

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



**Belfast
City Council**

8 October 2024

HYBRID MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (and via Teams) - City Hall on Tuesday, 8th October, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Restricted

- (a) GLL - Proposed Annual Schedule of Charges 2025/26 (Pages 1 - 16)
- (b) GLL - Annual User Survey Outcomes 2024 (Pages 17 - 36)
- (c) Marrowbone Pitch - Usage Schedule (Pages 37 - 40)
- (d) Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group Update (Pages 41 - 58)
- (e) Request for the use of Botanic Gardens for a Christmas Ice Experience (Pages 59 - 74)

3. Committee/Strategic Issues

- (a) Community Support Plan 2024/29 - (including a review of Community Support Grants) (Pages 75 - 82)
- (b) Pavement Parking - Update on Notice of Motion (Pages 83 - 90)

4. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Social Supermarkets - Update (Pages 91 - 110)
- (b) Static Park Warden Pilot Scheme - Update (Pages 111 - 118)
- (c) Proposal for Naming of New Street (Pages 119 - 122)
- (d) Proposal for Dual Language Street Signage (Pages 123 - 126)
- (e) Temporary Closure of Alexandra Park Household Waste Recycling Centre (Pages 127 - 132)

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

- (a) Pitch Bookings at Sally Gardens Playing Fields - Councillor Garrett to raise)

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

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Subject:	Community Support Plan 2025-29 including a Review of Community Support Grants
Date:	8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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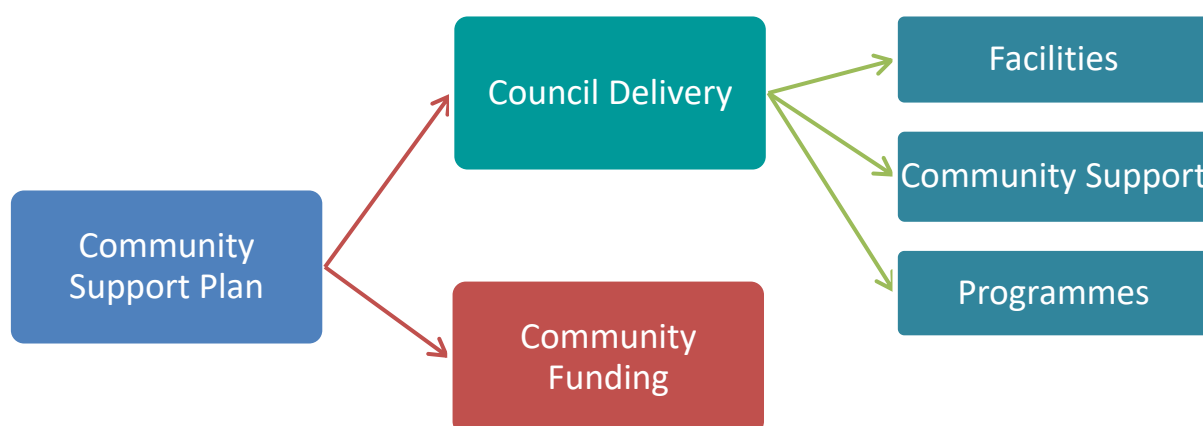
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update members on ongoing work to produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/29) and review of Community Support large grants (26-29) which will form part of the overall Community Support Plan which are included in our current departmental resources. This will include emerging priorities that have been collated following the recent facilitation of public engagement sessions and an online public survey.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of the report Note and agree the detail of the proposed priorities to be included in the Community Support Plan Agree that a draft overall framework (including outcomes) and further detail on the development of a new funding programme will be brought back to members in November with all proposals based on existing resources. Note that officers will hold 2 further public sessions after this committee meeting to update those who engaged previously on emerging priorities.
3.0	Main Report
	Background information
3.1	<p><u>Community Support Plan</u></p> <p>Members will recall that on the 24th of January 2024, committee agreed to the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That officers produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/29). at the same time undertake a review of current Community Support large grants schemes and Commission necessary external support to complete this work.
3.2	<p>This decision was on the basis that the Council needs to review and articulate its position in terms of its community support priorities and service provision as these will inform resources required, including funding priorities and approaches. As members will know, Council provides a range of community support grants to the community/voluntary sector across the city, coming directly from Council and the Department for Communities (DfC) via their Community Support Programme.</p>
3.3	<p>As part of this offer, Council has to provide DfC with a Community Support Plan which sets out how, via our Community Services Unit, we provide community support and service provision within communities. The Council's last Community Support Plan was completed in 2014.</p>
3.4	<p><u>What's included in the Community Support Plan</u></p> <p>Members may wish to note that the Community Support Plan does not include everything we deliver and fund in local communities. This plan will outline how Council will direct the funding, assets, people and programming that we deliver through our Community Support &</p>

Neighbourhood Integration and Assets & Programming portfolios. Proposals are based on the current resources that we have available within the department both human and financial.

Once completed the Community Support Plan will

- Outline outcomes and priorities for Community Support that will drive the delivery of activity from 25/29.
- Provide detail on how priorities will be supported through Council delivery and outline the resources required to deliver on these priorities.
- Provide detail on how priorities will be supported through a funding / investment programme.

3.5 By way of illustration the diagram below outlines what is included in the Community Support Plan



3.6 Council Delivery

Members should note that the offering within the Community Support Plan is significant, it is important that we develop a plan that is fit for purpose and meets the expectations of our local community. It includes the current facilities that we maintain, programmes that we deliver and support that our Community Services staff provide. (currently over 50 staff directly supporting communities and delivering programmes).

3.7 Community Support Funding

As well as developing a new Community Support Plan, we are also reviewing how we provide funding to support the community/voluntary sector in Belfast. Our funding allocation forms part of the overall plan. The two large multi annual grants which support this activity are capacity grants and revenue grants; the objectives/outcomes and operation of these grants have not been reviewed since 2012.

3.8 The current large grant programmes are supporting activity from April 23 – March 26. Council provided a significant increase in funding for these programmes in 2023. The total level of funding for both grants is £3,230,609 per annum, with £734,357 from DFC and £2,496,252 from Council. A review will enable council to consider the outcomes which it wants to achieve through the level of investment it makes.

3.9 Members may wish to note that there are other grants that are delivered through the CSP (Advice and Social Supermarkets). These are not being reviewed through this exercise as a review of

	<p>advice services was completed in December 2023 and the first open call for Social Supermarket Funding was in 24/25.</p> <p><u>Current Status</u></p> <p>3.10 Work has already commenced on both the Community Support Plan and the review of our Capacity & Revenue Grant funding.</p> <p>In April 2024, external consultants were appointed to support this work. To develop the plan, we undertook significant engagement with our local community and stakeholders and have also completed a desktop research exercise. This is now complete with the following main areas of work delivered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop research – An analysis of the current Community Support Plan, current funding programmes and process, The Belfast Agenda (reviewed) and other relevant policies. 2. City Wide Engagement Sessions – 9 public engagement sessions being facilitated throughout June. These are listed in Appendix 1. Note that details were circulated to elected members in May. 3. Public Survey – A public survey closed on the 8th of July with 94 responses received. <p><u>Alignment with Key Strategies</u></p> <p>3.11 A key element of the new Community Support plan will be the articulation of the outcomes that the plan will support. These outcomes will be aligned to the Belfast Agenda and will seek to support the achievement of our community planning priorities. The Belfast Agenda ambitions in relation to our People and Communities will be particularly relevant but other priorities will also be supported, where possible.</p> <p>In order to maximise our support to our residents and local community we also must ensure there is alignment with other key strategies and action plans across the department and wider Council. We must also ensure that, as key funders of the Community Support Plan, we align with the outcomes that are agreed by DfC as part of their Community Support Programme.</p> <p>3.12 <u>Emerging Priorities</u></p> <p>Over the past few weeks detailed feedback from the engagement sessions and survey have been collated as outlined below. If members are in agreement, officers will continue to work on developing the Community Support Plan on the basis of these priorities.</p> <p><u>Overall Priorities</u></p> <p>The elements below are emerging overall priorities that may be included in the plan, we will bring back further detail on these at the November meeting and align to suggested outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating active and engaged communities 2. Ensuring access to quality community facilities 3. Joining up community support through partnership support 4. Improving health and wellbeing 5. Tackling poverty through community support services <p>Points 4&5 were regarded as “global” issues raised by all groups, which fall across a number of areas of work and different agencies’ remits such as health and wellbeing. The CSP will consider</p>
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how these priorities relate to the area of community support and provide options for supporting them.

Priorities for Council Services Delivery / Supporting Community Based Services

There was very positive feedback on the role that council services play in local communities. Going forward, it is proposed that within the new plan the following areas which were identified as priorities for council self delivery should be included;

- Leading networking / co-ordination & partnership development in local communities to create active and engaged communities.
- Modern more accessible community facilities
- Providing access to mentoring / training for community organisations
- Acting as an incubator space for new / growing community organisations
- Delivery and co-ordination of activity programmes – based on needs analysis

Priorities for funding

Feedback on funding priorities suggested a need to include the following when developing the new funding approach;

- Variety of funding levels to include small grants
- Application requirements should be proportionate & timely
- Option for both facilities and core running costs
- Option for collaborative bids
- Funding for activity/programme costs
- Focus on more active and engaged communities
- Simple, effective & proportionate reporting that measure impact/change

Timeline / Next Steps

3.13 The Support of the Community Support Plan (2025-2029) and new funding programme (2026-2029) has challenging deadlines. In order to ensure that funding is made available through the new programmes from April 26, the new plan has to be approved by members in November 2024 and a new funding programme opened by June 2025. Please see below high-level milestones for key aspects of this work to be completed (timelines subject to change).

Action	Completion Date
Research and Engagement Programme (Complete)	July 24
Agree priorities with Members	Oct 24
Re-Engage with Community Stakeholders	Oct 24
Community Support Plan Drafted for members consideration (including options on funding programme)	Nov 24
Funding Programme drafted for members consideration	Jan 25
New funding programme agreed with Equality considerations completed	March 25
Community Support Plan published	April 25

	Detailed funding programme processes completed	May 25
	New funding programme open	June 25
	Funding allocated to groups	April 26
3.14	<p><u>Members Engagement</u></p> <p>Member engagement will be a core part of this process given the significant level of interest in the funding provided through the CSP and wider council support. Officers will bring back further updates to elected members on the progress of this work.</p>	
3.15	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Staff and financial resource to complete this work will be taken from existing budgets. DfC makes a significant contribution to support this work through the Community Support Programme LoO. In 24/25, DfC provided £2,575,580 and Council provided £2,935,48. Funding is provided through the CSP from DfC to councils on an annual basis.</p>	
3.16	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Given the significant impact which any changes to the large grant funding programme will have on the VCSE sector and communities across the city, an equality screening and rural impact assessment will be undertaken on any resulting change in policy/programme. Any potential additional equality considerations have been factored into the timeline.</p>	
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached	
4.1	Appendix 1 – Overview of Engagement Sessions	

Appendix 1**Community Support Plan – Overview of Engagement sessions and Public Survey**

Date	Time	Venue	Attendance
Wednesday 5 June	2.00 – 4.00	City Hall	18
Tuesday 11 June	10.00 – 12.00	Girdwood	20
Tuesday 11 June	2.00 – 4.00	Cregagh CC	12
Wednesday 12 June	10.00 – 12.00	Olympia	6
Friday 14 June	10.00 – 12.00	Horn Drive CC	19
Friday 14 June	2.00 – 4.00	Hammer CC	6
Tuesday 18 June (Sec 75)	2.00 – 4.00	City Hall	24
Wednesday 19 June	7.00 – 9.00	Olympia	3
Tuesday 25 June (Staff)	2.00 – 4.00	Markets	20
Wednesday 26 th June	6.30 – 8.00	On-line / virtual	14
Survey (Closed 8 July)			94
Total Participants			236

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Subject:	Pavement Parking Communications and Marketing update
Date:	8 October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Eunan McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs
Contact Officer:	Eunan McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs

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 	
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> </div> </div>	
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>To update members on communications/marketing activity around the issue of pavement parking.</p> <p>Members requested a report be brought identifying costs and resource for a public information campaign in relation to the issue of pavement parking:</p> <p><i>“The Committee agreed that officers consider the request set out in the motion in conjunction with Corporate Communications, the PSNI and the Department of Infrastructure, both of which had responsibilities regarding enforcement, and identify any costs and resources required and that a report be brought back to the Committee.”</i></p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>That members note the contents of the report.</p> <p>That members agree that opportunities for further collaboration between the PSNI, DFI & Council will be sought through digital channels to highlight the issue of pavement parking, as well as in future editions of City Matters.</p>
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	Members will be aware that a notice of motion, brought by Cllr Tara Brooks, was passed in June 2023 in relation to pavement parking and subsequently adopted by Council.
3.2	<p>That motion read as follows:</p> <p><i>“That this Council notes that inconsiderate pavement parking affects everyone in Belfast, but disproportionately children, people with visual impairments, mobility aid users, neurodiverse people and people with prams or pushchairs; and therefore it is essential that the Council plays its full role in reinforcing the message that pavements are for people and it is never acceptable to park in a manner which forces people off a footway and into the road. This Council acknowledges the challenges in solving this issue but resolves to work towards stopping vehicles from blocking pavements through inconsiderate or dangerous parking, including by undertaking a public information campaign about the negative impacts of pavement parking in its forthcoming communications.”</i></p>
3.3	Members will be aware that Council does not have responsibility for the issue of pavement parking or enforcement powers.

3.4	That responsibility lies with the Department for Infrastructure, which also has powers of enforcement through penalty charge notices (also known as PCNs or parking tickets).
3.5	The PSNI also has enforcement powers when a vehicle parked on a footway is found to be causing a general obstruction, or an obstruction to the entrance of a building.
3.6	The Department has the power to introduce footway parking bans and has done in some areas in Northern Ireland. However, members should note that there is no general ban on pavement parking.
3.7	In light of the motion above, an article urging citizens not to park on pavements was published in the summer/autumn edition of City Matters (see appendix 1).
3.8	It should also be noted that since May, Council has also been involved in a joint pilot programme – along with the PSNI and Department for Infrastructure – called <i>Park with Us in Mind</i> . This is aimed at tackling problematic parking, including pavement parking which makes emptying bins in certain areas challenging.
3.9	Communications around this have been published, including on the Council's website and social media channels (see appendix 2).
3.10	A bespoke multi-media marketing and communications campaign on the issue of pavement parking would not be possible due to financial and resource implications.
3.11	Officers have reached out to PSNI and DFI with regards to what plans those organisations have in highlighting the issue, and will continue to do so to identify opportunities.
3.12	City Matters also provides a valuable communication route to citizens and the options for further, future articles highlighting the issue of pavement parking will be explored.
	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>
3.13	As noted above, an integrated multimedia campaign would have substantial budgetary impact.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.14	N/A

4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – City Matters article Appendix 2 – Pilot parking press release

Think before you park

In November, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) introduced new restrictions to crack down on the Northern Ireland-wide problem of pavement parking.

Drivers now face fines for parking on footpaths at certain locations. The PSNI can also issue a fixed penalty notice if a car is obstructing the pavement. But no matter where you are, it's important to think before you park.

Parking on a footpath can inconvenience all of us, but it has a particularly negative impact for:

- pedestrians with pushchairs and prams,
- pedestrians with small children,
- our elderly community,
- visually impaired pedestrians of all ages,
- wheelchair users, and
- mobility scooter users.

Sustrans in Northern Ireland has been calling for a ban to be implemented on pavement parking for some time. On its website, Sustrans shares the experience of June, who is visually impaired. Walking the streets of our cities, towns and villages should be a simple thing but for her and her guide dog Clyde, it can be an enormous challenge.

One of my biggest challenges is vehicles parking on the pavement, says June.

"When Clyde takes me out round a parked vehicle, I can't tell if it is a car, a van, a lorry, or a whole line of them. I don't know how long I will be on the road for. Traffic can be very busy and can put me in danger," she explains.

"I often have to orientate myself back and start all over again to find an alternative route, or just return home."

So you may think you're doing the right thing by keeping the road clear, but next time you're tempted to pull up onto a pavement to park, please think about the needs of the people you could be forcing off the footpath.

For more information on parking enforcement go to www.nidirect.gov.uk/parking-enforcement



Landlords - know your responsibilities

Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) are properties that are rented to at least three non-related individuals who share some or all amenities. HMOs help to meet the need for affordable living accommodation within the city.

If you are an HMO landlord, your responsibilities include:

- licensing your HMO with us before it can be occupied
- making sure your managing agent is competent
- keeping safety and maintenance certificates up to date
- putting in place and maintaining adequate security arrangements
- providing an adequate means of heating that is under the control of the tenants
- making sure boundary walls, hedges and fences are safe and do not cause an obstruction
- maintaining the fabric of the building and responding to repairs within:
 - 24 hours for emergency repairs,
 - four working days for urgent repairs, and
 - four weeks routine repairs
- having sufficient funding in place to maintain the property
- providing suitable bins for refuse and litter
- removing graffiti from external or boundary walls within four weeks
- putting a plan or policy in place to deal with any antisocial behaviour.

For information on HMO licensing and to view the register of licensed HMOs, go to www.belfastcity.gov.uk/nihmo

Reducing food costs



Consumer Council research shows 94% of consumers in Northern Ireland are worried about food prices. Here are some useful tips to help you save money at each stage of your food shop.

Before the shop

Take time and plan ahead. Set a weekly budget, plan meals and check what you have in the house already to use things up and avoid impulse buys.



During the shop

Search, swap and save. Choose supermarket own brands, look at the price per unit to compare deals and check for longer use by dates.



After the shop

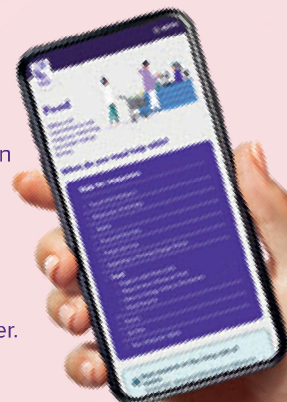
Make your food last. Inspect your food to make sure there's nothing going off before storing it away. Take food that will rot out of its plastic packaging. Look at what you can freeze, and make sure your fridge is set cool enough.



Reduce cooking costs

Ask if there's a more efficient way to cook something (air fryer, slow cooker or microwave) or try batch cooking to make maximum use of the energy being used.

The Consumer Council's new website has lots more information on how to save money on your food shop and make the food you buy stay fresher for longer.



For further information visit www.consumer council.org.uk/consumers/help-consumers/food

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Date: 08 May 2024

A pilot scheme is now underway to address parking issues in Belfast which can make it difficult to empty residents' bins on time.

Belfast City Council is collaborating with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure on the 'Park with us in mind' initiative, which is targeting hotspots where council waste collection vehicles are often unable to gain access in order to help residents dispose of their waste and recycling.

This can be due to poor, inconsiderate or illegal parking, including parking at street corners, parking on double yellow lines or parking on both sides of the pavement, making it hard or impossible for collection vehicles to pass through.

Six areas have been identified for the pilot, based on data collected by the council regarding frequent missed collections. Starting in the Stranmillis Road area, they are:

- Stranmillis Road area
- Donegall Road / Village area
- Cregagh Road / Loopland area
- Lower Ormeau Area / Park Road area
- Iveagh area (Broadway)
- Springfield Road area

During the pilot, which will run for 18 months initially, streets will undergo a phased approach to help tackle problem parking issues.

Cars causing an obstruction or parked illegally will initially receive an advisement notice on their windshield, outlining the importance of proper parking to ensure bins can be collected on time and other essential service vehicles, including ambulances and fire engines, can pass by in an emergency.




outreach activities, undertaken by the three agencies, in the areas involved.


Potential enforcement action by PSNI and DFI could then follow in streets where problems continue to persist.

Councillor Micky Murray, Chair of the council’s People and Communities Committee, said: "We understand the frustration caused by obstructed bin collection services due to parking issues.

"Through this collaborative effort with PSNI and DFI, we aim to not only address immediate concerns but also foster a culture of responsible parking habits to ensure smoother operations for waste collection across the city."

The council is encouraging both residents and commuters to think before they park and to comply with parking regulations as part of the pilot scheme, with further information available on the council’s website at belfastcity.gov.uk/street-access

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Belfast
City Council

Contact details

Belfast City Hall,
Belfast,
BT1 5GS
[028 9032 0202](tel:02890320202)



Social media channels



Site navigation

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Cookies	Disclaimer
Accessibility statement	GDPR
Terms and conditions	Open and linked data
Freedom of Information requests	Site Map
Modern Slavery Act	Complaints, comments and compliments



Subject:	Social Supermarket Fund Update
Date:	8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the operation of projects supported through the 2023/24 Social Supermarket Fund and provide an overview of the geographic spread of applications supported through the 2024/25 Fund.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report and appendices.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At the People and Communities meeting in September 2024, elected members asked for an update on the operation of projects supported through the 2023/24 Social Supermarket Fund and an overview of the geographic spread of applications supported through the 2024/25 Fund. This report provides the requested detail.</p> <p>Members may wish to note that Belfast City Council supported 21 social supermarkets during the financial year 23/24. Most projects which received support were existing projects supported in 22/23 but a portion of funds was directed to support new projects including Hanwood Trust, People's Kitchen, Upper Springfield Development Trust and Foodstock.</p>
3.2	Further detail on the operation of the projects is provided in the attached appendices which also includes some feedback from those who benefited directly from support in 23/24. A total of 9661 individuals were supported through projects in 23/24. This number will increase slightly as officers are finalizing returns from two projects.
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All activity was delivered through funding from DfC CSP Letter of Offer and support from the 23/24 and 24/25 Hardship Programme budget.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None identified at present. Equality Screening of the 25/26 grant application process will be completed.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 – Overview of 23/24 Social Supermarket Projects</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Infographic showing Social Supermarket funding accessed per DEA and numbers of individuals supported 23/24</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map showing geographic spread of funded Social Supermarket projects in 24/25</p> <p>Appendix 4 – List of 24/25 Social Supermarket projects</p>

Appendix 1

Overview of 23/24 Social Supermarket Projects

Belfast City Council supported 21 social supermarkets during the financial year 2023/2024 with funding received from the Department for Communities CSP and Department for Communities Hardship Funding.

A social supermarket is usually set-up as a shop within a community organisation although some distribute food vouchers rather than operating as a shop. Some have a nominal membership fee and all offer food, cleaning products and toiletries at discounted prices.

Some of the projects are situated within large community organisations; others offer support to particular interest groups. Each operate in a slightly different way as they respond to the needs of their own communities but all of them must offer wraparound provision and/or signposting to services such as benefit checks, debt advice, training and employment advice and childcare. Most work on a referral basis only.

There are three models:

- Large, well-established community organisations operating a social supermarket as well as wraparound services within their own facility as well as signposting people to other services.
- Food banks that have evolved into social supermarkets and offer wraparound services as well as signposting to other services.
- Community organisations providing food vouchers and wraparound services as well as signposting to other services.

A report on each of the 21 social supermarkets supported during 2023 to 2024 is below.

Strategic Partners	Description	Award	Households/ Individuals supported	Location and office DEA DEAs supported
Ashton Community Trust	<p>Operating since April 2022, the Pantry is a wrap-around programme supporting families in North Belfast with food, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products as well as other support, such as training and employment, family support, health and wellbeing initiatives, childcare support etc. to maximise positive outcomes for the families referred.</p> <p>Families undertake a 12-week programme with referring agents such as local schools, food banks, advice providers, community organisations and Housing Associations.</p> <p>Food vouchers were used to support those engaged with the Community Fridge element of the project and who will also engage in wraparound support.</p>	£33,833.11	151 households / 665 individuals	North: <i>Oldpark</i> DEAs supported: Castle, Court, Black Mountain, Lisnasharragh
Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	<p>This project supports women and children who have experienced domestic abuse within their home, and adult female victims of human trafficking and their dependent children.</p> <p>There are many forms of domestic abuse one being financial abuse, a key factor for many of the women supported. Some of the women had fled their homes and moved into temporary accommodation with very little money. The project provided food for a short period of time while their finances were sorted.</p> <p>Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid report that they have never experienced the need for basics from women as we are now.</p>	£21,052.32	202 / 432	South: <i>Botanic</i> DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Castle, Collin, Court, Lisnasharragh, Oldpark, Ormiston, Titanic

Blackie River Community Groups	This project provides holistic support to families experiencing financial struggles. Families are referred from a range of agencies; each household is given three £100 food vouchers over a 3-week period as well as additional support, i.e. information and contacts around benefits advice, debt management, nutrition, citizens advice, family support, health and wellbeing and training and employment.	£109,743.70	386 / 1301	West: <i>Black Mountain</i> DEAs supported: Black Mountain
Boring Wells/ The Larder	<p>The Larder in East Belfast aims to provide those existing on limited incomes with nutritious food sourced as locally as possible, whilst retaining their agency and self-sufficiency. It has strong partnerships and trading relationships with local small producers and suppliers to keep spend local, building wealth in the community and providing access to high quality nutritious food that factors in sustainability.</p> <p>Cookery skills are enhanced via the 'Dinner's Done' project: nutritious meal packs for £1, all ingredients measured out with instructions for preparing at home and the community garden has introduced the health benefits of certain foods and plants.</p>	£49,146.98	282 / 616	East: <i>Titanic</i> DEAs supported: Court, Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic
Cara-Friend	<p>This project provided a £100 food voucher to 76 people from the LGBTQIA+ community in Belfast as well as a wraparound support meeting with Cara-Friend's Community Development Manager to discuss circumstances, individual needs and signposting to relevant support services.</p> <p>Many were living with a disability, were currently unemployed, had recently experienced a period of unemployment, were homeless or living in a hostel.</p>	£8,149.28	76 / 139	City wide: Castle DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Botanic, Castle, Collin, Court, Lisnasharragh, Oldpark, Ormiston and Titanic

	<p>Each had their own needs, sometimes these needs were complex and multi-faceted.</p> <p>For most of them, this was their first interaction with Cara-Friend and through the project they have begun to learn more about the services offered, hopefully leading to further positive outcomes as they come more familiar with Cara-Friend and the LGBTQIA+ sector.</p>			
Disability Action	<p>Disabled people face a higher risk of poverty and have done so for more than two decades. The project addressed this challenge by providing food vouchers to disabled person's households within the Belfast City Council area. The wraparound services and work to address the underlying causes of poverty alongside the food vouchers was outstanding. Demand was greater than what could be provided.</p> <p>The project increased engagement in Disability Action's services and addressed the immediate food needs of disabled people while signposting to essential services.</p>	£21,052.32	192 / 485	City wide: <i>Titanic</i> DEAs supported: Balmoral, Black Mountain, Botanic, Collin, Court, Lisnasharragh, Oldpark, Ormiston, Titanic
Foodstock	<p>Foodstock operates as a foodbank, social supermarket and also provides benefits, debt and employment advice among other services.</p> <p>The main objective of the social supermarket project was to enhance the wraparound service provided by Foodstock to people living in crisis in the Belfast area during the winter period.</p> <p>It identified people who could benefit from the fund and particularly food vouchers. A recurring issue was newcomer families who were struggling</p>	£18,944.37	152 / 676	West: <i>Black Mountain</i> DEAs supported: Balmoral, Black Mountain, Botanic, Castle, Collin, Court, Oldpark, Ormiston, Titanic

	financially and not able to access culturally appropriate food. At Foodstock, they were able to avail of advice, language services and, through this project, they could purchase culturally appropriate food for both them and their children.			
Forward South Partnership (FSP)	<p>FSP facilitated a successful food programme as well as a city-wide support network to the Roma Support Hub and to newcomer communities across the city through a network of referral agencies and partners. Support offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh fruit, vegetable and meat packs, halal food, vouchers and hygiene items. • Three community meals in partnership with Fane Street, Holy Rosary and Donegall Road Primary Schools attended by support services. • Food, hygiene and household products provided as part of the social supermarket delivery model. • Referrals from Ballynafeigh Advice Teams. • Referrals completed for white goods support, mental health, signposting to volunteer opportunities, employability, Warm and Well and warm packs. 	£23,619.34	221 / 737	South: <i>Botanic</i> DEAs supported; Balmoral, Court, Lisnasharragh, Black Mountain, Collin, Titanic, Oldpark, Ormiston
Greater Shankill Partnership	<p>The project worked with previously established community links to identify residents in need of support. It provided food vouchers for two local butchers, a local NISA store and the local Iceland supermarket.</p> <p>A range of wraparound services were provided including referrals to the project's advice worker.</p>	£29,242.35	104 / 310	West: <i>Court</i> DEAs supported: Court
Hanwood Trust	The project provided support to residents in the Tullycarnet, Ardcar, Braniel, Knocknagoney and Clarawood areas of Ormiston DEA.	£18,944.37	238 / 533	East: <i>Ormiston</i> DEAs supported: Ormiston

	Food vouchers were provided as well as wraparound support to services including local BCC Councillors, East Belfast Independent Advice Centre, Holywood Road Jobs & Benefits office, NIHE patch managers and area support through the Housing Community Network Forum, Barnardos for family support and also the PHA Pathways programme for counselling if required.			
HERe NI	<p>This project provided food vouchers to LGBTQIA+ women experiencing financial difficulties. A wraparound service was an instrumental aspect of this work and offered family support, healthy social activities, peer support opportunities, mental health support and signposting to external support agencies.</p> <p>Referrals were made to HERe NI's Family Support Service, Rainbow Refugees, the Mental Health Advocacy Team and HERe NI's Older Women's Support Officer for workshops, social activities and counselling.</p> <p>All applicants signed up for HERe NI's mailing list to receive a monthly newsletter and information about workshops and events.</p>	£4,957.48	36 / 62	DEA: Castle (city wide service) DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Botanic, Castle, Collin, Court, Lisnasharragh, Ormiston, Titanic
Homeplus	<p>The Homeplus Social Supermarket provided local people in the Holyland and Lower Ormeau community access to a range of fresh, frozen, dried and tinned food on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Homeplus already supports the local asylum and refugee community in this area and the Social Supermarket provided a service to the local</p>	£21,052.32	15 / 54	South: <i>Botanic</i> DEA supported: Botanic

	community as well. A by-product of this was a weekly bringing together of the two communities.			
In This Together	<p>In This Together (ITT) operates a social supermarket across East and South Belfast to support clients in disadvantaged communities living on low incomes and often marginalised because of poor health, housing and employment.</p> <p>The project provided food and hygiene items as well as wraparound support services, and a full Christmas dinner to over 350 individuals. £50 food vouchers were given to clients shortly after Christmas to top up their food supplies alongside their usual weekly packs from the social supermarket.</p>	£49,146.98	196 / 504	East: <i>Titanic</i> DEAs supported: Ormiston, Titanic
LORAG	<p>This project was delivered with key partners from the Inner South Neighbourhood Partnership: Lower Ormeau – LORAG; Market – MDA and Donegall Pass – DPCF and SB Alternatives.</p> <p>The project worked with a range of wider partners locally to promote the programme through the Inner South neighbourhood renewal structures and the family support hub to ensure co-ordinated delivery across the area.</p> <p>A leaflet was delivered to every household in advance of holding clinics in each area from January to March 2024. The programme offered a £100 voucher and referral or support to other agencies. A number of vouchers were kept for those who were housebound and required home visits.</p>	£23,619.34	233 / 675	South: <i>Botanic</i> DEA supported: Botanic

	The programme was a success but at least 4 times the amount of funding would have been needed to meet the demand in this current cost of living crisis.			
Loughview Community Action Partnership	The Scullery at Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP) supports families with food supplies for a period of 11 weeks. Referrals come from advice workers, schools or LCAP members. Families attend the programme for 11 weeks; during that time they receive food and are referred to wraparound services for additional support.	£33,833.11	38 / 145	North: <i>Castle</i> DEAs supported: Castle
People's Kitchen Belfast	<p>The Peoples Kitchen food voucher scheme targeted those at risk of poverty and in crisis, particularly those larger families and others using the project's food bank. As well as providing vouchers, the project also referred people to other services including advice, family support hubs, etc.</p> <p>The purpose of the project was to help people out of poverty, allowing them to engage with other services that could prevent them from the risk of poverty and empower them to buy their own food while also raising awareness of what support is available.</p>	£18,944.37	113 / 519	North: <i>Oldpark</i> DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Castle, Court, Oldpark
Southcity Resource & Development Centre	<p>The project is run through a consortium of Belfast South Community Resource, Greater Village Regeneration Trust, Southcity Resource Centre and Windsor Women's Centre.</p> <p>It provides households in need with food vouchers and wraparound support developed by the consortium. Partners are equipped to deal with most issues, from debt, benefits, housing, employment, consumer issues, health and education. All partners have recorded an increase in requests for assistance with utility bills and the provision of food,</p>	£23,619.34	63 / 748	South: <i>Botanic</i> DEAs supported: Botanic, Balmoral, Black Mountain, Castle, Collin, Court, Ormiston, Lisnasharragh

	mostly due to the current economic situation. This project extends the reach especially to a range of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, isolated and migrant families.			
Storehouse NI	<p>Storehouse has provided emergency food support to those in need in Belfast for 16 years. In 2021 it moved from a pre-packed food bag model to a self-choice food "shop" where all items are still free of charge, but service users are given the dignity of choice. Alongside existing long-life food and toiletries, the social supermarket offers fresh items such as fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs and milk.</p> <p>Storehouse offered multi-faceted wraparound support such as bespoke housing and benefits advice/support, employability/CV workshops, skills-based courses including photography, cinematography, pottery, guitar, baking, English language classes and multiple community, mental health and wellbeing environments.</p>	£21,052.32	845 / 1315	City wide: <i>All DEAs</i>
The Parent Rooms	<p>The project was aimed at those experiencing poor mental health exacerbated by financial difficulties. It allowed parents and their infants to access a 10-week Baby & Me programme, which supported parents struggling with mental health issues. Each household was given 3 food vouchers of £100 each. Additional food support needs were met through an existing partnership with Foodstock in the form of food parcels.</p> <p>The wraparound service offered family support, healthy social activities, peer support opportunities, mental health support and signposting to external support agencies.</p>	£4,957.48	17 / 65	North: <i>Court</i> DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Court, Castle, Collin, Titanic

The Vine Centre (North Belfast Advice Partnership)	<p>This project provided food related support to people living in the catchment area served by the North Belfast Advice Partnership, which covers North Belfast and the Shankill. The project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided low-income households with temporary support to reduce their food costs and maximise their income when it comes to their weekly shop. • Increased the ability of families to manage their household finances by practical skills such as saving, planning expenditure, seeking value for money and cooking on a budget. • Raised awareness of support available in the local community. • Provided additional support to families by referring or signposting them to relevant support services within their local community. 	£33,833.11	136 / 291	North: <i>Oldpark</i> DEAs supported: Balmoral, Black Mountain, Castle, Oldpark
Upper Springfield Development Trust	<p>This project was organised through a steering group/consortium of partners and offered food vouchers and wraparound support to a wide range of households. Partnerships were established with local organisations including schools and the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.</p> <p>An assessment was undertaken at the initial point of entry to the project to ensure that everyone in the household was supported. This led to a bespoke plan for individuals and families. Ongoing evaluation ensured that people's needs were being met and that appropriate services and support were being provided. It supported families with children, couples with no children and people living alone including elderly people.</p>	£18,944.37	189 / 583	West: <i>Black Mountain</i> DEAs supported: Black Mountain, Court, Collin

Case Studies

1. One woman said: "If I hadn't had the support to buy food for me and my children I would have returned to my abusive partner. Thank you."
2. The local school put in a referral for a young single father who has 4 young children as Dad was struggling financially; Dad got an appointment at the social supermarket, engaged in a money maximisation course, had a benefit check and decided to do some training. Childcare was provided and Dad fully completed his course. We will work with Dad and support him in gaining meaningful employment.
3. A member of the social supermarket is 69 and has just been housed in a NIHE property. Whilst doing her weekly shop she met with the project's benefits advisor. A benefit check showed entitlement to additional benefits. Her financial gain for the year was £9,752.00.
4. A 49-year-old single man living on his own in a flat said "During January this scheme gave me food support that I desperately needed after Christmas. The girls told me about a benefit check that other organisations can do and gave me their details to get in touch which I did."
5. Older woman aged 81: "I would just like to say thank you for the support I received in January, the vouchers made such a difference as money has been really tight with the cost of everything now. I also spoke with the staff about feeling lonely and if there was anything available in the community. They referred me onto the Women's Group which I have since joined and have been made to feel very welcome. Thank you for all your help".

Lessons Learned from projects

- We have gained an in-depth insight into the continuous hardship families are experiencing at this time and the diversity of issues faced.
- There is a need to ensure that in the long-term, social supermarket funding is used strategically to alleviate poverty and not as a temporary charitable gift. Groups need to be given appropriate time to deliver the project properly, and not as a rushed programme to get support out the door in a hurry in a time of crisis.
- Language continues to be a massive gap / barrier to communicating with users of the social supermarket and additional funds / resources in community settings would be welcome to be inclusive to everyone as possible.
- While the funding was much needed in local communities and it is worthwhile to maximise the amount of funding going directly to those that need it, only allowing 10% towards cost recovery is not sufficient to allow a scheme like this to be properly effective & operate as it should do. While some limited costs towards staff time could be claimed, this is not reflective of the actual staff costs involved. Project funding like this that does not allow for staff is continually asking the community sector to deliver for free and undervalues the sector.
- There was a definite gap in support for people needing assistance with fuel/energy costs. While we are aware other programmes of support were available, we found it difficult to refer into these and we saw significant need in this area.

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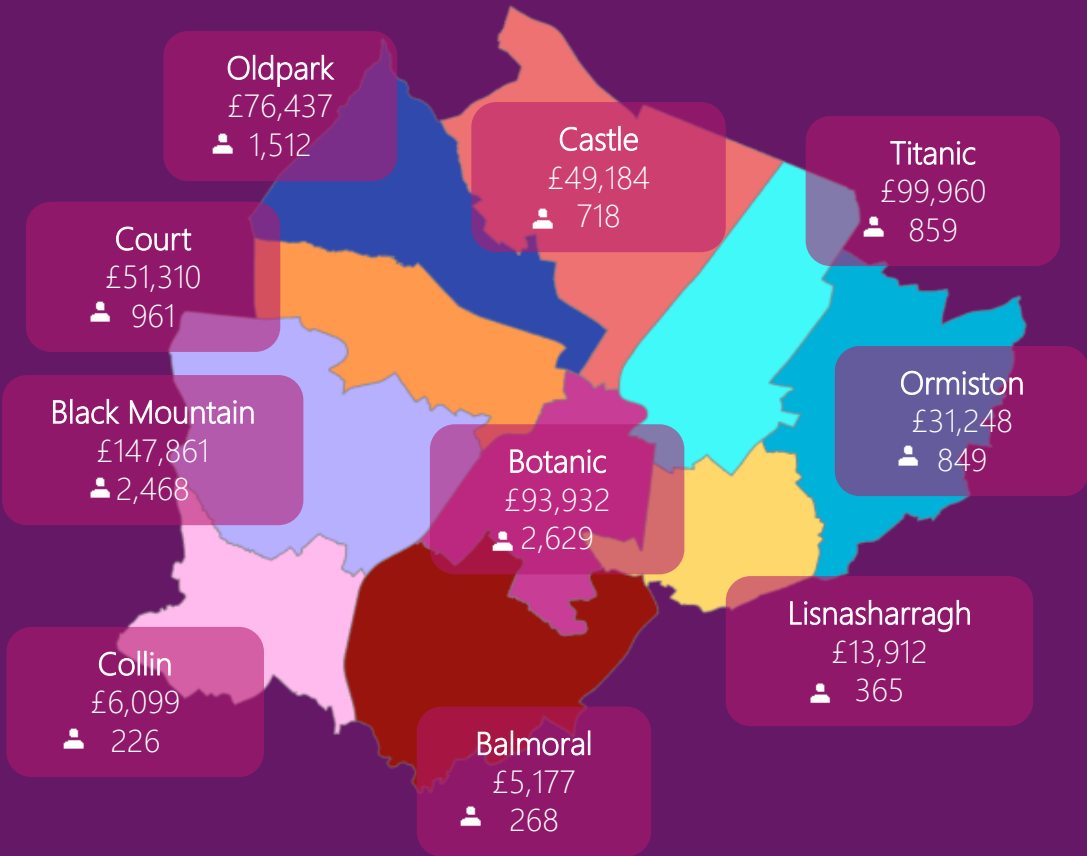
Social Supermarket
Funding (DfC & HP)

£577,119

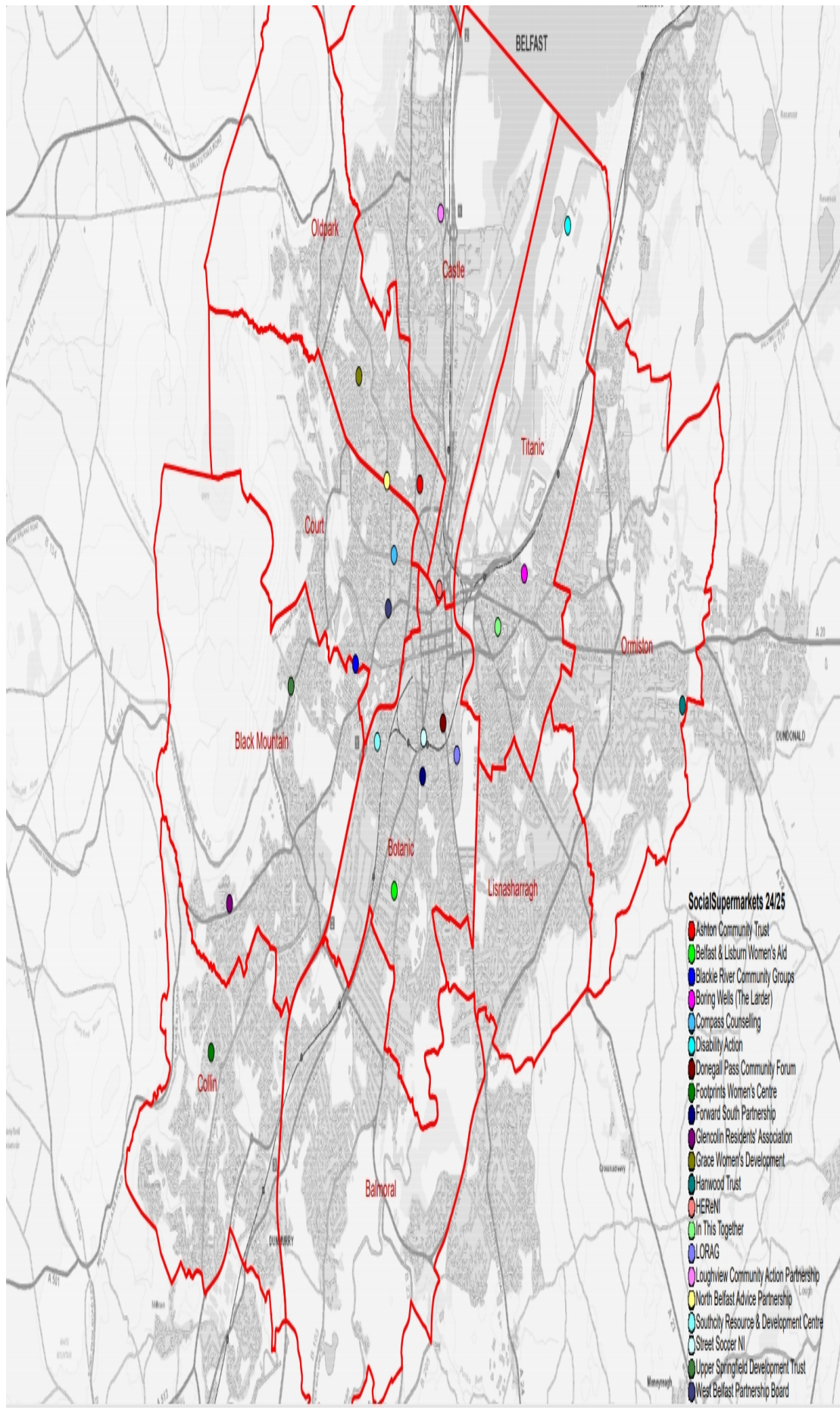
Number of Individuals
supported

10,855

Area Based Funding Per District Electoral Area



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9. Social Supermarket Application List, Scores Recommended Awards

2024/25 Social Supermarket Funding - Awards					
	Ref	Organisation	Amount Requested	Score %	Award
1	SS-2425-13-FWC	Footprints Women's Centre	£49,697.53	97.5	£49,697.53
2	SS-2425-28-DSA	Disability Action	£35,000.00	91.3	£35,000.00
3	SS-2425-18-FWS	Forward South Partnership	£49,500.00	88.8	£49,500.00
4	SS-2425-02-SOC	Southcity	£50,000.00	80.0	£50,000.00
5	SS-2425-20-VIN	Vine Centre (NBAP)	£49,500.00	80.0	£49,500.00
6	SS-2425-04-SSC	Street Soccer NI	£22,000.00	76.3	£22,000.00
7	SS-2425-17-ASH	Ashton Community Trust	£50,000.00	76.3	£50,000.00
8	SS-2425-24-USD	Upper Springfield Development Trust	£50,000.00	67.5	£50,000.00
9	SS-2425-21-DGP	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£37,112.00	65.0	£37,112.00
12	SS-2425-11-GWD	Grace Women's Development	£2,500.00	63.8	£1,250.00
10	SS-2425-12-HER	HEReNI	£16,449.17	62.5	£16,449.17
11	SS-2425-01-ITT	In This Together	£50,000.00	61.3	£50,000.00
15	SS-2425-10-HWD	Hanwood Trust	£30,000.00	60.0	£30,000.00
14	SS-2425-09-WBP	West Belfast Partnership Board	£49,500.00	57.5	£49,500.00
16	SS-2425-27-LOR	LORAG	£44,000.00	57.5	£44,000.00
13	SS-2425-05-GRA	Glencolin Residents' Association	£10,000.00	55.0	£10,000.00
17	SS-2425-15-LCP	Loughview Community Action Partnership	£49,936.00	55.0	£49,936.00
18	SS-2425-19-BWS	Boring Wells (The Larder)	£50,000.00	53.8	£50,000.00
21	SS-2425-07-COM	Compass Counselling	£11,800.00	52.5	£11,800.00
19	SS-2425-08-BWA	Belfast Women's Aid	£30,000.00	50.0	£30,000.00
20	SS-2425-16-BLA	Blackie River Community Groups	£50,000.00	47.5	£50,000.00
		Total	£786,994.70		£785,744.70

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Subject:	Static Park Warden Pilot Update
Date:	Tuesday 8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director, CNS Jim Girvan, Operational Director, CNS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Members on the ongoing Static Park Warden initiative including its recent expansion into Falls Park, and to ask Members to approve an extension until the end of the financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and approve an extension to March 2025.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Background Members will be aware that at People and Communities Committee on 9th April 2024 (Appendix One) they received an update from officers on the ongoing Static Park Warden Pilot in place to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in a number of parks. At that time Committee agreed, subject to budget, "to extend the pilot until the end of the September 2024 and that Falls Park be included as an additional site for the pilot".

	<p>Key Findings – Pilot Period to Date</p>
3.2	<p>The Pilot has now been operational for 13 months and as of mid-September 2024 we now have a full complement of nine Static Park Wardens working across the 4 Pilot sites. ASB reporting statistics for the Pilot are now available for 12 consecutive months from September 2023 through to end of August 2024 for Dunville Park, Pairc Nui Chollann and Woodvale Park, and for a total of three months (June-August 2024) for Falls Park.</p>
3.3	<p>At April's Committee Members were advised that since the start of the Pilot there has been a 26% decrease in ASB incidences reported overall for the September 23 - February '24 'Pilot period' at the 3 park sites (61) when compared to data for the same months in the previous year prior to the Pilot commencing (82).</p>
3.4	<p>Further data recorded over the past six months in the three original sites show continued positive overall trends as a result of the Pilot. This includes a slight increase in figures for ASB reports for the Woodvale Park site. For Falls Park, since its inclusion in the Pilot scheme, incidences of ASB over past 3 months (June - August) have decreased by 68% from 65 to 21 reports when compared to previous 3-month period before expansion of Pilot into the park site.</p>
3.5	<p>ASB reporting trend for the original three park sites over the past 6 months of the Pilot period when compared to previous 6mth (also with the Pilot period) were as follows:</p>
3.6	<p>Dunville Park- incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have decreased by 93% from 14 to 1 report when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period. Pairc Nui Chollann – incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have decreased by 10% from 48 to 43 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period.</p>
3.7	<p>Woodvale Park - incidences of reported ASB over past 6 months (March- August 2024) have increased by 17% from 12 to 34 reports when compared to previous 6-month Pilot period.</p>
3.8	<p>Members should note that evening programming (midnight soccer and other diversionary activities) continue to take place with likely positive impacts on ASB at these locations; and that the Pilot continues to be supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Officers and the PSNI - with good working relationships in place ensuring improved response to ASB incidents at the sites.</p>
3.9	<p>With support from Continuous Improvement (CI), City and Neighbourhood Services Department are currently progressing a Park Warden review with focus on the requirements for/of the role, and that of the parallel SNO and Dog Warden functions. Over the coming months the findings from the Static Park Warden Pilot will feed into this review. This work is likely to take several months to progress and accordingly members are asked to approve an extension to the static warden pilot until March 2025.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Should members agree to the extension it should be noted that the cost can be met from within existing CNS budgets.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - People & Communities Committee report, 9th April 2024 - Static Park Warden Pilot update

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

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

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

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

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



Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

PROPOSAL FOR NAMING NEW STREETS

Subject:	Proposal for naming new streets
Date:	8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To consider applications for the naming new streets in the city.															
2.0	Recommendation															
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of applications for naming new streets in the city.</p> <p>The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant the applications, or• Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.															
3.0	Main Report															
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>															
3.2	<p>Members are asked to consider the following applications for naming new streets in the city. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council's Streets Register and do not duplicate existing approved street names in the city.</p>															
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Row</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Close</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Park</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Parade</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr></table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Black Ridge Row	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Close	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Park	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Parade	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association
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Black Ridge Parade	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association														
3.4	<p>Apex Housing Association have advised that Black Ridge Row, Black Ridge Close, Black Ridge Park and Black Ridge Parade are derived from Divis (from Irish Dubhais 'black ridge'). The Divis mountain is situated north of the development.</p>															
3.5	<p>The second and third choices for Black Ridge Row are Black Ridge Mews and Black Ridge Link.</p> <p>The second and third choices for Black Ridge Close are Black Ridge Glen and Black Ridge Street.</p> <p>The second and third choices for Black Ridge Park are Black Ridge Common and Black Ridge Road.</p> <p>The second and third choices for Black Ridge Parade are Black Ridge Glen and Black Ridge Street.</p>															
3.6	<p>These streets contain 112 residential properties and are part of the overall housing development that is known as Glenmona. The entire Glenmona site is a new mixed use urban development which will contain over 650 social and affordable homes.</p>															

3.7	Applications for the erection of dual language street signs in Irish have been received from the developer for these three streets. Members are asked to note that at the March and Communities Committee it was agreed, and ratified by Full Council on 8 th April 2024, that delegated authority be given to the City Solicitor in relation to the approval of the erection of dual language street nameplates for this development.																	
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3.9	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																	
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p>																	
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct Equality implications.</p>																	
4.0	Appendices																	
	None																	

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

AGENDA ITEM : PROPOSAL FOR DUAL LANGUAGE
STREET SIGNS

Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs
Date:	8 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control,
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430

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
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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																																										
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for nine existing streets within the city.																																										
2.0	Recommendation																																										
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Brookvale Street, Beechlawn Avenue, Linen Grove, Dawson Street, Jubilee Avenue, Thorndale Avenue, Woodland Grange, Wellington Park Terrace and Grangeville Gardens																																										
3.0	Main Report																																										
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																																										
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																										
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3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.
3.6	<p>Brookvale Street, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 occupiers (21.05%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.7	<p>Beechlawn Avenue, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41 occupiers (40.59%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 9 occupiers (8.91%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. 3 Occupiers (2.97%) had no preference either way. <p>One resident is not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate as they feel it could cause offence and possibly raise tensions in the local area as it is a mixed community. Another resident is not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate as they feel it is being used as a political weapon and labels the street as Nationalist. They state that it feels like a step backwards and it makes them feel uncomfortable.</p>
3.8	<p>Linen Grove, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 occupiers (16.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.9	<p>Dawson Street, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 occupiers (59.45%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.10	<p>Jubilee Avenue, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 occupiers (51.61%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.11	<p>Thorndale Avenue, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 occupiers (22.82%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.12	<p>Woodland Grange, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 occupiers (39.37%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 3 Occupiers (1.87%) had no preference either way.

3.13	<p>Wellington Park Terrace, BT9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 occupiers (17.14%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 11 occupiers (31.42%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 1 Occupier (2.85%) had no preference either way. <p>One resident is not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate as they feel the street is a mixed community and the dual language sign would risk undermining the harmony and would be damaging.</p>
3.14	<p>Grangeville Gardens, BT10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 occupiers (36.42%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 21 occupiers (15%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 1 Occupier (0.71%) had no preference either way. <p>One resident is not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate as they state that the street has been a flashpoint for sectarian trouble in the past. They state that property in the street was vandalised and residents were attacked. They worry the sign will label the area as solely Nationalist and fear the street could become a flashpoint again.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.16	<p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.17	<p>There is a cost of approximately £3,300 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.18	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
3.19	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Temporary Closure of Alexandra Park Household Waste Recycling Centre
Date:	8th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director Resources and Fleet & OSS
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager. Resources and Fleet

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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Insert number

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7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform members of the temporary closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Alexandra Park to carry out essential safety repairs to the road surface and the concrete service bays.
2.0	Recommendation
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the alternative arrangements that will be available to residents.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Health & Safety inspections completed by the HSE and Corporate Health & Safety have identified two safety issues at the Alexandra Park Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degradation of the road surface and poor road markings of the access routes used by members of the public circling the service bays whilst in the site. • The degradation of the concrete surface in the main service bays, with increasing safety concerns in the use of the mobile Bergmann compactors on uneven services.
3.2	Specifically, in relation to the road markings, there is an outstanding action with the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland (HSENI) to inform them when works have been completed.
3.3	It is therefore essential that these repairs are completed as urgently as possible and unfortunately it is not possible to complete any work whilst continuing to provide a service from the site. Accordingly, the site will have to be completely closed during the repair period.
3.4	However, in order to minimise the period of closure it is proposed to carry out the two works simultaneously with two contractors on site at the same time. It is estimated that the works will last for a period of approximately three weeks from Sunday 20th October until Sunday 10th November 2024 inclusive .
3.5	The approximate timescale is also weather dependent – should there be a significant reduction in air temperature or rainfall this can affect the drying / curing time. It is therefore important that the works take place as soon as possible prior to the full onset of winter.
3.6	The reopening date will be kept under constant review and any changes to this date (weather and works dependent) will be communicated when known.
3.7	It is proposed that the attached letter (Appendix 1) will be issued to all elected members to advise of the closure and the Marketing and Comms Team will publicise the closure to residents through all usual media channels. Signage will also be placed at the entrance to the site.
3.8	Due to health and safety licencing requirements, it will not be possible to provide any ‘pop-up’ alternative site and accordingly residents will be signposted to the other HRCs across the city during this period.

3.7	Financial and Resource Implications The associated repairs costs will be met from within existing budgets.
3.8	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are none in this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Letter to Members

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Cllr <xxxxxx>
c/o. Members' Room
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Dear Councillor <xxxxxx>,

RE: Temporary closure to Alexandra Park Household Recycling Centre

I am writing to inform you that Alexandra Park, **Household Recycling Centre will be closed from Sunday 20th October – 10th November 2024 inclusive**, to facilitate urgent and essential repair works to the concrete surface of the service bay and to the internal road surface to address outstanding safety concerns raised by the HSENI and Corporate Health and Safety. The site is planned to reopen on Monday, 11th November 2024. This date will be kept under review and is dependent upon weather conditions to allow for the curing of concrete and the reinstallation of skips and compactors onto the concrete surface.

This disruption to service and the location of alternative sites will be communicated through the Council's website, social media platforms and by signage placed on the site entrance gate.

The nearest alternative recycling centres are located at:

- Blackstaff Way Recycling Centre, 1 Blackstaff Way Belfast BT11 9DT
- Palmerston Road Recycling Centre, 2-4 Palmerston Road Belfast BT4 1QA,
- Ormeau Recycling Centre, 6 Park Road Belfast BT7 2FX

I apologise for any inconvenience caused but the nature and scale of the works require this temporary closure.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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