought to the Disability Working Group as work progresses with the proposed timeframes for the below steps including action measures listed in the Disability Action Plan.

1. Host a large disability event in 2026/27
2. The completion of an accessibility audit and a demographic data scoping exercise in 2026/27
3. A report to be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee to request the authorisation of holding an all-Members workshop to consider in detail the wide implications associated with delivering the

strategic roadmap to create an accessible city by 2035. The workshop would include the following:

- Presentations on the accessibility audit report and the demographic data scoping exercise, providing a summary of the disability landscape in Belfast through council services and partnerships
- Best practice examples of accessibility in other cities
- Identifying gaps and dependencies on the findings presented and agreeing on the vision for an accessible city.

4. A strategy roadmap paper with a costed plan in place by 2028/29.

5.0 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial and resource requirements to be provided for a large disability event, an accessibility audit, a demographic scoping exercise and a Members Disability Working Group workshop. There will be both financial and resource implications which will be determined when Members ambitions for an accessible city within the working themes of leadership, partnership and services are further developed.

6.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Implications

The actions outlined in this report are designed to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report.

NI Executive Disability Strategy Response

The Working group considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

Members are asked to note a response to the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Disability Strategy 2025-2031

2.0 Main report

2.1 The Department for Communities has led the development of the Northern Ireland Executive draft Disability Strategy 2025-2035 on behalf of the Executive and with extensive input from other departments. This is the first 10-year strategy to be developed, and it has been developed in partnership with Deaf and disabled people and their representative organisations. The

Disability Strategy is one of a number of strategies that underpins the Executive's Programme for Government 2024-27.

2.2 The vision of this draft strategy is to make sure Deaf and disabled people are treated fairly and have the same rights as everyone else. The draft strategy has been structured around eight outcomes which will seek to ensure Deaf and disabled people can:

- 1. Effectively exercise their rights and fundamental freedoms and participate in society on an equal basis, free from discrimination.**
- 2. Access built environment, facilities and transport on an equal basis.**
- 3. Access public services, government information and communication on an equal basis.**
- 4. Access and participate in culture, leisure activities and sport on an equal basis.**
- 5. Live independently in the community with choice and control and with a sufficient and sustainable standard of living.**
- 6. Have access to quality health and social care on an equal basis without discrimination.**
- 7. Access and progress within quality employment in an inclusive labour market.**
- 8. Deaf and disabled people and young people can exercise their rights and reach their full educational, social and development potential.**

These strategic outcomes are supported by 58 strategic commitments.

2.3 The Department for Communities has lead responsibility for monitoring and implementation of this strategy and the department will be guided by a Regional Disability Forum. The Council has no input in the implementation of this strategy.

2.4 A public consultation opened for response on 9th December 2025. A response is required by Friday 20th March 2026.

2.5 Comments were received from EDN representatives across all departments, and a response has been drafted, which concludes that the Council strongly agrees with the vision, the eight outcomes and fifty-eight commitments listed in the draft Disability Strategy. The vision, guiding principles and commitments broadly align to Council's own draft Disability Strategy 2026-31.

2.6 The Executive's Disability Strategy Action Plan will detail the individual actions by government departments that will be set out to meet the strategic commitments. The intention is that the action plan will

cover a rolling three-year period which will evolve and develop as work progresses and circumstances change. Given Council's commitment to develop a strategic roadmap to an accessible city by 2035, this may provide scope for the Executive and government departments to work closely with Council to deliver the vision of Belfast as a fully inclusive and accessible city for people with disabilities.

2.7 Next Steps

It is proposed that the draft response will be presented to SP&R for consideration and approval. If approved by SP&R, the draft corporate response will be forwarded on a holding basis, subject to

3.0 Recommendations

The Members to:

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Note the draft response by the Council to the draft Disability Strategy consultation in the appendix.
3. Agree the next steps set out in paragraph 2.7.
4. Note that the corporate response will be considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 20th March and forwarded on a holding basis, subject to ratification by the Council, to meet the submission deadline of Friday, 20th March 2026.

5.0 Financial and Resource Implications

There will be no financial and resource implications on the Council.

6.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Implications

There are no equality/good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.

The Working Group noted the Council's response to the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Disability Strategy 2025-2026.

Mr. Connelly highlighted that, as the deadline for submissions had already passed, an officer response would be submitted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson noted that the Working Group was next scheduled to meet on 17th June, 2026. However, it was agreed that that meeting may be brought forward to accommodate further review of the Disability Action Plan.

The Working Group agreed to hold future meetings later in the day to enable more of its membership to attend.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Friday, 30th March, 2026

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson); and
Alderman Rodgers;
Councillors Beattie, Murray and de Faoite.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;
Ms. K. Mullen, Programme Delivery Manager;
Ms. J. Murray, Civic Services Manager;
Mr. B. Rolston, Client Manager; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Support Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th November, 2025, were adopted.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

City Hall Stained Glass Window - Health Service

The Programme Delivery Manager reminded the Working Group that Alpha Stained Glass had been appointed as the contractors for the design, manufacture and installation of the new stained-glass window in recognition of the Health Service. Accordingly, the Chairperson welcomed Ms. T. Coyle and Mr. D. Duffy from Alpha Stained Glass who outlined the initial concept design for the window and provided an overview of the specific events, symbols, services and individuals represented therein. A copy of the draft design was circulated for Members' information and the Working Group was requested to provide feedback.

The Working Group commended the representatives of Alpha Stained Glass for the scope, vision and comprehensive nature of the concept design, as well as its colour, vibrancy and commitment to inclusivity.

A Member pointed out that the original design had not included any wording in the Irish language and added that the Royal Victoria Hospital was within the footprint of the

Gaeltacht Quarter. He suggested that the design could be amended to incorporate the word 'grá' (love) in recognition of the Irish language community.

After further discussion, the Working Group expressed its support, in principle, for the concept design as presented. It was noted that the Members' comments would be considered by Alpha Stained Glass and the concept design would come back to the next meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installation Working Group in May before being presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration in due course.

City Hall Christmas Tree (external) - Preferred Options for Baubles and Base

The Civic Services Manager presented several slides in respect of the above-mentioned matter and it was agreed that further information regarding the specific design and dimensions of the base, together with its proximity to the front railings of the City Hall, would be circulated.

Noted.

City Hall – Exhibition Update

The Programme Delivery Manager gave an overview of the work which was ongoing to refresh and update the existing exhibition within the City Hall. She informed the Members that various displays would be amended to reflect the passing of several featured individuals and that work would be undertaken to update the list of those who had been awarded Freedom of the City status. In addition, a replica of the WBC world championship belt which had been won by the former boxer Wayne McCullough would be installed within the Hall of Fame section of the exhibition.

Noted.

Chairperson