

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



**Belfast
City Council**

29 November 2024

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 3rd December, 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. Presentations

- (a) Bryson Charitable Group
- (b) Houses in Multiple Occupancy - HMO Unit

3. Restricted Matters

- (a) Reconsidered Item - (GLL) Annual Schedule of Charges 2025/26* (to be considered in conjunction with item 3b) (Pages 1 - 2)
- (b) GLL Single Parent Family Membership Category (Pages 3 - 8)
- (c) GLL Annual Leisure Customer Survey 2024 (Pages 9 - 50)

- (d) Quarter 2 - Finance Update (Pages 51 - 60)
- (e) Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - TEO Funding Update (Pages 61 - 84)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Community Support Plan (Pages 85 - 134)
- (b) Belfast City Youth Council - Recruitment (Pages 135 - 138)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Resources and Fleet Waste - Update (Pages 139 - 150)
- (b) Resources and Fleet Pilot / Project - Update (Pages 151 - 162)
- (c) Pitch Partnership Agreements (Pages 163 - 166)
- (d) Advice Outreach - Update (Pages 167 - 190)
- (e) Air Quality Schools' Project - Update (Pages 191 - 202)
- (f) Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment 2024 (Pages 203 - 208)
- (g) George Best Belfast City Airport - Request re: Rook Nests at Victoria Park (Pages 209 - 214)
- (h) Request for the Use of Ormeau Park Bowling Pavilion (Pages 215 - 218)
- (i) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 219 - 224)
- (j) Proposal to Name a New Street (Pages 225 - 226)

6. **Item Raised in Advance by Member**

- 6a Notice of Motion Update - Diversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces

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Subject:	Community Support Plan 25/29 including a Review of Community Support Large Grants
Date:	3 December 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?

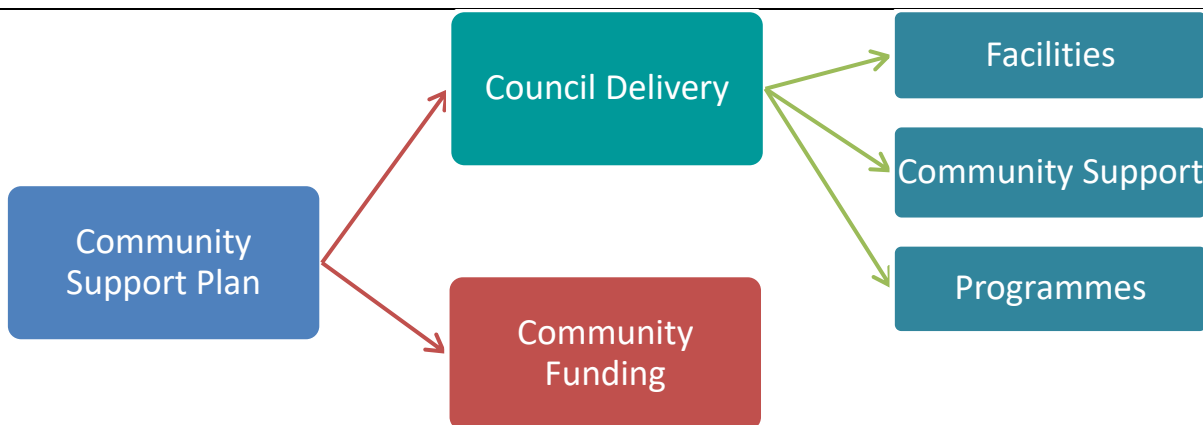
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To update members on ongoing work to produce a Council Community Support Plan (CSP) (25/29) and review of existing Community Support large grants (which form part of our Community Support Plan).
2.0	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the contents of the report. ii. Make comment on and agree the draft community support plan document (Appendix i). This will include agreement on a preferred option for the Community Support funding programme. (Options are provided in Appendix ii) iii. Approve that the draft CSP plan, including the funding approach, will undergo an equality screening and rural needs screening and that the required consultation approach will be applied in Spring/Summer 2025. iv. Agree that following completion of required screening/consultation exercise a paper will be brought to committee in summer 2025 outlining feedback and seeking agreement on the final Community Support Plan. v. Agree that a final detailed update on the Funding Programme is brought back to members in advance of going to open call in Summer 2025.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In January 2024, the People and Communities committee agreed to the following – “That officers produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/29) and at the same time, undertake a review of current community support large grants schemes”.</p> <p>3.2 This decision was made 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. 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) funding via their Community Support Programme.</p> <p>3.3 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> <p>3.4 A further update was brought to members at October P&C Committee which detailed progress to develop the CSP including priorities for Council Delivery and Funding that will be included in the plan. The plan and funding options are provided in Appendices i and ii.</p> <p>By way of illustration, the diagram below outlines what is included in the Community Support Plan.</p>



- 3.5 The new plan outlines how:
1. The Council will directly support the local community/voluntary sector and the communities that it serves through our;
 - community support,
 - our assets,
 - our people and programming
 2. Our funding will support community activity

- 3.6 The current programme of Community Support delivered by Council through the Plan in 23/24 included: -
- **£5.61m** external funding to VCSE organisations (including funding from DFC)
 - **over 150** staff supporting communities, managing facilities and grant funding and delivering programmes
 - **27** Council community centres and **8** Independently managed community centres.

3.7 Staff
 Members will be aware that these staff do not work in isolation from the rest of the Neighbourhood Services team and other council depts. They proactively collaborate to better design and deliver services and neighbourhood support. Likewise, in addition to the CSP funding, a number of other teams deliver thematic grant programmes which support community-based activity in local neighbourhoods.

3.8 CSP Funding
 The table below provides more detail on funding levels.

Current Funding included in the Community Support Plan

Grant	Annual Award	No. Groups Currently Funded
Under Review		
Capacity Building (up to £50k)	£1.85 Million	43
Revenue for Community Buildings (up to £20k)	£1.43 million	87
Not under review but included in Community Support Plan		

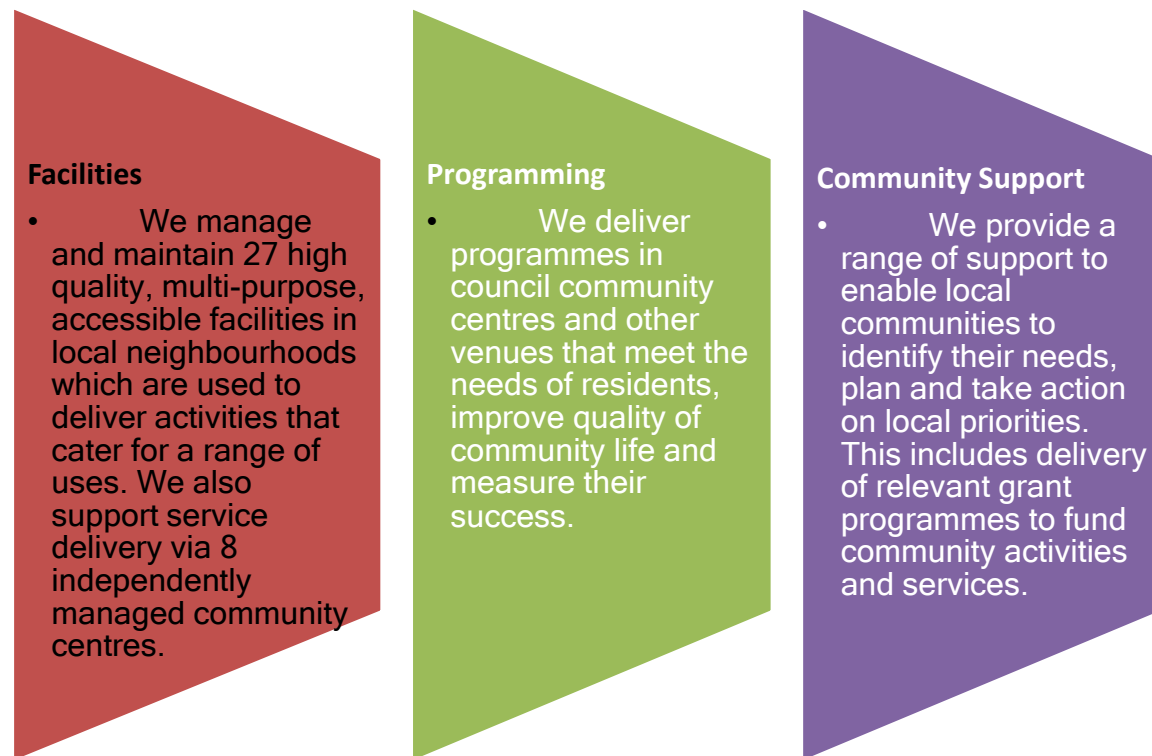
Summer Schemes	£0.2 million	98
Advice Services	£1.46 million	14
Social Supermarkets	£0.78 million	21

CSP Current status

3.9 Work on the development of the CSP has progressed and officers are now asking members to approve the draft Community Support Plan 25/29. It is important to note that once the CSP is agreed, officers will develop implementation plans which will drive the delivery of activity from 25/29.

3.10 Since June 2024, officers have undertaken significant engagement with external stakeholders, officers and members on the development of the CSP. As mentioned in previous reports brought to committee, the general feedback at our engagement sessions was that stakeholders value Council support, but advised on areas where we could improve. They also advised that the funding we offer should be more flexible and should include an offering for small grants which would support smaller groups who require support to develop.

3.11 The key work that will be contained in the CSP can be broken down into 3 distinct areas:



3.12 In summary the CSP will;

- Improve what we do within our wider Community Services offering
- Better articulate who we are, what we do and how we engage better with local residents and elected members
- Outline how we allocate our funding

3.13	<p>Through the new CSP we need to ensure that we have a focus on what our staff deliver in local areas. Research and consultation feedback has informed the development of key Council service delivery priorities, which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading networking / co-ordination & partnership development in local communities to create active, engaged and resilient communities. • Supporting volunteering by creating new and better opportunities for people to give their time and make a difference to their communities and the issues they care about. • Providing access to mentoring / training for community organisations • Reviewing the current programmes within council facilities across the city to ensure that they meet identified need. • Delivery and co-ordination of activity programmes. 								
3.14	<p><u>Funding Review and proposed options</u></p> <p>While the funding element within this plan is only part of our overall offering it is of particular interest to stakeholders. For the purposes of this work, we are reviewing our large, multi-annual capacity and revenue grants which currently provide £3.3million to 130 groups across the city. Feedback on funding priorities suggested a need to include the following when developing the new funding approach;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding levels to include small grants • Funding levels for revenue related costs should increase • Funding should be available for both core revenue/running costs and activity/programmes • Applications should be assessed against the impact that they make to overall outcomes • Application requirements should be proportionate & timely • Focus on more active and engaged communities 								
3.15	<p>Based on this feedback, officers have developed 3 options for funding programme delivery including the status quo. To continue with what we currently allocate, there would be 2 funding offerings of Capacity (£50k) and Revenue (£20k). Members should note that the majority of the feedback received during engagement stressed that the current scheme required change to adapt to the current environment in which the sector is operating.</p> <p>Further detail on proposed options including eligibility criteria is included in Appendix ii. The draft CSP which goes to consultation will need to detail the proposed funding programme as it is a key element and driver of the plan. Therefore, members are asked to discuss and approve a preferred funding option. Members should note, that while any new funding programme will not be open until Summer 2025 and allocations for new funding will be from April 2026, there are tight timeframes for development of a new scheme.</p>								
3.16	<p>Updated Timelines</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 1780 1436 2049"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="252 1780 1212 1859">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1212 1780 1436 1859">Completion Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="252 1859 1212 1937">Community Support Plan (CSP) Drafted for members consideration (including options on funding programme)</td> <td data-bbox="1212 1859 1436 1937">Dec 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="252 1937 1212 1982">Equality & Rural Needs Screening and Consultation</td> <td data-bbox="1212 1937 1436 1982">Spring 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="252 1982 1212 2049">Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening & feedback from consultation</td> <td data-bbox="1212 1982 1436 2049">Summer 25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Completion Date	Community Support Plan (CSP) Drafted for members consideration (including options on funding programme)	Dec 24	Equality & Rural Needs Screening and Consultation	Spring 25	Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening & feedback from consultation	Summer 25
Action	Completion Date								
Community Support Plan (CSP) Drafted for members consideration (including options on funding programme)	Dec 24								
Equality & Rural Needs Screening and Consultation	Spring 25								
Final CSP agreed including new funding programme which incorporates Equality screening & feedback from consultation	Summer 25								

	Community Support Plan published	Summer 25
	New funding programme open	August / September 25
	Funding allocated to groups	April 26
	<p>Once a preferred option is agreed, further detail will be worked up including consideration of administration and staffing within CNS and the Central Grants Unit. Members should note that if the option to include a small grant programme is selected, this would operate in Year 2 of the new funding programme and that Year 1 would focus on the operation of the new Community Support Large Grant.</p>	
3.17	<p><u>Further Engagement with Stakeholders</u> It is important that we continue to engage with stakeholders on the development and implementation of the CSP. As part of this work, officers will hold an information session with stakeholders in early December, further details will be provided when available. Given the potential impacts on existing grant holders of any change to the funding programme, officers will also engage with those organisations to provide information. Officers will continue to engage with organisations to provide support in preparing project ideas and will offer support to potential applicants when the new programme opens. Further detail on the programme of support will be provided in the paper to committee prior to the Scheme opening.</p>	
3.18	<p><u>Additional requests from members – longer term asks.</u> As advised earlier, there are limitations to what can be delivered in the context of the CSP and there are deadlines to develop both a new plan and the funding programmes as part of the plan. During the party group briefings, we received feedback on issues that are not all contained within the scope of this exercise as agreed by Council. One example is a request for a major review of our community centres and our independently managed centres to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scoping of everything that happens in our centres • what is the revenue and staffing costs associated with our centres • what is the usage of our centre • what programmes are delivered • A cost benefit analysis between independently managed centres and council run centres • What would an overall physical improvement programme look like for community centres 	
3.19	<p>While these and other requests have been noted, Members acknowledged that these are not within the scope of this exercise. However, Officers via P&C committee will further consider how this work may be taken forward separately.</p>	
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications	
4.1	<p>Staff and financial resources to complete this work will be taken from existing budgets. The council element is included in existing budgets and the DfC contribution comes from the Community Support Programme LoO .</p> <p>The CSP LoO provides a one-year commitment from DfC for funding on an annual basis, although the CSP has been in place across all councils for a number of years Members may wish to note that in 24/25 DfC is providing £831,192 toward the Capacity and Revenue grants. Council increased its financial allocation in March 2023 by almost £1.4 million per annum providing an</p>	

	annual commitment of £2,446,918. This combined amount provides the overall budget of £3,278,110.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	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 exercise 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.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	Appendix i – Draft Community Support Plan Appendix ii – Options on funding allocations

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Belfast Community Support Plan 2025-2029

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INTRODUCTION

The Council's Community Support Plan outlines how, we seek to support a better engaged and more resourceful community through our resources and community facilities and the support we provide to the community and voluntary support organisations that serve them. It also provides priorities for some Council investment including funding and is used to access funding from the Department for Communities through its Community Support programme which provides central government support to all council areas.

The implementation of the plan will help:

- To improve what we do within our wider Community Services offering
- To better articulate who we are, what we do and how we engage better with our community
- To outline how funding is allocated

BACKGROUND

In 2024 Belfast City Council elected members agreed that officers would engage and consult with stakeholders to review existing approaches and to inform the development of a new Community Support Plan (CSP). Through the CSP, Council makes a significant investment to support local communities and it was identified that, given the changes in the external environment since the last Plan, the impacts of Covid 19 and the current pressures that our local communities are facing, this was an opportune time to engage with the sector and local communities to develop a new Community Support Plan.

In addition, a number of other key policies have had reviews completed, or were underway at the time of engagement, which further emphasised the need to develop a new plan. These included;

- Belfast City Council - Belfast Agenda (the community plan for Belfast), Corporate Plan and Peace Plus Local Action Plan.
- Department for Communities – Support for Community Voluntary Sector Infrastructure, People and Place Review (Neighbourhood Renewal) and Review of Advice Provision.

As part of this review, it was also decided Council would review some of the key funding that is included in this plan, namely, the Community Development Large Grants which had an allocation of £3.3 million to over 120 community organisations in 2023.

One of the overarching reasons to develop a new plan was that Council needs to review and articulate its position in terms of its community support priorities and service provision, including funding priorities and approaches and how these will inform resource allocation.

We want to support our community & voluntary sector to be well structured, skilled and have the necessary resources to deliver on priorities for better engaged and more resourceful communities.

It is important to note that the Community Support Plan **does not** include everything we deliver and fund in local communities. This plan outlines how Council will direct the funding, assets, people and programming that we deliver through **our Community Support Teams & Neighbourhood Integration and Assets & Programming Portfolios** within our City & Neighbourhood Services Department.

Proposals are based on the current resources that we have available within these teams, both human and financial. These are subject to change depending on annual budgets being agreed by Council and DfC.

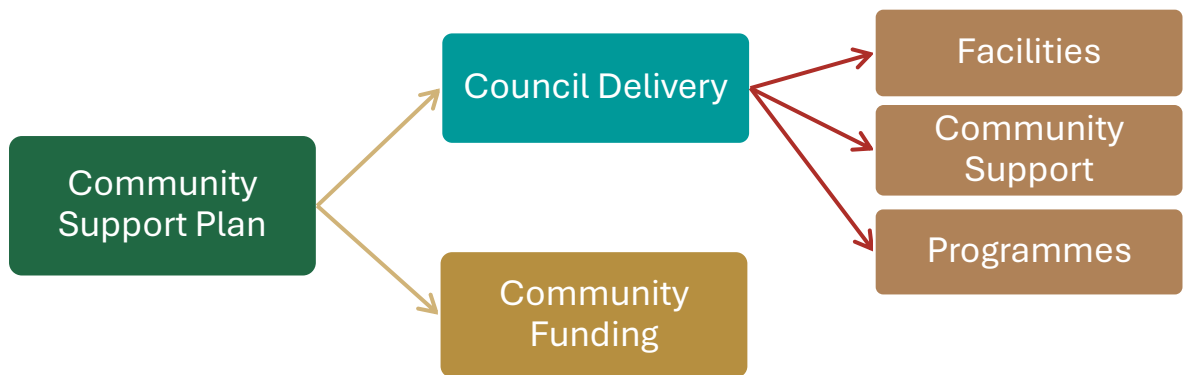
This Community Support Plan will outline:

- Outcomes and priorities for Community Support that will drive the delivery of activity from 2025-2029.
- How priorities will be supported through Council delivery and outline the resources required to deliver on these priorities.
- How priorities will be supported through a funding / investment programme 2026-2029.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLAN

The Community Support Plan (CSP) covers

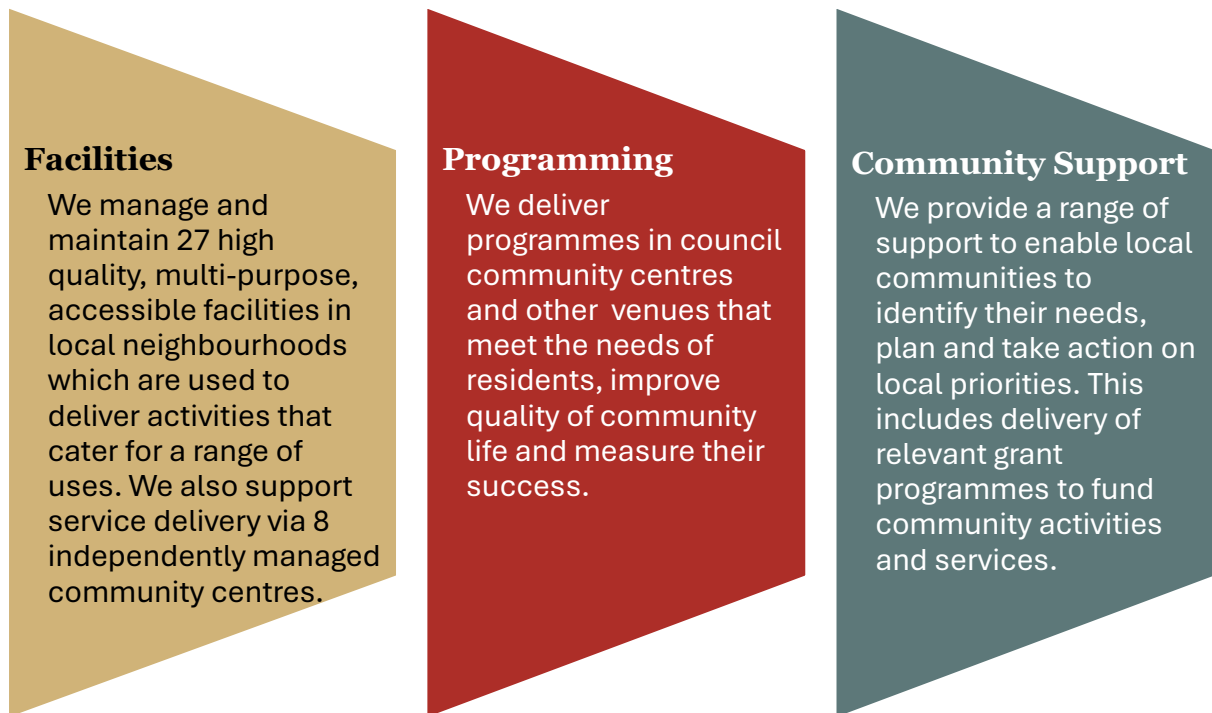
1. Council community service delivery; and
2. Funding made available by Council to community and voluntary sector organisations across the city.



OUR SUPPORTS

The community support opportunities included within the Community Support Plan is significant. It is therefore important that our new plan is fit for purpose and meets the expectations of our local community. In general, it includes the current community facilities that we manage and maintain, programmes that we deliver, various grant programmes that we allocate and support that our Community Services staff provide.

Council Community Services activities are delivered in three key areas:



The current resources we have to deliver our community support are:

1. Council owned Community Centres

- Provision of 27 Community Centres that are managed by council staff
- Provision of support to 8 independently managed centres

2. Funding – In 2024/25 this included:

Grant	Annual Award	Number of Groups Supported
Capacity Building	£1.85 million	43
Revenue for Community Buildings	£1.43 million	87
Advice Services	£1.46 million	14
Summer Scheme	£0.2 million	98
Social Supermarkets	£0.78 million	21

3. People

We have staff in full and part time roles, supporting the local community, developing programmes and running our facilities. There are 3 teams as listed below:

Area Support Unit – 39 staff which includes 14 Community Development Officers and 23 assistant Community Development Officers who deliver a wide range of programmes and activities to meet the needs of CYP, older people, residents, and local community groups. They also provide support and advice to the VCSE

organisations across the city including representation on geographical and thematic partnerships. The CDOs also manage the summer scheme small grants programme.

Community Facilities Unit – 111 staff including 9 Community Development Officers and facilities supervisors who directly manage and maintain 27 community centres across the city as well as providing support to 8 voluntary managed community centres. The community centres provide affordable high-quality facilities to the VCSE organisations. (see Annex 1 for centre locations)

Community Support Unit – 10 staff including 6 Community Development Officers provide developmental support and training for VCSE organisations across the city. They also manage delivery of relevant funding including Advice and Social Supermarket programmes. This team supports the Belfast City Youth Council and Digital Inclusion through access to devices, training and support.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In order to maximise our support to our local community and voluntary sector organisations and the communities they serve, we must align with other key strategies and action plans across the Council and those regional strategies that are of importance. 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 and other relevant DfC strategies.

Strategy development is ongoing at the time of this review, however the Belfast Community Support Plan recognises these issues and will seek to address them through Council service delivery and community support funding. This Community Support Plan has been developed to ensure that it aligns to key Belfast and regional strategies including the draft Programme for Government.

THE BELFAST AGENDA

Our Community Support Plan seeks to support the achievement of the Belfast Agenda, our Community Plan for the City.

The Belfast Agenda sets out our vision for Belfast in 2025 as

“Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone.”

Our Outcomes: the five things people want by 2035

Belfast will be a city

- Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- That is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all
- That is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
- Where everyone experiences good health and well being
- Where everyone fulfils their potential

To make this happen we have identified 5 key themes:

Theme 1: Our People and communities – Making life better for all our residents

Theme 2: Our Economy – Creating inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 3; Our Place – Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 4: Our Environment – Creating a net-zero emissions and climate resilient city

Theme 5: Compassionate City – Leaving no one behind – making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city

Through the Community Support Plan, we will actively strive to deliver against the 5 themes in the Belfast Agenda

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT (2023)

This framework was developed following extensive regional consultation and engagement. It identified the need for infrastructure support across four headline areas:

- Leadership and Advocacy
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Capacity building (practical skills and resilience)
- Volunteering

The vision for investment support for the sector is for:

“A confident, independent and collaborative sector which empowers and sustains local action and volunteering; a sector that represents the diversity of our communities and supports the delivery of inclusive and accessible services and programme for government outcomes through partnership, innovation and challenge”

The Belfast Community Support Plan will seek to embed these core values and headline priorities for support in local community development activity to assist in the realisation of this vision. It will also incorporate the Fair Funding Principles in future investment/funding approaches.

PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW A STRATEGY FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

This review has been progressed using a co-design approach engaging communities, including representatives from the Belfast City Council area, in identifying key needs and new actions for future programme delivery. A range of issues, challenges and opportunities have been identified. These include:

- A need for simplification of neighbourhood renewal funding and governance arrangements
- Opportunities for increased participation by local communities in needs identification and programme delivery
- An understanding that poverty exists even in perceived affluent areas
- A need to support more running costs, core staff costs and activity costs
- An opportunity exists to be more flexible and adaptive thereby meeting need and encouraging innovation
- Need for increased longevity of funding provision via multi-annual funding
- Need to support capacity development, education and training in the VCS sector and thereby improve its sustainability and resilience
- Opportunities to develop more effective collaboration and partnership delivery including links to community planning at local level
- Need to focus on outcomes when measuring impacts of investments made

The development of the Community Support Plan has also reflected on other funding mechanisms which are available to support community activities. The plan proposed seeks to complement these other resources and to plug remaining funding gaps for the Community and Voluntary sector. An overview of the funding resources considered is included in Annex 2.

DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLAN

Belfast City Council agreed that, as part of the development of the Community Support Plan, a co-design process should be followed to involve and empower local community groups and residents to self-determine what should be included in the Council's new Community Support Plan. To do this, since June 2024, Council have undertaken to develop a new Community Support Plan (and review of part of the funding that is included in the plan) via a 3-stage process:

- **Stage 1** – Understanding and identifying the key issues across the city through local consultation and stakeholder engagement and desktop research.
- **Stage 2** – Agree the outcomes and priorities to be included in the new Community Support Plan.
- **Stage 3** – Agreement on the new plan and implementation.

ENGAGEMENT - METHODOLOGY

It was agreed the Stage 1 engagement process would comprise of online and public meetings, as well as strategic review, as follows:

- Public meetings across the city
- Meetings with key stakeholders where appropriate
- An online e-survey
- Desktop research

To deliver on this a series of public meetings took place across the city in June 24. The purpose of these sessions was to:

- advise residents, community partners and wider stakeholders of the opportunities under the development of a new Community Support Plan
- to allow stakeholders to shape the priorities for the plan and
- improve how we allocate funding to our local community partners.

A total of 9 public sessions were facilitated as part of this pre-engagement with a total of **122** in attendance

An online e-survey was also agreed and circulated widely by Council across existing networks. In total, **94** people completed the e-survey. See Annex 3 and 4 for further details on Stage 1 engagement.

NEED AND DEMAND FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT - WHAT YOU TOLD US

Through the different consultation and engagement approaches used in the first stage of developing this CSP, we sought the views of participants on the following areas:

1. What the current key priorities are facing communities.
2. What support for communities, Council should provide directly via Council staff and facilities.
3. What type of community support / activities Council should fund so they can be delivered via community / voluntary based organisations.
4. How Council should provide investment to support delivery of Community Support Plan priorities.
5. What outcomes and measures of success should Council apply to ensure funding achieves positive change within and for our communities.
6. What the barriers are to effective community support.

‘Development of a community support infrastructure means Council directly supporting the community infrastructure to do it for themselves’.

We consolidated your feedback on the above into the following two key areas:

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COUNCIL SHOULD DELIVER

In general, throughout the engagement process stakeholders acknowledged they value the support that Council provides and were positive about how Council officers were helpful to residents and local communities. They did outline ways in which Council service delivery and funding, can be improved.

‘Council should provide assistance to grass roots voluntary, community organisations’

The key issues and areas for improvement that were highlighted, are summarised below:

- Communities welcome the provision of Council owned and operated community centres / community spaces. These offer a low cost, safe and accessible space for community activities and service delivery.
- It was suggested that access to facilities could be enhanced through increased promotion of centre facilities and services / activities; increased consistency of services delivered and ensuring that local facilities deliver activity that meets the needs of user communities.
- There was feedback that provision of facilities is not always consistent across the city and that some facilities need modernisation.

'More cohesive and cross cutting linkages between directly managed facilities and the voluntary-community delivery partners. Many community organisations have the skills, knowledge and structure to deliver a number of community support themes.'

- Council playing a lead role in facilitating / stimulating networking and collaboration between community organisations at local level.
 - Proactively encouraging and facilitating collaboration between Council community centres and wider stakeholders to ensure community support and programming is delivered in a co-ordinated way that adds value and reduces duplication.
 - Provision of appropriate training / coaching / mentoring for community organisations, ensuring non-duplication with what is already being delivered.
- Supporting volunteer development, including additional volunteer capacity and increased volunteer skills.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES THAT SHOULD BE DELIVERED VIA COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY BASED ORGANISATIONS THROUGH COUNCIL FUNDING

Communities need ongoing support from Council to deliver community services and activities. Suggested priorities for Council funding included:

- Providing ongoing and increased funding for core running costs of community operated facilities.
- Funding for core costs of running a community or voluntary organisation not linked to the provision of buildings / community facilities.
- Funding for capacity building activities to addresses identified gaps / deficits
- Grant programmes should offer an opportunity for consortia / collaborative bids for programme / service delivery.
- Grant programmes should offer a variety of funding scales from small short-term grants for community activities to multi-annual grants for programme / service delivery.
- The maximum grant available for community facility revenue costs should be increased recognising increased utilities and running costs experienced by community organisations.

‘Core costs and staff costs are an ongoing major concern within the community sector and there are not enough funding pots to ensure ongoing access to programmes that people are now dependent on.’

OUR PLAN TO SUPPORT YOU 2025 - 2029

OUR VISION

Vibrant, inclusive communities where everyone has opportunities for involvement and development.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We will be guided by the following principles when supporting communities through our facilities, our staff activities and the funding we make available:

- We are **accountable** for the services and supports we deliver and will act with integrity and professionalism.
- **Promoting, equity, diversity and inclusion** – we will promote and support equality of access and participation in community services through our support for community and voluntary sector organisations.
- **Outcomes focused** – we will use our facilities, staff and funding opportunities to deliver Community Support outcomes agreed by Council.
- **Involving communities** – we will empower communities to be involved in the design, development and delivery of activities.
- **Needs driven** – we will endeavour to target those most in need and align with our inclusive growth framework.
- **Adding value** – we will add value to what is already in existence and will work with relevant partners to achieve this.
- **Promoting collaboration** – we will promote collaboration and joint working, breaking down barriers between communities.
- **Ensuring flexibility** - We will be flexible and responsive to changing community needs and priorities.

OUR PROPOSED PRIORITIES

One of the key messages from engagement and consultation was that the Belfast City Council Community Support Plan should move to an Outcomes Approach. This means that all of our support, either through funding or direct

service delivery, should focus on contributing to overarching strategic outcomes.

For the purposes of this plan, we are using the outcomes that have been agreed as part of the Belfast Agenda and included in its refreshed action plan which is outlined in Table 1. We believe that the Belfast Agenda outcomes align with other relevant strategies such as the DFC Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework. The Priorities that we have identified for the Community Support Plan will enable delivery that supports the achievement of the overall outcomes.

Priorities

Based on your feedback and our knowledge of wider issues which are impacting community services and activities, we have identified the following priorities for the new Community Support Plan:

- 1) Creating active, engaged and resilient communities
- 2) Ensuring access to quality community facilities
- 3) Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration

Cross cutting themes

Improving health and wellbeing and reducing the negative impacts of poverty in Belfast are considered fundamental to our work and as such, will represent cross cutting themes for the Community Support Plan.

We will seek to ensure that through the delivery of Council services and allocation of our external funding, we make a positive contribution to tackling both of these issues.

We will seek to

- Contribute to an increase in the wellbeing experienced by local residents and community members. By wellbeing we mean: both the physical and mental health experienced by individuals, their families and the wider community.

- Contribute to tackling poverty through community support services through proactive measures / activity which seek to positively change the life experiences of local communities and their residents.

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

Our aspiration is that all activity contained in the Community Support Plan, both direct council delivery and activity delivered through Council funding will contribute to the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda and priority areas highlighted above.

In order to ensure achievement of these ambitions, we will focus on our priorities which are explained in more detail below. Council programmes and funding programmes will use relevant measures of success from the framework included in the tables below.

1. Evidence of more active, engaged and resilient communities

By **active** we mean: residents are active and participate in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.

By **engaged** we mean: residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and benefiting from the supports provided.

By **resilient** we mean: local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have the skills and access to sustainable human and financial resources that support delivery of effective community support.

2. Ensuring access to quality community facilities

By **access** we mean: communities will have access to community buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.

By **quality** we mean: facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community.

3. Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration

By **joined up** we mean: statutory and community and voluntary sector organisations collaborate and work together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.

By **partnership** we mean: creation and implementation of formal joint working relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.

Table 1 Outcomes and Success Measures

The table below outlines how we will define and measure delivery against these outcomes.

Belfast Agenda Theme	Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
<p>1. Our people and communities, making life better for our people and communities</p>	<p>Where everyone fulfils their potential.</p> <p>Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.</p> <p>That is welcoming, safe, fair, and inclusive for all.</p>	<p>Active Communities - residents are active and participate in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.</p>	<p>% people within the community who feel that they have access to participation in a wide range of Voluntary Community Social Enterprise activities.</p> <p>% people within the community who feel that they have access to participation in a wide range of Council delivered activities</p> <p>Number of individuals participating in community activities.</p> <p>% who have been involved in previous 12 months</p>
		<p>Engaged communities - residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and</p>	<p>Number of active volunteers within projects</p> <p>Number of individuals accessing community support services</p> <p>Participant satisfaction levels by service</p>

Belfast Agenda Theme	Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
		benefiting from the supports provided.	
		<p>Resilient communities – local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have the skills and access to sustainable human and financial resources that support delivery of effective community support.</p>	<p>% of VCSE organisations that feel that they have sufficient skills within their staff and volunteer to operate effectively for the next 12 months</p> <p>% of VCSE organisations that feel that they have sufficient resources to operate effectively for the next 12 months</p> <p>Number of VCSE staff/ volunteers achieving accredited qualifications</p> <p>Number of VCSE organisations receiving support from BCC Community Services staff to develop leadership / community development and governance skills</p> <p>Amount of income that is drawn from other sources</p>
2. Our Place, creating a liveable and connected,	That is a welcoming, safe, fair, and	Access: communities will have access to community	Number of community, voluntary and social enterprise facilities

Belfast Agenda Theme	Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
vibrant and competitive city.	inclusive for all.	buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.	used for the delivery of community services Participant numbers using community facilities % reporting awareness of community facilities and services on offer
		Quality: facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community.	% reporting that community facilities are welcoming, accessible, high quality and safe. % of people reporting that they are satisfied with facilities' provision
3. Our people and communities, making life better for our people and communities	Where everyone fulfils their potential. Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing. That is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all.	Joined up: statutory and community and voluntary sector organisations collaborate and work together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.	Number of joint services and activity programmes delivered via partnership arrangements.
		Partnership: creation and implementation of formal joint working	Number of formal partnerships established

Belfast Agenda Theme	Desired Outcome	CSP Strategic priority	Success Measures
		relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.	Number of joint services and activity programmes delivered via formal partnership arrangements.

OUR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

HOW WE WILL IMPLEMENT OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

To achieve our Vision we will:

- Develop operational action plans under key priorities, ensuring Council community facilities and staff resources are targeted towards realising our identified priorities.
- We will refresh and update our funding programmes to reflect current and projected future community support needs.
- We will seek to actively develop enhanced connections and collaboration between communities, Council supports and wider agencies, thereby maximising the impacts of our work.
- We will prioritise our work to meet community needs and add value to other programmes and support services, rather than duplicating existing provision.
- We will retain flexibility in our approach so that emerging community needs and priorities can be addressed through the delivery of Council services and our funding programmes.

OUR COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITIES

Council recognises that public services are under increasing pressure from increasing community need, changing demographics and social patterns and increased pressure on budgets available. The Council will therefore undertake to work more effectively in partnership with the local community and the community and voluntary sector in meeting these challenges.

In the delivery of community development activity, the Council will strive to better meet the community needs captured during this review to focus its priorities on:

- Leading networking / co-ordination & partnership development in local communities to create active, engaged and resilient communities.
- Supporting volunteering by creating new and better opportunities for people to give their time and make a difference to their communities and the issues they care about.
- Providing access to mentoring / training for community organisations
- Reviewing the current provision of council facilities across the city to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet identified need.
- Delivery and co-ordination of activity programmes.

OUR FUNDING PLAN

Our funding programmes will change to ensure they are better able to meet current and future community needs. From 2026 we will offer funding through the following approach.

	Funding Scale	Key Features
1	Large Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value (tbc by members) per annum. • Multi-annual funding – up to a 3 year programme. • Eligible costs will include core running /staffing and programming costs.
2	Small Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value up to (tbc by members) per annum • Delivered within 1 year period. • Annual application.
3	Social Supermarkets –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value up to £50k • Delivered within 1 year period. • Annual open call application • Subject to Department for Communities annual funding
4	Advice – Services which provide free, independent, accessible advice.	This funding supports 5 area based advice consortia to deliver advice services across the city.
5	Summer Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value up to £2,500 • Delivered during school summer holiday period • Annual application

ALIGNING COUNCIL AND FUNDED SERVICES

Throughout the consultation process and development of the Community Support Plan it has been clear Council service delivery and funded community service delivery should align and strive to meet the same overall priorities and objectives. The table below illustrates how this will be achieved:

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
1) Active, engaged and resilient communities		
<p>Active Communities - residents are active and involved in community activities, community organisations and wider community relationships in positive ways.</p>	<p>BCC will develop and deliver a broad programme of activities in our facilities that meets local needs and caters to a diverse range of people.</p> <p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to co-ordinate programmes/activities in communities and foster collaboration.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver complementary programmes and avoid duplication.</p> <p>BCC will manage relevant grant programmes and report on outcomes achieved on an annual basis.</p> <p>BCC will support organisations to make applications to deliver projects for</p>	<p>Small grant programme will support activities that will contribute to Active Communities priority.</p> <p>Funded activity could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of activities • Community events • Costs for recruiting, involving, managing and supporting volunteers for related activity

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
	local communities both to council and other funders.	
<p>Engaged communities - residents are active and involved in their community in the delivery of services, designing the type of services on offer and benefiting from the supports provided</p>	<p>BCC will provide a range of support and advice to current and new community organisations and will take a needs based approach to working in communities.</p> <p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to foster collaboration to ensure that resources are used effectively to meets local needs and priorities.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that work delivered through the Community Support Plan aligns with other programmes delivered by council including Good Relations, Community Safety, Leisure Development, Health Development and other relevant services.</p>	<p>Grant programme to support VCSE organisations to deliver projects that meet local needs within neighbourhood facilities.</p> <p>Funded activity could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs for development/project worker • Costs to facilitate community involvement such as core running costs, venue hire, facilitation, volunteer expenses.
<p>Resilient communities – local communities and the community organisations that serve them will have access to resources that support delivery of effective</p>	<p>BCC will provide a range of support and advice to current and new community organisations to develop their skills and support sustainability.</p> <p>Council will support organisations that receive financial support from council funding programmes through individual and networking meetings to address</p>	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that directly meet identified community need. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice Services – community based services across the city

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
community support.	<p>issues and identify areas for collaboration.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice • Social Supermarkets • Community Support Grants • Independently Managed Community Centres 	<p>that can provide free, independent advice on a range of issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Supermarkets – projects that provide food support to the most vulnerable alongside other wraparound services. • Community Support Grants - support VCSE organisations to meet local need, develop their skills and support sustainability.
2) Access to quality community facilities		
<p>Access: communities will have access to community buildings and spaces which enable delivery of community based services and activities.</p>	<p>BCC will work with VCSE and statutory partners to co-ordinate programmes/activities in communities and foster collaboration.</p> <p>BCC will ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver complementary programmes and avoid duplication.</p> <p>Develop a programme of work to increase the number of programmes and activities that are delivered in BCC facilities through direct service provision and by local organisations.</p>	<p>Support community managed facilities through grant aid (Community Support) and service agreements.</p>

Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
	<p>Increase the number of Council programmes across wider council teams that are delivered in our facilities.</p> <p>Implement a new electronic booking system for council owned community centres.</p> <p>Council will provide training and ongoing support to VCSE organisations funded through Community Support to ensure that they are aware of good practice in terms of facility management and application of appropriate policies/requirements.</p>	
<p>Quality: facilities will be available which are fit for purpose, and which make provision for the range of service needs presented by the community. their respective geographical / sectoral communities.</p>	<p>Council will ensure that all BCC community centres meet agreed quality standards.</p> <p>Council will provide training and ongoing support to VCSE organisations funded through Community Support to ensure that they are aware of good practice in terms of facility management and application of appropriate policies/requirements and will provide training where appropriate.</p>	<p>Support community managed facilities through grant aid (Community Support) and service agreements.</p>
<p>3) Joining up community support through partnership development and collaboration</p>		
<p>Joined up: community and voluntary sector</p>	<p>BCC will lead on collaboration in local areas, working with the community to coordinate voluntary groups and</p>	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that</p>

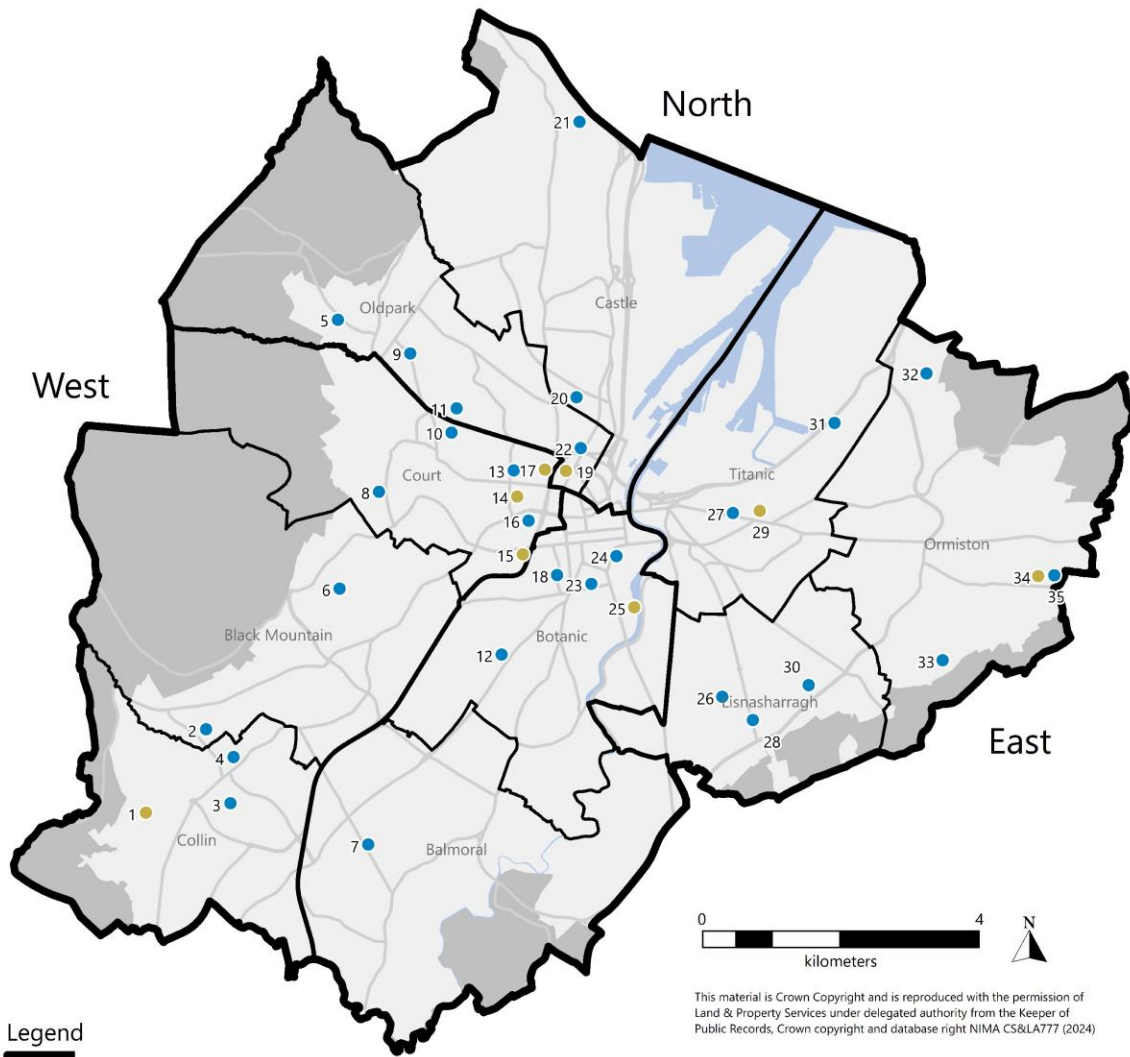
Priority	Council Delivery (Programming / Support / Facilities)	Funding Support
organisations collaborating and working together to deliver services, raise awareness, or sign-post to other service providers.	networks that provide support to the community.	take a collaborative approach to directly meeting identified community need.
<p>Partnership: creation and implementation of formal joint working relationships for service development, service delivery, or advocacy.</p>	<p>Develop a plan for the creation and development of formal working relationships in local communities to improve delivery of services.</p> <p>Council will support organisations that receive financial support from council funding programmes through quarterly individual and networking meetings to address issues and identify areas for collaboration. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice • Social Supermarkets • Community Support • Independently Managed Community Centres 	<p>Council will provide funding for projects/services that directly meet identified community need. This can include costs for partnership development and delivery.</p>

HOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE YOU

Our Community Support Plan has been developed based on feedback from communities for communities. Your involvement is important to us and as we move forwards through Plan implementation we will:

- Continue to engage with community representatives gaining regular updates on key issues and needs impacting local community services.
- Seek your feedback on the effectiveness of Council community service delivery, including community facilities and targeting of wider community support resources.
- Engage with grant recipients to gain an understanding of how funded projects are delivering against their proposed impacts and outcomes.
- Seek your feedback on how funding programmes are enabling and effecting desired community change.
- Where and when we decide there is a need and / or benefit in making further changes to our grant programmes and service delivery we will communicate these proposals to communities that may be affected.

Annex 1 Community Centre Locations



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Legend

- Belfast Local Government District
- Belfast Quadrant
- Belfast District Electoral Area
- Belfast City Council managed community centre

- 2 Glen Road Community Centre
- 3 Suffolk Community Centre
- 4 Horn Drive Community Centre
- 5 Ligoniel Community Centre
- 6 Whiterock Community Centre and Playcentre
- 7 Finaghy Community Centre
- 8 Highfield Community Centre
- 9 Concorde Community Centre
- 10 Woodvale Community Centre
- 11 Ardoyne Community Centre
- 12 Morton Community Centre
- 13 Hammer Community Centre
- 16 Divis Community Centre
- 18 Sandy Row Community Centre
- 20 Duncairn Community Centre
- 21 Whitecity Community Centre
- 22 North Queen Street Community Centre
- 23 Donegall Pass Community Centre
- 24 Markets Community Centre

- 26 Cregagh Youth and Community Centre
- 27 Dee Street Community Centre
- 28 Downshire Community Hall
- 30 Clonduff Drive Community Centre
- 31 Inverary Community Centre
- 32 Knocknagoney Community Centre
- 33 Braniel Community Centre
- 35 Tullycarnet Community Centre
- Independently managed community centre
- 1 Sally Gardens Community Centre
- 14 Percy Street Community Centre
- 15 Grosvenor Community Centre
- 17 Denmark Street Community Centre
- 19 Carrickhill Community Centre
- 25 Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre
- 29 Ballymacarrett Community Centre
- 34 Hanwood Centre

Annex 2

Research - Funding Sources Considered

Funding Source	Fund	Value
National Lottery Community Fund	Awards for All	£300 to £20,000
National Lottery Community Fund	Sustainable Community Buildings	Up to £50,000
National Lottery Community Fund	The UK Fund (including Empowering Young People)	£500,000 - £5 million
National Lottery Community Fund	Dormant Accounts Fund NI	Variable
PEACEPLUS Programme	Empowering Communities Cross Community Change Maker Fund	Up to €100,000
Community Relations Council	Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme	Up to £10,000
Community Foundation for NI	Variable – currently small grants linked to renewable energy providers.	Variable
Belfast City Council	Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund	Variable
Belfast City Council	Multi-annual Cultural Grants	Variable
Department for Communities	Community Cohesion Fund Small Pockets Deprivation Fund NIHE Enterprise Plus	Variable

Annex 3 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
Wednesday 26 th June	6.30 – 8.00	On-line / virtual	14
Survey			94
Total Participants			216

Annex 4 Community Support Plan – Public Survey Questions

94 responses were received to the following questions:

1. Which of the following community support priorities do you think are the most important?
2. Which of the following community support services do you believe council should provide directly?
3. Looking at the list of community support activities, please indicate which activities, if any, that you think council should provide funding for i.e. so that community and voluntary organisations can deliver support?
4. Do you have any other comments about community support priorities in your area?
5. What time frame should funding be offered over?
6. What type of outcomes or measures of success should council consider to ensure funding achieves positive change within and for our communities?
7. If there are other types of funding opportunities not listed, that you think should be available via our Community Support Plan, please tell us.
8. Have you any other comments you would like to make about the priorities for supporting or funding community services in Belfast?

Community Support Plan - Options for new funding programme 2026-2029

Note: The current budget available is £3.3m

Option 1

Status Quo, which retains Capacity and Revenue Programmes in their current format. This option is not recommended given that the engagement and feedback received highlighted the need for change to meet the needs of the sector and communities.

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards
Capacity	£1.85m	50,000	3	36
Revenue	£1.45m	20,000	3	72
Totals	£3.3m			116

Option 2

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£40,000**) and
- 2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£5,000**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards
Large	£3.2m	40,000	3	80
Small	£0.1m	5,000	1	20
Totals	£3.3m			100

Option 3

- 1) Community Support Large Grant – offers financial support for both programme and core running facility/staff costs (Maximum individual award **£35,000**) and
- 2) Community Support Small Grant (Maximum individual award **£2,500**)- offers financial support for small scale project costs

This is the preferred option as it provides a level of support to the largest number of organisations and still includes the allocation of small grants .

Grant	Budget (approx.)	Max Award £	Duration (no of years)	Min. No Awards
Large	£3.2m	35,000	3	91
Small	£0.1m	2,500	1	40
Totals	£3.3m			131

Comments on proposed new Funding Programme

- Having one large grant with wider criteria rather than the previous revenue (£20k) and capacity (£50k) enables organisations to access funding for both programme and core running facility/staff costs.
- A need for a grant that covered both revenue and capacity costs was identified through engagement, as was a need to increase the level of funding available for core running costs.
- Community partners via engagement sessions asked for a facility for small grants. This was an ask at every engagement session. It was noted that small grants can act as an entry point for groups to receive funding and support.
- Funding will be clearly aligned to Belfast Agenda outcomes and Community Support Plan priorities. Funded groups will have to show how their application contributes to these.
- There will be an open call, proportionate process for applying for funding, assessments will be aligned to outcomes, and a monitoring framework which will allow reporting on what has been achieved. Those projects which receive the highest scores will be allocated funding until the agreed budget has been used.
- It is possible that this programme will be oversubscribed. Therefore, we propose clear eligibility criteria which will focus on organisations that deliver community benefit and applications that deliver ongoing activity in community settings, rather than for activities such as events/festivals which are already catered for by other small grant schemes.
- Members should note that if the option to include a small grant programme is selected, this would operate in Year 2 of the new funding programme and that Year 1 would focus on the operation of the new Community Support Large Grant. This is based on current resources within Neighbourhood Services and the Central Grants Unit and the challenges of delivering 2 completely new Grants Schemes simultaneously. However, the current summer scheme small grants will still take place as normal.
- In advance of funding opening, officers will undertake training with potential applicants and provide support through the application process. This can be undertaken city wide and in areas where there is identified need. Further information on this will be brought back to Committee in advance of the Scheme opening.

Members may wish to note the following potential implications;

- With one large grant, some groups who currently receive Capacity funding, if successful in a new programme may receive a reduced amount of funding.

Belfast City Council's Community Support Grant eligibility (DRAFT)

Organisations can only make **one** application to the Community Support Large Grant.

Organisations in receipt of a Community Support Large Grant cannot apply for a small grant (This is based on small grants being open in Year 2)

Who can apply

You can apply if your organisation is one of the following:

- Voluntary or community organisation
- Registered charity
- Constituted group or club
- Not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company (where any profit is reinvested in the objects of the organisation).

Applicant organisation must:

1. Have an office in and operational focus in the Belfast City Council local government district.
2. Have community benefit-as a primary objective in their constitution.
3. Have up-to-date annual and management accounts
4. Hold a bank account in the organisation's name and provide evidence of this.
5. Have a board or management committee and hold Annual General Meetings at which Board / Management Committee Members are appointed using a democratic process. (A list of members will be required and must demonstrate at least 3 board / committee members who are not related).
6. Have a governing document (Constitution comprised of the Memorandum and Articles of Association), organisational policies and procedures in place which are up to date and fit for purpose to comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements for the services and activities for which your organisation is wholly liable.

Applications where all questions are not completed or do not provide detailed financial budgets in the application form will also be deemed ineligible.

The organisation completing the form must be the same organisation that will receive the grant and manage the programme. We will not consider an application made by one organisation on behalf of another.

Who cannot apply:

- Individuals / sole traders.
- Organisations located outside or with an operational focus outside the Belfast City Council local government district.
- Companies that can pay profits to directors, shareholders, or members.
- Local authorities or public sector organisations.
- Schools, preschools/nursery schools, formal youth organisations (that is, those registered with the Educational Authority (Further Education, Higher Education and Parent Teacher Associations and Boards of Governors), or uniformed organisations.

The activities we fund:

We fund applications that contribute to the following priorities:

1. Active, engaged and resilient communities
2. Ensure access to quality community facilities
3. Joined up community support through partnership development and collaboration.

For the larger grant you must contribute to at least 2 of the above

For small grants you must contribute to number 1

Our grant thresholds:

We offer 2 grant thresholds:

1. Small Grants **up to** £[insert value] per annum for a maximum of 1 year. These grants aim to support short-term activities which create active, engaged and resilient communities.
2. Community Support Grants **up to** £ [insert value] per annum for a maximum of 3 years. Proposals for Community Support Grants must seek to **achieve at least 2** of the three outcomes listed above.

Costs our grants will cover

- Programme costs
- staff costs
- training costs / costs of activity facilitators
- venue costs (e.g. maintenance costs, cleaning, health and safety, security, insurance, rent)
- utilities (gas, electricity, oil, water)
- core running costs (e.g. insurance, telephone, postage and IT costs)
- volunteer expenses
- equipment which is essential to the operation of the planned programme

We will support organisation running costs, however, please note we want to know how supporting core costs will lead to and deliver against the agreed outcomes and priorities.

The grant guidance will provide a standard list of activities which Council does not fund.

These will include activities which;

- have no significant benefit to the Belfast City Council area.
- provide no potential benefit to the public, either in the short or long term.
- could be carried out on a commercial basis.
- have already taken place or are already under way at the time of the assessment.
- duplicate what already exists.
- are charity or fundraising events or activities.
- are of a party-political nature.
- promote a particular religion.
- are against Belfast City Council policy. For example, we do not allow balloon or Chinese lantern releases as they are against our environmental policy.
- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates more than those used for any similar work you carry out.
- Building/capital costs
- Costs which are not clearly linked to the project.
- Costs that are associated with filling in this application form.
- Costs that are poor value for money, or that are bought from outside of Belfast City Council procurement guidelines.
- Costs that are already covered by other funding or income sources including other Council Grant Schemes.
- Costs related to private or unfunded pensions.
- Reclaimable VAT.
- Flags and bunting.
- Alcohol, gratuities, gifts, donations, competition entry, prizes, and trophies
- Equipment costs unless they have an ongoing use throughout the project and are essential and necessary to complete the project.
- Loan Repayments, Bank interest charges, referral fees and foreign currency transaction charges.
- On-going Licence Fees
- Costs towards utility or fuel support for beneficiaries.

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Subject:	Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) Recruitment
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Stephen Mulholland, Young People's Co-ordinator

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"/>
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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"> • Seek members' approval to undertake a second recruitment exercise to appoint a full complement of members for the Belfast City Youth Council. • Outline the recruitment strategy and timeline officers will follow if approval is granted.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the proposal to undertake a second recruitment exercise to appoint a full complement of members for the Belfast City Youth Council. • Note the proposed recruitment exercise process officers will follow if approval is granted.
3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Overview</u> Background</p>
3.1	<p>Members will recall at May committee they received an update on the work of the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) and the recruitment exercise which began in November 2023 to select the current cohort of young people to the Council.</p>
3.2	<p>Members agreed in October 2023 that in order to support a more effective programme for the young people that membership of BCYC would be reduced from 40 to 30. This would allow for more meaningful group work practice, discussions, activities and member participation, as well as more consistent staff support and more effective allocation of budget.</p>
3.3	<p>The Terms of Reference had been revised to reduce the membership quota to 30 young people drawn proportionately from each DEA (3 members from each DEA rather than 4) and recruitment sought to have a balance in terms of the background of members that is reflective of the make up of the city.</p>
3.4	<p>27 young people were successfully recruited in December 2023 and have spent the last year working on capacity building, forming relationships as a group, participating in the Queens Radical Programme, taking part in residential activities and developing their ideas for work around their selected priority – Positive Mental Health for young people.</p>
3.5	<p>Since beginning this work, 8 young people have left the programme. This has been due to university placements, personal issues and time commitments from some of the young people.</p>
3.6	<p>Therefore, The Young People's Coordinator is seeking approval to carry out a second recruitment exercise to recruit up to 11 new members to bring the group back to a full complement and allow for any further drop outs throughout the next year.</p>
3.7	<p>Members should note that the remaining 19 members continue to be actively involved, meeting every fortnight to progress work and continue their involvement with the Radical Programme, QUB. Members may also note that there is a planned workshop with BCYC on Monday 9th December at 5.15pm.</p>

3.8	<p>Recruitment and Selection</p> <p>The Young People’s Co-ordinator will work with Council’s Marketing and Corporate Communications team to plan a second recruitment exercise and ensure a balance of participants are targeted and recruited.</p>										
3.9	<p>The current DEAs with a shortfall in participants are Collin, Old Park, Ormiston and Titanic. The Young Peoples Coordinator will engage youth organisations from the target areas, and the current group of young people will be active in encouraging new applicants.</p> <p><u>The proposed timeline for recruitment will be as follows:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="276 524 1468 1464"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="276 524 456 600">Month</th> <th data-bbox="456 524 1468 600">Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 600 456 958">December 24/January 25</td> <td data-bbox="456 600 1468 958"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare content for all media and promotional materials. • Update website, social media, online application form. • Engagement with targeted youth organisations to raise awareness of the BCYC opportunity and promote the recruitment and selection process. • Face to face engagement event hosted by BCYC to promote opportunity and meet potential applicants. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 958 456 1167">January 25</td> <td data-bbox="456 958 1468 1167"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application process opens Monday 6th January. This will be through an online system. Provision for hardcopy applications will also be made available if requested. • Application process closes Friday 31st January </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 1167 456 1391">February 25</td> <td data-bbox="456 1167 1468 1391"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of applications - 3rd - 7th February • Interview Process – 10th – 21st February. • New Belfast City Youth Council members selected and notified by 28th February. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 1391 456 1464">March 25</td> <td data-bbox="456 1391 1468 1464"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Report – Update on outcome of Recruitment </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actions	December 24/January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare content for all media and promotional materials. • Update website, social media, online application form. • Engagement with targeted youth organisations to raise awareness of the BCYC opportunity and promote the recruitment and selection process. • Face to face engagement event hosted by BCYC to promote opportunity and meet potential applicants. 	January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application process opens Monday 6th January. This will be through an online system. Provision for hardcopy applications will also be made available if requested. • Application process closes Friday 31st January 	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of applications - 3rd - 7th February • Interview Process – 10th – 21st February. • New Belfast City Youth Council members selected and notified by 28th February. 	March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Report – Update on outcome of Recruitment
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3.10	<p>Please note that Members can contact the Young People’s Co-ordinator at mulhollandstevie@belfastcity.gov.uk to suggest specific youth organisations or clubs that should be contacted or if they have other queries about the youth council.</p>										
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All activity outlined in this report can be completed using existing budgets.</p>										
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Recruitment for the Youth Council seeks to ensure representation for young people from all sections of society, particularly relevant Section 75 groups and promotion and engagement is designed to support this.</p>										
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>										
4.1	<p>N/A</p>										



Subject:	Resources and Fleet Waste Update
Date:	3rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide an update to members on waste collections, management and performance.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and to support the proposal to develop and introduce a HWRC Waste Access and Acceptance Policy.
3.0	Main report
	Key Issues
	<u>Waste Performance & Recycling Rates</u>
3.1	The most recent waste statistics published by the NIEA are the April to June 2024 quarterly statistics. The report is a snapshot of the first quarter of the 24/25 financial year versus the same period for the previous year.
3.2	The overall picture for NI was one of; an increasing quantity of waste collected (271,500 tonnes collected, up 1.5%), a static municipal reuse and recycling rate (53.8%) combined with a significant decrease in the landfill disposal rate, down to 15.4% the lowest quarterly landfill rate ever recorded.
3.3	An examination of the figures for Belfast City Council, indicates the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Waste Arisings - the total tonnage of all types of waste collected by the Council was 42,566 tonnes. This is an increase of approximately 825 tonnes (2%) on the same quarter last year. • Municipal Waste Recycling Rate – the percentage of all types of waste collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 2.8% to 41.5%. This increase was primarily due to increased organic tonnages. • Household Waste Recycling Rate– the percentage of household waste only collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 3.6% to 44.9%.

- **Landfill Diversion Rate** – the percentage of all Council waste sent to landfill was 0.6%, down from 28% in the previous year.

For Q1 2024/25 the main contributors to the uplift in these figures were

- the increased tonnage of organic waste captured and
- the onboarding of the new arc21, interim residual waste treatment contract, resulting in significant quantities (10,800 tonnes) of waste being diverted from landfill to energy recovery.

3.4

As noted within this report and brought to the attention of Members through various consultation responses, there are a number of legislative, strategic and financial drivers which are going to shape future waste management arrangements. The full nature and implications of these policy drivers still remain somewhat unclear and in the absence of sufficient clarity, radical, systemic change aimed at delivering significant improvements in NI environmental targets is unlikely.

3.5

Waste Framework Update

At the People & Communities Committee meeting of June 2017, Members approved the Waste Framework document. It provides an overview of options on how waste could be managed within the city over the next decade. It was developed to align with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy), designing out waste, improving the quantity and quality of recycling and supporting local jobs.

The Waste Framework focuses on four themes (i) Collection Arrangements, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Behaviour Change and (iv) Technology. The following sections provide an insight on the work and initiatives currently being undertaken under the four main workstreams.

(i) Collection Arrangements

3.6

Inner City Recycling Scheme Update

On 1 August 2024, the new contract for the delivery of the kerbside recycling in the inner city commenced with service delivery carried out by Bryson Recycling. Officers continue to work with the contractor to ensure that the contract delivers according to the terms, conditions and service delivery plan. As a consequence of the new contract, the contractor has appointed a Customer Liaison Officer to deal with issues on the ground and answer customer complaints, new vehicles will be delivered and the contractor plans to install their own inCab technology solution to deliver improved customer service.

3.7

Kerbside Glass

As part of the 2024/25 revenue estimates setting process, Members committed to delivering phase one of this scheme which involves an expansion of kerbside glass to approximately 23,000 households. Internal funding and support funding from DAERA under the Household Recycling Collaboratives Change Programme has been secured to deliver phase 1 of the project. An update is provided in the accompanying report 'Resources and Fleet Pilot / Project Updates'

3.8






Community Repaint Scheme

	<p>The Service is planning for the implementation of a RePaint scheme at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The scheme seeks to reduce the amount of paint sent for treatment and disposal by diverting quality paint for resale to the public and to community groups via donation as community paint.</p>
	<p>The Service has completed a procurement exercise for the RePaint service and is now working with the successful contractor, East Belfast Mission (EBM) to go live in early 2025.</p>
	<p><i>Pre-loved Toys</i></p>
3.9	<p>The Service explored alternative delivery models for 2024 and issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for partners interested in delivering this scheme. Following discussions with those organisations responding to the EOI it was evident that the single, lead operator model would again be the delivery model for 2024. As a result, East Belfast Mission were appointed as the lead delivery partner for 2024.</p>
3.10	<p>The pre-loved toys scheme will run at the four HWRCs from 11 November to 15 December 2024. EBM will be collecting the pre-loved toys at these sites and will then have the option to sell some of these at a competitive price through their retail outlets and at the same time will be gifting bundles of these toys to feeder community organisations to distribute before Christmas. The project has been promoted on social media and signage has also been erected at sites regarding the scheme.</p>
	<p>(ii) Infrastructure</p>
	<p><i>Recycling Centres & Dargan Road WTS</i></p>
3.11	<p>Following SP&R approval for capital funding, the Service completed a procurement exercise for a multi-year, container provision contract. Orders have been placed for the new skips with the priority to replace those skips which are currently on hire. It is anticipated these will start to arrive on sites in December 2024. This will subsequently reduce the revenue costs associated with the rental of these skips.</p>
	<p><i>Recycling Centres and Pedestrian Access</i></p>
3.12	<p>The pedestrian access gate at Alexandra Park, Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) has been completed and operational as of August 2024.</p> <p>The service has requested that colleagues in Property & Projects commission a feasibility study regarding pedestrian access for Palmerston Road and Blackstaff Way HWRC. Discussions with the consultant are ongoing and a programme for delivery of the study is expected soon.</p>
	<p><i>Recycling Centres and Repair Works</i></p>
3.13	<p>Members will be aware that at the committee meeting of 8 October 2024, it was noted that Alexandra HWRC would have to undergo a temporary closure in order to carry out essential repair works to the service bay and simultaneously introduce changes to the layout of the site aimed at improving health and safety for site users. These works took just over 3 weeks to complete with the site re-opening to the public on 14th November.</p>
3.14	<p>Similar repair works to the service bays will be required at both Ormeau HWRC and Palmerston Road HWRC in 2025. Further details will be provided once a full works schedule has been compiled by Property & Projects.</p>

	<p><i>arc21 Residual Waste Project and Interim Residual Waste arrangements</i></p>
3.15	<p>arc21 is awaiting the determination by the Stormont Executive regarding the planning decision on the proposed Residual Waste Treatment Project. Due to the prolonged timescales regarding the residual waste treatment facility at Hightown, arc21 initiated a procurement exercise to secure future services for the treatment and/or disposal of constituent councils' residual waste. This service was broken down into a number of lots to reflect the different time scales and material requirements of the constituent councils.</p>
3.16	<p>Arc21 awarded the Belfast City Council lot to ReGen and the contract was scheduled to commence on 1 July 2023. The Council's contractor at that time, River Ridge Recycling challenged this decision through the courts and sought an injunction. On the 26 June 2023, the court refused to grant an injunction to stop the implementation of the contract and the contract for services related to interim residual waste disposal for use by Belfast City Council commenced as planned on 1 July 2023. It should be noted that while the injunction to prevent commencement of services was not successful, there is still a legal challenge by River Ridge against the award of this contract by arc21. The time frame for this case is likely to be Summer 2025.</p>
3.17	<p>As noted in the performance statistics above, this contract is delivering a step-change in diverting residual waste from landfill to energy recovery.</p>
	<p><i>Connected Circular Economy - Shared Island Project</i></p>
3.18	<p>The Service has worked with colleagues in the Economic Development Unit and Climate Team along with Dublin City Council (DCC) to deliver a feasibility study into a "Connected Circular Economy." This report investigated how the two cities can share knowledge and good practice with the ambition for the development of hubs in Dublin and Belfast to support the growth of the circular economy across the island.</p>
3.19	<p>In collaboration with DCC as lead partner, a further funding request has been submitted to the Shared Island Fund seeking to progress the report's recommendations and develop more detailed business cases for the preferred option(s). No update on this funding application has been received from the Shared Island Fund to date.</p>
	<p>(iii) Behaviour Change</p>
	<p><i>Performance Pressures at HWRCs</i></p>
3.20	<p>During the course of 2023/24, the Service noted a general, downward trend in the recycling rates achieved by the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)¹. Anecdotal evidence suggested that neighbouring councils had introduced robust access and waste acceptance policies at their recycling centres which may have resulted in some residents either returning to their own Council area to deposit waste or indeed availing of alternative facilities which by comparison lack access and acceptance policies. In essence, the sector may be witnessing a shift in the location of waste disposal across council boundaries</p>
3.21	<p>The Service, with the assistance of colleagues in the Performance Management Unit, decided to carry out a performance analysis of the Council's HWRCs to determine the validity of this argument. A comparison of the performance of the Council's HWRCs in 2023/24 versus the previous year is provided in the table below.</p>

¹ Performance figures refer to both Household Waste Recycling Centres and Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: HWRC Performance Data 2023/24 versus 2022/23 – Full Year Comparison

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	+/- Change
HWRC Recycling Tonnage	14,173	14,450	 1.95%
HWRC Residual Waste Tonnage	13,310	14,086	 5.83%
HWRC Recycling Rate	51.6%	50.6%	 1%
HWRC Ranking (Recycling Rate) amongst NI Local Authorities	11th	11th	
HWRC Recyclables as a percentage of Total Municipal Recyclables	24.2%	23.5%	 0.7%

3.22 While the tonnage of recyclables captured increased slightly by 1.95%, the growth of the non-recyclable/residual waste at 5.95% has resulted in a fall in the overall recycling rate of the sites. It is notable that the recycling rate figure of 50.6% at the HWRCs is the lowest rate in the last 15 years (2009/10 = 50.1%). This is of particular concern as the HWRCs would always outperform other areas of Waste Collection within the council and would underpin the overall Household Recycling and Municipality Recycling Rates.

3.23 However, these figures disguise an underlying trend. In September 2023, in an effort to improve its recycling rate, Ards & North Down Borough Council (A&NDBC) introduced an online booking system for all users of their recycling centres. An analysis of the data from the Council's HWRCs for the period September to March 23/24, the period immediately post A&NDBC scheme, compared with the previous year, shows a much more significant impact on the recycling centre performance and financial impact.

3.24 As highlighted in table 2 below, an examination of the residual waste since the introduction of the A&NDBC online booking system indicates a 12% increase rather than the 6% annual figure above, which covers the first five months of the year when no such booking system was in place. In addition, while the increase across all sites is 12%, there are marked increases in particular at Palmerston HWRC, which sits in close proximity to Holywood CA site operated by A&NDBC.

Table 2: Residual Waste Disposed of at HWRCs & CA Sites – 6 month comparison

Residual Waste Tonnages								
	Alex	Bstaff	Palm	Orm	Creg	Spring	Agnes	Total
Sep22- Mar23	1,386	1,938	1,149	1,229	289	588	588	7,167
Sep23- Mar24	1,574	2,121	1,395	1,422	272	595	657	8,036
Tonnage Var	188	183	246	193	17	7	69	869

% Var	14%	9%	21%	16%	-6%	1%	12%	12%
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3.25 This growth rate of residual waste at the sites is stark and without doubt has played a significant part in the decline in the overall recycling rate at the centres. Applying the growth rate for these 7 months to the full year and adjusting for the normal overall waste growth rate (+1.5%) gives a scenario of an additional 1,300 tonnes of residual/non-recyclable waste accepted at the Council's sites over the course of a year, with an estimated additional cost of handling and treatment of £194,000.

3.26 The Council operates an online booking system for light goods vehicles/vans seeking to access the recycling centres. This data was analysed over the same period (Sep'23-Mar'24 versus Sep'22 - Mar'23) in an effort to identify potential sources of increased residual tonnage. As demonstrated in table three the sites have witnessed on average a 13% increase in the number of van bookings during this period and again of particular note is the 25% increase witnessed by Palmerston.

3.27 *Table 3: Number of Van bookings to BCC HWRCs*

Van Bookings					
No. of visits	Alexandra	Blackstaff	Palmerston	Ormeau	Total
Sep'22 - Mar '23	5,141	7,870	5,082	7,190	25,283
Sep'23 - Mar '24	5,606	8,324	6,352	8,164	28,446
Variance visits	465	454	1,270	974	3,163
Variance %	9%	6%	25%	14%	13%

3.28 This increase in residual tonnage and van bookings coincides with the introduction of the new access and acceptance policies in neighbouring councils. Indeed, shortly after the introduction of the A&NDBC booking system, media channels noted the emerging phenomenon of "waste tourism" – residents crossing Council boundaries to deposit waste at recycling centres.

3.29 A further analysis of the van booking system for the period Jan-Mar'24 was conducted. The purpose was to identify usage patterns which would be considerably greater than the average household and which may identify opportunistic individuals or organisations availing of the recycling centres to dispose of their commercial waste and thereby avoid paying for its disposal but rather placing this burden on the Belfast rate payer.

3.30 All accounts which booked 14 times or more during this period i.e. used the site more than once per week, greater usage than the average householder, were examined in terms of their total number of visits to the sites.

3.31 Over this three-month period, 156 accounts placed 6,868 bookings. These 156 accounts represented around 56% of total bookings. The range in the number of bookings was 14 – 246. Of these 156 accounts, the average number of bookings over this 13-week period was 44 occasions. These figures would suggest that the lack of formal waste acceptance policies may be leaving the recycling centres vulnerable to commercial waste abuse.

3.32 Council officers have met with their counterparts in A&NDBC to discuss their policies and to view a demonstration of their online booking system. An online demonstration was also provided by the company behind alternative software, the "Booking Lab" which is in use at

	<p>over 70 councils across the UK. Both systems were more suitable to the waste environment than the current system in place at the Council to manage van bookings which was installed as an off the shelf solution to manage visitor numbers in the context of the Covid-19 Public Health Regulations and social distancing.</p>
3.33	<p>The project also examined the performance of A&NDBC recycling centres over the same period to ascertain if their new booking system had in fact delivered the anticipated benefits. Despite the initial reservations expressed on various media channels, the introduction of the booking system and supporting policies has enabled A&NDBC to reverse the trend of declining recycling performance at the sites and at the same time generate efficiency savings. For the period Oct'23-Mar'24 versus the same period the previous year, the sites achieved an overall uplift in the recycling rate of 7%. This improved performance also resulted in significant avoided costs of landfill disposal.</p>
3.34	<p>Through desk research and interviews with neighbouring Councils and industry sources, Council officers noted that neighbouring councils have varying policies with regard to waste access and acceptance at HWRCs, ranging from simple proof of residency within the council catchment area to online booking systems for all users and fair use policies. At present, the Council does not have any such policy. The Service is therefore extremely limited in the terms of the tools at its disposal to challenge suspect behaviour and drive improved recycling performance at the sites. A summary of the policies in place in neighbouring councils is contained in Appendix 1 – Waste Access & Acceptance Policies.</p>
3.35	<p>The absence of a Waste Access & Acceptance policy means the Council is the path of least resistance for those who may wish to exploit this opportunity. As outlined above, this is having a detrimental impact on the recycling centre recycling performance and financial position.</p>
3.36	<p>Taking the above into consideration, it is recommended that an action plan is developed to tackle this issue in an effort to drive improved performance at the sites, and subject to members approval, develop and introduce a HWRC Waste Access and Acceptance Policy, designed to run in parallel with the current Waste and Recycling Collection Operational Policy which is in use for Waste Collections. The Service is exploring options which might be considered as components of an action plan for recycling centres and will provide a report to Committee in due course.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">(iv) Information Technology</p>
3.37	<p>In-Cab Technology</p> <p>The in-Cab technology project has been advancing through the procurement process. A preferred supplier has been identified by the evaluation team and a Final Business case will be presented to the Financial Oversight Board before going through Council Governance. On passage, it is hoped to award the contract in January 2025.</p>
3.38	<p>Focus for the project team and project board will now switch to focus on a detailed implementation plan, with a phased roll out of the solution to take place throughout the 2025/26 financial year.</p>

3.39	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this report.</p>
3.40	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Waste Access & Acceptance Policies</p>

Appendix 1 – Waste Access & Acceptance Policies

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs) AT NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

9 household recycling centres at Bangor, Comber, Holywood, Kircubbin, Ballygowan, Donaghadee, Millisle, Newtownards & Portaferry

Since September 2023, on-line booking system (& mobile phone, tablet and via telephone). The system introduced is in use in many other local authorities across Great Britain. Bookings can be made from 30 mins before visit to up to 2 weeks ahead. Users have to provide email address, household address, type and vehicle reg, categories of waste, takes 1-2 minutes.

Residents then have to take to the HRC their booking reference number, and documentary proof of residency in Borough (acceptable proofs on booking page an included in confirmation email).

Multiple slots throughout the day, online system controls number of users at any time, enhances customer experience by minimising queues and site congestion.

On-line includes recycling guide, hard copy also delivered to houses. Unlimited bookings for compostable garden waste, bookings to dispose of compostable garden waste ONLY in a double-axle trailer are also unlimited. Where bookings for particular address appears to be excessive for normal householder use, users may be prompted to call for further booking request ('Fair Use Policy').

The system recognises if users have a van and double-axle trailer or another vehicle that normally would have required a permit once you enter it online. There is no need to separately apply for a permit. As previously, if a form of transport is used that normally would have required a permit, such visits will still be limited to six visits per residential address in a calendar year.

A&ND do not accept commercial or industrial waste from tradespeople at any of their HRCs, ie they do not accept rubble from construction, building or demolition sites at recycling centres. They will accept a small amount of rubble from household DIY projects (no powdered plaster, gypsum products or hazardous wastes), up to a maximum single axle trailer load and must be broken down into small pieces. This can be taken to Balloo (ie Bangor) recycling centre only. As rubble is classified as industrial rather than household waste, larger amounts of rubble or construction waste should be disposed of by the resident engaging a private waste contractor to remove it.

A&ND Council offers free 1-to-1 support to local businesses, helping them to manage recycling and waste disposal in the most cost-efficient way. Their Recycling Team can come and take a look at the waste a business is producing and help with the implementation of recycling best practice. They collect waste from commercial premises with agreement and at a cost.

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH

3 HRCs at:

Carryduff HRC, 8 Comber Road, Co Down BT8 8AN

Drumlough HRC, Dromarra Road, Hillsborough, Co Down BT26 6QA

The Cutts HRC, Derriaght, Co Antrim BT17 9HN

Access to HRCs restricted to Lisburn and Castlereagh residents only.

Users have to bring photographic ID with proof of address available for inspection on arrival. If photo ID does not show address, user should bring a recent utility bill. Users asked to report to member of staff in Security Kiosk on arrival.

Website also lists all 37 'bring bank sites' across Council area, for (variously) mixed textiles and clothes, mixed glass and bottles, steel cans, and plastic pots, tubs trays and bottles.

The HRCs are primarily for the recycling and disposal of household waste by residents in the council area. To dispose of trade waste a Trade Waste Disposal Ticket is needed and is issued by the council. Contractors carrying household waste (ie gardener, joiner, handyman) are required to have a Waste Transfer Note (£78) covering the waste they are carrying. Charities should have a Charity Letter issued by the council.

Depending on size of vehicle, trade waste tickets cost £96 - £255, recycling tickets cost £38.50 - £101.

The following trade waste materials are not accepted at any of the recycling centers: oil, electrical, batteries, tyres, paint, plasterboard, and any hazardous waste.

A trade waste collection service is offered to businesses within the council area, which is flexible and can be adapted to suit specific needs. The service is for refuse disposal only and does not include recycling, and collections are chargeable.

ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

4 HRCs at:

New Park HRC, Orchard Way, Antrim, BT41 2RU

Bruslee HRC, Ballynure Road, Ballyclare, BT39 9LS

Crumlin HRC, Main Street, Antrim BT29 4UP

O'Neill Road HRC, O'Neill Road, Glengormley BT36 6UQ

Only domestic residents of the Borough are permitted to use the Household Recycling Centres. Photographic proof of address must be provided, or site admittance will be refused. Vans and trailers are permitted.

All permitted commercial waste is directed to Bruslee Recycling Centre. Users are required to register prior to use. Disposal of permitted materials will be at rates agreed during the annual review of waste collection charges in the pricing schedule.

OTHER NI COUNCILS

From BBC News (September 2023):

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: No proof of residency required.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council: Proof of residency not required.

Derry City and Strabane District Council: Booking is required at two of 11 sites.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: Proof of address may be requested.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council: Proof of residency required.

Mid Ulster District Council: Proof of residency may be required at Tullyvar, near Aughnacloy.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council: Proof of residency is not required but an online booking system is in place for large vehicle access.

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Subject:	Resources and Fleet Pilot / Project Updates – Inter Agency collaboration on Access for Collection Vehicles, Introduction of Smaller Vehicles for Difficult to Access Streets and the Expansion of Glass Collections
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	John McConnell City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<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

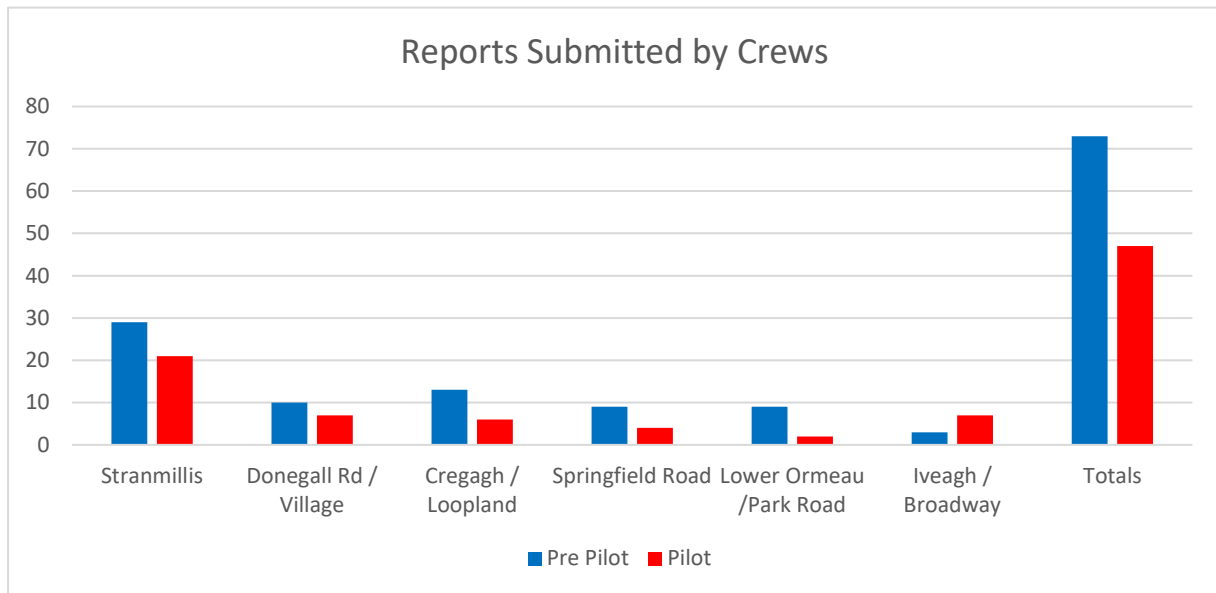
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress made to date in the planning and launch of three initiatives to improve the service delivery and recycling performance of Waste Collections within Resources and Fleet. These initiatives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Streets Pilot with PSNI/DFI (Park With Us in Mind) • Introduction of Small Vehicles for Difficult to Access Streets • Expansion of Separate Glass Collection Services. 														
2.0	Recommendation														
2.1	<p>Members are requested to note the contents of the report, in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status of the collaborative work with PSNI/DFI • the phased introduction of small vehicle routes to difficult to access streets commencing 12th August 2024 • the update and proposed rollout timelines and streets for Phase 1 of expanded glass collections 														
3.0	Main Report														
3.1	Small Streets Pilot in collaboration with PSNI and DFI.														
3.2	<p>Members will be aware that this pilot was launched on 6th May 2024, with the first area identified as the side streets from the Stranmillis Road in the University area. The plan was envisaged to run as follows. The overall scheme envisages three ‘cycles’ in these areas over a period of approximately 18 months. The first cycle is complete and the second cycle will take place as follows, each to cover a period of 6 weeks.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 1330 1353 1617"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Start Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stranmillis Rd Area</td> <td>21/10/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donegall Road / Village Area</td> <td>18/11/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cregagh / Loopland Area</td> <td>16/12/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Springfield Road Area</td> <td>13/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lower Ormeau Road/ Park Road Area</td> <td>10/02/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iveagh / Broadway Area</td> <td>10/03/2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	Start Date	Stranmillis Rd Area	21/10/2024	Donegall Road / Village Area	18/11/2024	Cregagh / Loopland Area	16/12/2024	Springfield Road Area	13/01/2025	Lower Ormeau Road/ Park Road Area	10/02/2025	Iveagh / Broadway Area	10/03/2025
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3.3	<p>Officers are now in a position to provide some analysis and data to compare both crew reports and customer contact levels covering the 6 weeks prior to intervention compared to the 6 weeks of the intervention period for each of the areas. The data comes from two sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational crew reports of not being able to access streets or blocked alleyway entrances etc • Customer contact data in relation to residents in the relevant streets reporting non collections <p>Table 1 summarises the data from both sources and is illustrated in Chart 1 and Chart 2</p>														

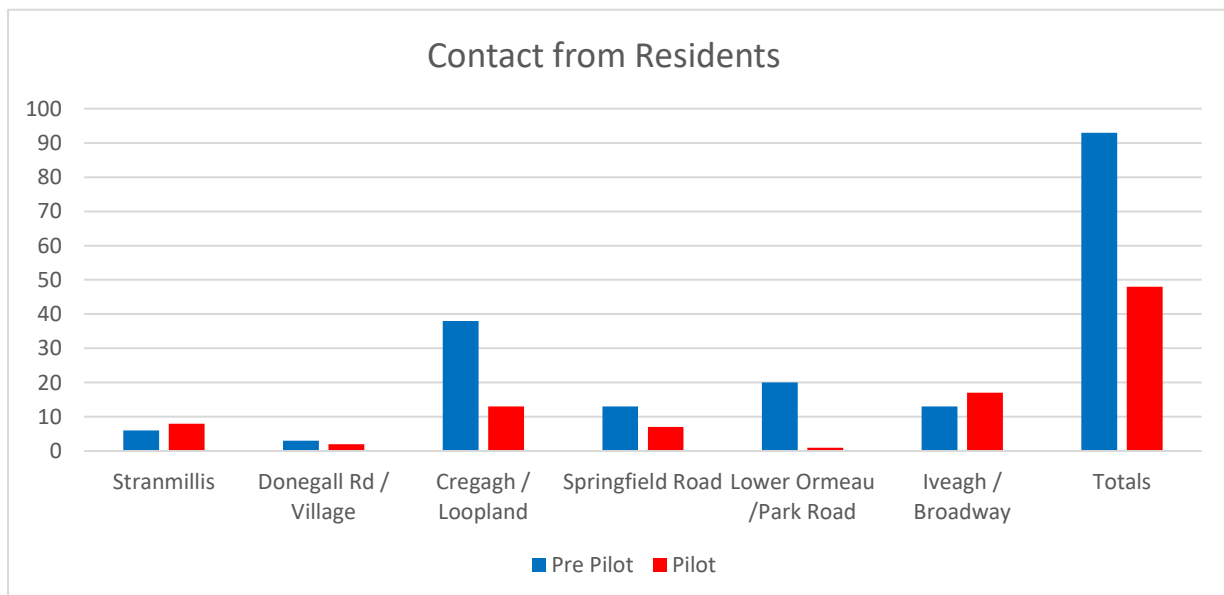
3.4 **Table 1 Reported instances by crews and Customers**

Area	Crews via Report it App				Customer Contact			
	Pre Pilot	Pilot	% change		Pre Pilot	Pilot	%i change	
Stranmillis	29	21	28%	↓	6	8	-33%	↑
Donegall Rd / Village	10	7	30%	↓	3	2	33%	↓
Cregagh / Loopland	13	6	54%	↓	38	13	66%	↓
Springfield Road	9	4	56%	↓	13	7	46%	↓
Lower Ormeau /Park Road	9	2	78%	↓	20	1	95%	↓
Iveagh / Broadway	3	7	-133%	↑	13	17	-31%	↑
Totals	73	47	36%	↓	93	48	48%	↓

3.5 **Chart 1 Reports by Crews by target area**



3.6 **Chart 2 Customer contacts from residents for missed collections**



3.7 From this initial set of data it would seem that there has been some improvements in accessing most areas more frequently.

- In 5 of the 6 areas crew have reported less instances of non-access with an overall reduction of 36% compared to the 6 week period prior to each intervention. The exception to this was in the Iveagh / Broadway area where crews reported more often.
- In 4 of the six areas there was a reduction of customer contacts with an encouraging overall reduction of reports by 48%. The exceptions to this are in the Stranmillis and Iveagh / Broadway area.

An officer review meeting with BCC and DFI officers took place at the end of November to discuss the data and to see if any improvements can be introduced to improve on the first cycle.

Introduction of Small Vehicles for Difficult to Access Streets

3.8 Members will be aware that the pilot for this initiative, consisting of two leased 18 tonnes Dennis Eagle Refuse Collection Vehicles and temporary crews, commenced collection in identified and agreed difficult to access streets on 12th August 2024. At the time of writing, the pilot continues to be rolled out and in operation for three months.

3.9 It was originally envisaged that all three waste streams would have been allocated and routed to these vehicles by November 4th. There have, however, been some operational delays but progress is still ongoing. Table 2 outlines progress to date

Table 2 Transfer of targeted streets to smaller vehicles

Bin Type	Streets with Bin Type	transferred to smaller vehicle
Black/Grey Non recyclable	126	126 (100%)
Brown Food/ Garden Compostables	85	85 (100%)
Blue Dry Mixed Recyclables	79	55 (70%)

3.11 The main reason behind the delay is related to the amount of dry mixed recycle the vehicle can carry. Other waste streams can be measured by weight, but it is more difficult to assign routes based on volumes as the dry mixed recycling is very bulky with relatively little weight and therefore creating routes is a complex and iterative process. It is likely that the majority of outstanding 'blue' streets will be transferred to smaller vehicles in December but the process may be paused to allow for effective Christmas waste collections and will be finalised in January 2024.

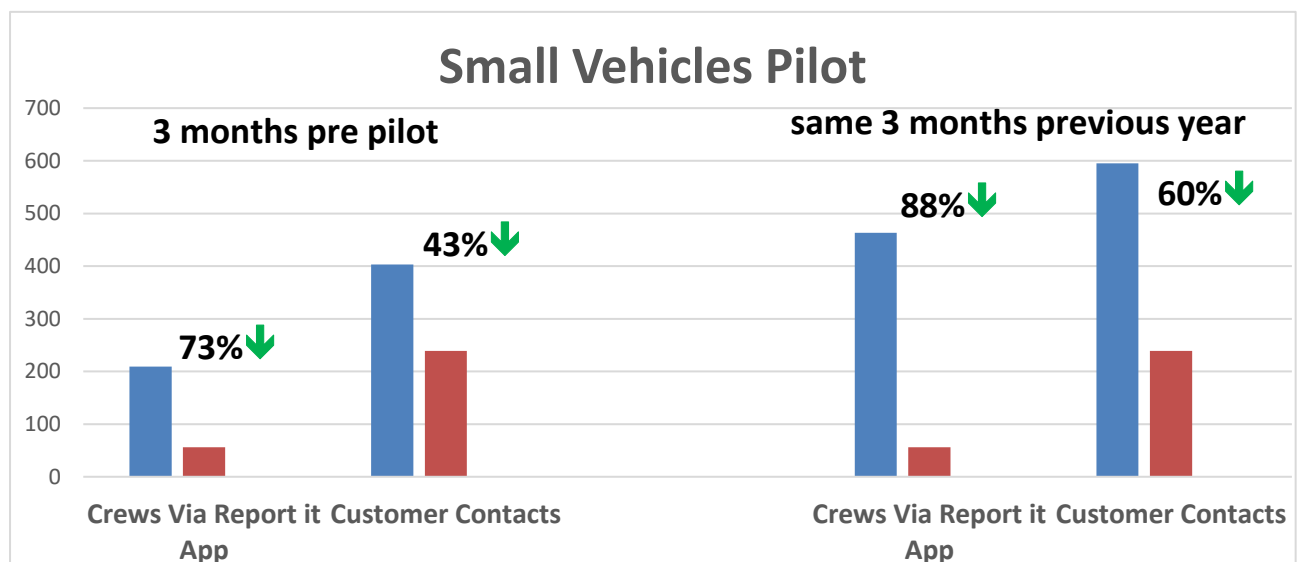
3.12 That said, the first set of data covering the first three months of operation is very encouraging. Two comparisons have been made in Table 3 and Chart 3. Data has been produced comparing the amount of crew reports and customer contacts in relation to missed collections as follows

- The first three months of small vehicles in operation against the three months immediately prior to their introduction
- The first three months in operation against the same period the previous year

3.13 **Table 3 - Reported incidents 3 months prior and three months same time last year**

	1st 3 months of pilot	3 months pre pilot	% reduction		1st 3 months of pilot	same 3 months last year	% reduction	
Crews Via Report it App	56	209	73%	↓	56	463	88%	↓
Customer Contacts	239	403	41%	↓	239	595	60%	↓

3.14 **Chart 3 - Reported incidents 3 months prior and three months same time last year**



3.15 A list of streets being changed to smaller collection vehicle routes from 12th August is attached at **Appendix 1 - Streets moving to 18 Tonnes vehicle collections from 12th August,2024**

3.16 **Expansion of Separate Glass Collection Services**

As previously reported, Resources and Fleet submitted an application to DAERA under the Household Waste Collaborative Change Programme for financial assistance with regard to capital funding for the expansion of segregated glass collections for remaining households across the Council area.. Having received a Letter of Offer from DAERA on 25th July, the Council's has

approved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning, amongst other things, capital funding on a 50/50 basis and the first Phase is in the process of being implemented.

3.17 Planning continues in preparation for rolling this scheme out during January to March 2025. The Implementation phase involves the recruitment of collection crews, procurement of containers for both individual households and apartment blocks, initial leasing of vehicles prior to the procurement of new vehicles, communication of the scheme to the selected households, assessment of apartments (if any within the selected areas) and finally delivery of containers followed by first collections.

3.18 The scheme roll-out commences with a letter drop to households within the agreed phase one catchment area. This letter will outline the key aspects of the initiative along with practical information such as collection day, frequency, accepted materials and start date. Within seven days of receiving the letter, households will be issued with a kerbside box and lid for the presentation of their glass containers at the kerbside. An information leaflet will also be included within the kerbside boxes reminding residents on the salient points of the scheme. Kerbside collections will then commence within 11 days of receiving the kerbside box.

3.19 Given the lead times associated with a number of these activities, in particular the purchase and receipt of containers, and mindful of the potential clash with collections arrangements for the Xmas season, it is now estimated that the main activities will be rolled out as per Table 4, subject to deliveries of containers arriving as per the agreed schedule from the supplier. It is envisaged that the implementation phase will start in January and will be completed by March 2025

3.20 **Table 4 – Estimated timetable for project commencement**

Year 1 Rollout	
23000 households approx	
Letters to residents	27th January – 21st February 2025
Containers Delivered to households	30th January – 27th February, 2025,
Phased Collections roll out	10th February – 7th March 2025
Regular Collection Schedule in place	10th March 2025 onwards

3.21 Detailed route planning is still being finalised but a proposed list of streets to be serviced under Phase 1 has now been agreed with the Operations Team and can be found at **Appendix 2 – Phase 1 Streets to receive Glass Collections**

The Service will continue to keep Members apprised of the progress of the scheme through the Council’s usual governance procedures.

3.22	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p> <p>In relation to the expansion of glass collections, DAERA will 50/50 match fund the agreed capital requirements as agreed in their Letter of Offer.</p>																																																																																																												
3.23	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>None</p>																																																																																																												
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Green Mount	New Barnsley Crescent	Willowholme Street
Harper Street	New Barnsley Drive	Wilton Street
Hawthorn Glen	New Barnsley Gardens	Woodburn Drive
Henderson Avenue	Newington Avenue	Woodstock Road
Henderson Avenue Flats	Newington Street	Woodvale Gardens

4.2 Appendix 2 – Phase 1 Streets to receive Glass Collections

Route Set 1		Route Set 2	
Acacia Avenue	Glendale	Albert Drive	Kensington Drive
Aghery Walk	Glendun Park	Ardgreenan Drive	Kensington Gardens South
Alina Gardens	Glenhead Avenue	Ardgreenan Gardens	Kensington Gardens West
Almond Drive	Glenkeen	Ardgreenan Mount	Kensington Gardens
Almond Heights	Glenshesk Park	Ardgreenan Place	Kensington Gate
Appleton Park	Glenside Road	Ardkeen Crescent	Kensington Manor
Ardcaoin Avenue	Glenwood Close	Arney Close	Kensington Park
Ardcaoin Drive	Glenwood Court	Ascot Gardens	Kensington Road
Ardcaoin Gardens	Glenwood Crescent	Ascot Mews	Kilbroney Bend
Ardcaoin Green	Glenwood Drive	Ascot Park	Kilhorne Gardens
Ardcaoin Grove	Glenwood Gardens	Aston Gardens	Killagan Bend
Ardcaoin Park	Glenwood Green	Astoria Gardens	Killarn Close
Ardcaoin Place	Glenwood View	Ballygowan Road	Kincora Avenue
Ardcaoin View	Glenwood Walk	Bannagh Corner	Kincora Mews
Ardcaoin Walk	Good Shepherd Court	Bapaume Avenue	Kings Road
Areema Drive	Good Shepherd Drive	Beech Park	Kirkliston Gardens
Areema Grove	Good Shepherd Road	Beechgrove Avenue	Kirkliston Park
Arlington Drive	Grange Avenue	Beechgrove Crescent	Knock Green
Arlington Park	Grange Hill	Beechgrove Drive	Knock Grove
Ashley Gardens	Grange Park	Beechgrove Gardens	Knock Link
Ashley Grove	Greenane Crescent	Beechgrove Park	Knock Road
Ashley Lodge	Greenane Drive	Beechgrove Rise	Knock Way
Ashley Park	Harcourt Terrace	Belmont Church Road	Knockbreda Road
Aspen Park	Harris Crescent	Belmont Grange	Knockcastle Drive
Aspen Walk	Hazelwood Avenue	Belmont Park	Knockcastle Park
Auburn Place	Hill Street	Belmont Place	Knockdene Gate
Auburn Street	Hillhead Avenue	Belmont Road	Knockdene Park North
Avoca Close	Hillhead Cottages	Brentwood Park	Knockdene Park South
Azalea Gardens	Hillhead Court	Burntollet Way	Knockdene Park
Barbour Gardens	Hillhead Crescent	Burren Way	Knockhill Park
Beattie Park Central	Hillhead Drive	Callan Way	Knockmount Gardens
Beattie Park North	Hillhead Heights	Camlough Place	Knockmount Park
Beattie Park South	Hillhead Park	Campbell Court	Knocknagoney Road
Beattie Park Terrace	Hillmount	Campbell Park Avenue	Knockvale Grove
Beechlawn Park	Iris Link	Cappagh Gardens	Knockvale Park
Belfield Heights	Jasmine Corner	Carnamena Avenue	Knockwood Crescent
Bell Steel Manor	Jasmine End	Carnamena Gardens	Knockwood Grove

Blacks Court	Jasmine Walk	Carnamena Park	Knockwood Park
Blacks Gate Avenue	Jasmine Way	Carncaver Road	Lacefield
Blacks Gate Crescent	Juniper Court	Carney Crescent	Lancedean Road
Blacks Gate Drive	Juniper Park	Casaeldona Crescent	Lead Hill Park
Blacks Gate Green	Juniper Rise	Casaeldona Drive	Lead Hill View
Blacks Gate Park	Juniper Square	Casaeldona Gardens	Lead Hill
Blacks Gate Road	Juniper Way	Casaeldona Park	Limewood Grove
Blacks Mews	Kestrel Grange	Casaeldona Rise	Lisnasharragh Park
Blacks Road	Kilwee Lane	Castle Court	Lisnasharragh Terrace
Brenda Park	Kingsway	Castle Mews	Lissan Close
Brendarragh Terrace	Laburnum Green	Castlegowan Park	Lissan Link
Brians Well Close	Laburnum Park	Castlegrange	Loughview Drive
Brians Well Court	Laburnum Row	Castlehill Drive	Lower Braniel Road
Brians Well Grove	Laburnum Walk	Castlehill Farm	Manse Road
Briar View	Laburnum Way	Castlehill Manor	Marlborough Heights
Brooke Close	Ladybrook Avenue	Castlehill Park West	Mayfair Avenue
Brooke Court	Ladybrook Crescent	Castlehill Park	Mccaughan Park
Brooke Crescent	Ladybrook Cross	Castlehill Road	Merok Crescent
Brooke Drive	Ladybrook Drive	Castlehill Wood	Merok Drive
Brooke Manor	Ladybrook Gardens	Castlekaria Manor	Merok Gardens
Brooke Park	Ladybrook Grove	Castlemore Avenue	Merok Park
Brookland Court	Ladybrook Parade	Castlemore Park	Montgomery Chase
Brooklands Grange	Ladybrook Park	Castleorr Manor	Montgomery Court
Broom Close	Larkspur Rise	Castlereagh Road	Montgomery Road
Broom Drive	Laurel Park	Castleview Court	Mount Merrion Avenue
Broom Park Heights	Laurelbank	Cedar View	Mount Merrion Drive
Broom Park	Lenadoon Avenue	Cherryvalley Gardens	Mount Merrion Gardens
Burnside Close	Lenwood Drive	Cherryvalley Park West	Mount Merrion Park
Carnmore Place	Lymegrove Mews	Cherryvalley Park	Neills Hill Park
Carrigart Avenue	Lymegrove	Church Road	Netherleigh Mews
Castlewood Manor	Magnolia Park	Clara Park	Netherleigh Park
Cherry Close	Malone Gardens	Clara Road	Norbloom Gardens
Cherry Court	Manor Mews	Clara Way	North Bank
Cherry Drive	Maple Hill	Clarawood Crescent	North Gardens
Cherry Gardens	Mayfield Close	Clarawood Drive	North Road
Cherry Mews	Mayfield Square	Clarawood Grove	Oakhill
Cherry Park	Merrion Park	Clarawood Park	Orangefield Avenue
Cherry Walk	Milfort Avenue	Clarawood Walk	Orangefield Drive South
Chestnut Park	Milfort Mews	Clonallon Court	Orangefield Drive
Church Avenue	Milfort Terrace	Clonallon Gardens	Orangefield Gardens
Cloona Glen	Mill Pond Glen	Clonallon Park	Orangefield Green
Cloona Manor	Mill Race	Clonallon Square	Orangefield Grove
Colin Close	Moor Park Avenue	Clonduff Drive	Orangefield Lane
Colin Glen Green	Moor Park Drive	Cooneen Way	Orangefield Parade
Colin Grove	Moor Park Gardens	Crawford Park	Orangefield Park
Colin Road	Moor Park Manor	Cregagh Park East	Orangefield Road
Colinbrook Avenue	Moor Park Mews	Cregagh Park	Orby Close

Colinbrook Close	Mount Alverno	Cregagh Road	Orchard Close
Colinbrook Crescent	Mourneview Court	Cyprus Park	Orchardvale
Colinbrook Drive	Mulberry Park	Delamont Park	Ormeau Road
Colinbrook Gardens	Mulroy Park	Dennet End	Ormiston Gardens
Colinbrook Green	Netherlands Drive	Downshire Parade	Parkvue Manor
Colinbrook Park	Netherlands Park	Downshire Park Central	Pasadena Gardens
Colindale Park	Oak Tree Court	Downshire Park East	Pembridge Mews
Colinglen Road	Oakhurst Avenue	Downshire Park North	Picardy Avenue
Colinmill	Oakhurst Mews	Downshire Park South	Richhill Crescent
Colinvale	Oakvale Court	Downshire Road	Richhill Park
Colinwell Grove	Oakvale Gardens	Drinagh Manor	Rochester Avenue
Conor Close	Old Colin Road	Drumkeen Court	Rochester Court
Conor Rise	Old Colin	Drumkeen Manor	Rochester Drive
Corrina Avenue	Old Forge	Drumragh End	Rochester Road
Corrina Park	Old Golf Course Park	Dundela Gardens	Rocky Road
Cotlands Green	Old Suffolk Road	Dunraven Parade	Roddens Crescent
Credenhill Park	Park Mews	Dunraven Park	Roddens Gardens
Credenhill Wood	Park View	Earlswood Grove	Roddens Park
Creelough Park	Pembroke Court	Earlswood Park	Rosemount Park
Creighton Manor	Pembroke Lodge	Earlswood Road	Rosetta Road East
Creighton Mews	Pembroke Loop Road	Eastleigh Dale	Rosetta Road
Dalebrook Avenue	Pembroke Manor	Eastleigh Drive	Rosewood Park
Dalebrook Park	Pinetree Manor	Edenvale Crescent	Sandhill Drive
Dermott Hill Drive	Railway Street	Edenvale Drive	Sandhill Gardens
Dermott Hill Gardens	River Close	Edenvale Gardens	Sandhill Green
Dermott Hill Green	Riverdale Close	Edenvale Grove	Sandhill Parade
Dermott Hill Grove	Riverdale Gardens	Edenvale Park	Sandhill Park
Dermott Hill Parade	Riverdale Park Avenue	Espie Way	Sandown Park South
Dermott Hill Park	Riverdale Park Drive	Everton Drive	Sandown Park
Dermott Hill Road	Riverdale Park East	Gilbourne Court	Sandown Road
Dermott Hill Way	Riverdale Park North	Gilnahirk Avenue	Sandringham Mews
Drenia	Riverdale Park South	Gilnahirk Crescent	Shalom Park
Dungloe Crescent	Riverdale Park West	Gilnahirk Drive	Shandon Park
Dunmurry Close	Riverdale Place	Gilnahirk Park	Sheskin Way
Dunmurry Lane	Riverside Mews	Glen Road	Shimna Close
Dunmurry Lodge	Riverview Meadows	Glencregagh Court	Somme Drive
Edenvale Meadows	Riverview Ridge	Glencregagh Drive	South Bank
Edenvale Park	Royal Mews	Glencregagh Park	Stirling Avenue
Finaghy Road North	Salisbury Place	Glencregagh Road	Stirling Gardens
Forest Lane	Shaws Road	Glensharragh Avenue	Stirling Green
Forest Park	Springbank Close	Glensharragh Gardens	Stirling Road
Forthfield Mews	Springbank Drive	Glensharragh Park	Stirling Way
Foxes Glen	St Annes Close	Glenside	Stormont Park
Garden Row	St Annes Crescent	Glenview Avenue	Stormont Wood
Gardenmore Green	St Annes Lane	Glenview Crescent	Stracam Corner
Gardenmore Road	St Annes Road	Glenview Drive	Sunderland Road
Gardenmore Walk	St Gerards Manor	Glenview Gardens	The Hamlet

Gardenmore Way	Station View	Glenview Heights	The Straight
Garnock Hill Park	Stewartstown Road	Glenview Park	The Willows
Garnock Hill	Suffolk Close	Glenview Wood	Thiepval Avenue
Garnock	Suffolk Glen	Grand Parade	Trassey Close
Garvey Glen	Suffolk Heights	Green Crescent	Tudor Avenue
Garvey Manor	Suffolk Rise	Green Road	Tudor Court
Glasvey Close	Suffolk Road	Greenway	Tudor Drive
Glasvey Court	Suffolk Way	Greenwood Avenue	Tullyard Way
Glasvey Crescent	Summerhill Drive	Greenwood Manor	Upper Knockbreda Road
Glasvey Drive	Summerhill Gardens	Greenwood Park	Upper Newtownards Road
Glasvey Gardens	Summerhill Grange	Grey Castle Manor	Wandsworth Court
Glasvey Park	Summerhill Mews	Grillagh Way	Wandsworth Gardens
Glasvey Rise	Summerhill Park	Hamel Court	Wandsworth Parade
Glasvey Walk	Summerhill Place	Hamel Drive	Whispering Pines
Glebe Road	Summerhill Road	Hamel Mews	Willowbank Crescent
Glen Road Grove	Summerhill Walk	Hewitt Parade	Willowbank Drive
Glen Road Heights	Sunnyhill Park	Hillburn Park	Willowbank Manor
Glen Road Rise	Sunnymede Avenue	Hillside Court	Willowbank Park
Glen Road	Sunnymede Park	Hillside Park	Winston Gardens
Glemaan Avenue	The Green	Hindsdale Park	Wynard Park
Glenariff Drive	The Manor	Holland Crescent	Wynchurch Avenue
Glenbank Close	The Park	Holland Drive	Wynchurch Close
Glenbank Court	Thornhill Court	Holland Gardens	Wynchurch Gardens
Glenbank Drive	Thornhill Crescent	Holland Park	Wynchurch Lane
Glenbawn Avenue	Thornhill Road	Hollywood Road	Wynchurch Park
Glenbawn Close	Trench Avenue	Houston Court	Wynchurch Road
Glenbawn Court	Trench Park	Hughes Court	Wynchurch Terrace
Glenbawn Crescent	Ulster Avenue	Kensington Court	Wynchurch Walk
Glenbawn Drive	Upper Dunmurry Close	Kensington Crescent	
Glenbawn Link	Upper Dunmurry Lane		
Glenbawn Park	Upper Green		
Glenbawn Place	Victoria Gardens		
Glenbawn Square	Whin Park		
Glenbawn Walk	Whiterock Road		
Glenburn Court	Willowvale Avenue		
Glenburn Ford	Woodberry Lane		
Glenburn Manor	Woodland Grange		
Glenburn Mews	Woodside Drive		
Glenburn Road South	Woodside Park		
Glenburn Road	Woodside View		
Glendale Mews	Woodside Walk		

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Subject:	Pitch Partner Agreements Update
Date:	3 December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan, Leisure Development 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 													
<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"/>
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Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																
1.1	This report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of Pitch Partner Agreements for 1 April 2024 – 31 October 2024.																
2.0	Recommendation																
2.1	Committee are asked to note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites and that partner agreements have been extended until 31 March 2025 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.																
3.0	Main Report																
3.1	<p>Legal Agreements</p> <p>Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The Agreements are for a period of 5 years with option to extend for up to a further two years. The department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the initial 5 year period and up to 31 March 2024.</p>																
3.2	<p>Agreement Extension</p> <p>On 12 March 2024, Committee agreed to extend existing Pitch Partner Agreements until 31 March 2025.</p>																
3.3	<p>Partner Agreement Sites</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="339 1070 1272 1417"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Partner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dixon Playing Fields</td> <td>Sirocco Works FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park</td> <td>East Belfast FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodlands Playing Fields</td> <td>Co. Antrim Board GAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loughside Playing Fields</td> <td>Loughside FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shore Road Playing Fields</td> <td>Grove United FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orangefield Playing Fields</td> <td>Bloomfield FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulidia Playing Fields</td> <td>Rosario FC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Partner	Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC	Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC	Woodlands Playing Fields	Co. Antrim Board GAA	Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC	Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC	Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC	Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC
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3.4	Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance have been completed at all sites. The reporting documents were amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines. All partners are compliant on these matters.																
3.5	<p>Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans</p> <p>All partners submitted their plans in early 2024 to improve sports development outcomes at each site in the 2024 – 2025 financial year.</p> <p>Funding of up to £20,000 per annum has been available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.</p>																

3.6	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring meetings with our delivery partners continue to take place. These meetings include updates on site management and bookings, health and safety, finance and their sports development plan. Action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved, and improvements identified where required.</p>								
3.7	<p>Sports Development Impact</p> <p>In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the partner agreement sites. Programme delivery continues to achieve positive achievements across the sites.</p>								
3.8	<p>The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarters 1 & 2 (April-October 2024).</p>								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 723 1003 992"> <p>A. Participation type</p> <p>1. Members of different codes 2. People with a Disability 3. People from a minority ethnic background 4. Females 5. Older people 6. Schools / youth organisations</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1003 723 1461 992"> <p>5154 420 4772 5018 4127 27</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 992 1003 1335"> <p>B. Participation usage</p> <p>Number of full pitch/adult matches on site Number of full pitch/adult match participations Number of small sided/youth matches on site Number of youth match participations Number of training sessions held on site Number of training session participants Number of other bookings / activities on site Number of other bookings/activity participants on site</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1003 992 1461 1335"> <p>581 18762 781 30168 1963 48055 174 12435</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1335 1003 1570"> <p>C. Partnership working</p> <p>1. Working with Belfast City Council 2. Sport's Governing Bodies 3. Other teams / groups in your sport 4. Other teams / groups in different sports 5. Community / voluntary groups</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1003 1335 1461 1570"> <p>14 54 56 15 23</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1570 1003 1910"> <p>D. Social value</p> <p>1. Young people at risk 2. Encourage participation of under- represented groups 3. Promote positive cross community relations 4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities 5. Promote Volunteering skills 6. Develop skills that will improve employability</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1003 1570 1461 1910"> <p>1026 12960 939 12714 531 222</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>A. Participation type</p> <p>1. Members of different codes 2. People with a Disability 3. People from a minority ethnic background 4. Females 5. Older people 6. Schools / youth organisations</p>	<p>5154 420 4772 5018 4127 27</p>	<p>B. Participation usage</p> <p>Number of full pitch/adult matches on site Number of full pitch/adult match participations Number of small sided/youth matches on site Number of youth match participations Number of training sessions held on site Number of training session participants Number of other bookings / activities on site Number of other bookings/activity participants on site</p>	<p>581 18762 781 30168 1963 48055 174 12435</p>	<p>C. Partnership working</p> <p>1. Working with Belfast City Council 2. Sport's Governing Bodies 3. Other teams / groups in your sport 4. Other teams / groups in different sports 5. Community / voluntary groups</p>	<p>14 54 56 15 23</p>	<p>D. Social value</p> <p>1. Young people at risk 2. Encourage participation of under- represented groups 3. Promote positive cross community relations 4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities 5. Promote Volunteering skills 6. Develop skills that will improve employability</p>	<p>1026 12960 939 12714 531 222</p>
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3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>								

3.10	A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None



Subject:	Advice Provision Outreach
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan , Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, CNS

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
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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
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on generalist advice service provision, the location of providers' offices and outreach venues.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report and appendices.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	At the People and Communities meeting in November 24 elected members asked for further detail in relation to the provision of advice services, particularly the outreach that is available in locations across the city.
3.2	Council provides funding for generalist advice to 14 Advice Providers based in 20 offices across the city. Advice services are co-ordinated at area level by a lead partner within each of the 5 Advice Consortia which cover north, south, east, west and central Belfast. Advice Providers within each consortia must be members of Advice NI, be independent and have offices within the geographic areas. Membership of Advice NI is a condition of the funding from DfC. This limits the number of organisations to which we can provide funding.
3.3	Members will recall that Council commissioned Williamson Consulting to conduct an independent review of the generalist advice services funded by Council which was presented to committee in December 2023. Officers continue to work with Advice Providers to progress the review recommendations. The review noted that in relation to direct service provision, providers differ in terms of how they deliver advice. In general, providers tend to have a 'triage' process of some kind which allows them to make best use of advisor time while ensuring that the client gets access to the best source of advice.
3.4	There is outreach provision within the geographic area depending on advice officer availability and demand. The Independent Review of Belfast City Council Advice services noted that; 'locations including primary office locations and secondary outreach locations, suggests that Belfast is well covered'. Appendix 1 provides a list of the providers, their office and outreach location.
3.5	Most funded organisations provide advice during normal working hours in both face to face and telephone format. A small number of enquiries are also dealt with using other media such as emails, SMS and occasionally social media. Some providers also offer 'drop in' advice, although the majority now seek to organise advice appointments where possible. The latter is much more cost effective as it does not involve missed appointments and wasted advisor time.
3.6	Since Covid the providers have increased their ability to work via apps such as MS Teams and Zoom in addition to face to face work, thus providing opportunities to deal directly with more people.
3.7	Members may recall that the review highlighted a number of key challenges which have necessitated changes to the ways that advice is delivered, primarily a reduction in the level of 'drop in' services available. The key elements driving this changed approach are;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in recruiting and retaining suitable staff and paying them adequately to undertake the role. • Increase in the complexity of cases which means that each client needs advice for a longer period than previously and reduces the number of clients that can be supported. This complexity is mainly driven by increasing levels of poverty, mental health and addiction issues. • Increasing demand for services, in particular the current phase of migration from existing benefits to Universal Credit and support for people to claim Pension Credit, a gateway benefit to a range of other benefits and payments such as the Winter Fuel Allowance. • Increase in the number of clients requiring translation services. <p>One of the key recommendations in the Advice Review was to raise awareness of service provision. A number of actions have been undertaken in relation to this;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about advice services is available in the Cost of Living guide which has recently been produced. A PDF copy of the guide is provided in Appendix II. The latest edition of City Matters also included information on Advice Providers. • Many advice providers are active partners in the delivery of Social Supermarkets and they promote access to services through quarterly social supermarket meetings. • Advice organisations attended the Anti-Poverty Networking Event held in City Hall on 29th October which provided an opportunity for service delivery organisations to share information about available support. • Council is working with funded advice organisations to develop a recognisable brand that will allow easier promotion of and access to services. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All activity outlined in this report is delivered through existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The provision of free, independent, good quality advice ensures that people have access to support which helps them to access services and in many cases address barriers that have been created as a result of inequality.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advice Providers- Location and Outreach 2. Cost of Living Guide PDF

Appendix 1 Advice Provision- Location and Outreach

Central

Organisation	Location	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Type of service
Advice Space	58 Howard Street Belfast	Monday-Friday	9:00– 5:00	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails,
Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	4-6 Donegall Street, Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.30-12.30 1.00-4.30	General Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails, WhatsApp Messaging,
Advice Space Outreach- Extern Criminal Floating Support	Extern, Belfast	Daily Referrals	As required based on number of referrals	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails, WhatsApp Messaging, Interpreter Service
Advice Space ESOL English Classes + access to Advice	58 Howard Street Belfast	Tuesday	9.30– 1.00	Those attending classes can access advice.

East

Organisation	Location	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Type of service
Advice Space	Arches Centre Holywood Road, Belfast	Monday -Friday	9.00-4.30	Telephone Advice. Telephone appointments for forms. F2F for completion of Forms. Email Advice Drop in
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre (EBIAC)	55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast.	Monday - Friday	09.00-1.00 2.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face to face and telephone or virtual if required
Outreach EBIAC	Storehouse and the Larder, Mersey Street, Belfast	Weekly Basis- Tuesday	9.30-12.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach- EBIAC	Short Strand Community Centre, Beechfield Street Belfast	Weekly Basis-Tuesday	10.00-12.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach-EBIAC	St Christophers Church , Mersey Street, Belfast	Weekly Basis Friday	10.00-12.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face

North

Organisation	Location	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Type of service
Ardoyne Association	111 Etna Drive, Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach	The People's Kitchen, Antrim Road, Belfast	Referrals Daily & Outreach Monthly	9.00 – 5.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach	Springboard Donegall Street, Belfast	Referrals Daily & Monthly Clinic	9.00 – 5.00 Monthly Clinic 9.00– 5.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach	Flax Foyer Flax Street Belfast	Daily Referrals & Benefit Info Session	9.00– 5.00 2 sessions annually	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach	Newington Housing Association Limestone Road, Belfast	Weekly Outreach Clinic- Wednesday	9.00– 1.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach	Flax Day Centre, Ardoyne Avenue Belfast	Referrals & 4 x Benefit Info Session annually	9.00– 5.00 4 x sessions annually	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Ballysillan Community Forum	925 Crumlin Road, Belfast	Monday – Friday	8:30 – 4:30 (Mon-Thurs) 8:30 – 2:00 (Fri)	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Ligoniel Improvement Association	148 Ligoniel Road, Belfast	Monday – Thursday Friday	9.00-5.00 9.00-2.30	Face to face /phone appointments / drop in
Outreach	Marrowbone Community Association Oldpark Road, Belfast	Tuesday and Thursday	9.00-1.00	Generalist Face to Face
Vine Centre	193 Crumlin Road, Belfast	Monday to Friday	9.00 – 5.00	UC Clinic (Mondays) Generalist Advice Face to Face Telephone
Outreach Vine Centre	Greater Shankill Community Council Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road Belfast	Tuesday	9.00 to 2.00	Face to Face Appointments
Outreach Vine Centre	Grove Housing Association York Road, Belfast	Tuesday to Thursday	10.00 -4.00	Drop In (Tuesday am) Face to Face Appointment
Outreach Vine Centre	Whitecity Community Centre Navarra Place, Belfast	Monday	2.00-4.00	Face to Face Appointment
Outreach Vine Centre	Ashton Community Trust Family Support Service Henry Place, Belfast	Friday	9.00-1.00	Face to Face Appointment
Tar Isteach	244 Antrim Road, Belfast	Mon-Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Advice Space	40-44 Duncairn Gardens Belfast	Mon-Fri	9:00 – 5:00	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails,

South

Organisation	Location	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Type of service
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association (BCDA)	BCDA 283 Ormeau Road, Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.00 -5.00 Mon-Wed 9.00- 8.00 Thursday 9.00 – 2.00 Friday	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Markets Development Association, Markets Community Centre, Market Street Belfast	Monday	10.00 – 12.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Donegall Pass Community Forum Donegall Pass Belfast	Tuesday	10.00 – 12.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Belvoir & Milltown Sure Start 8 Drumart Square BELFAST BT8 7EY	Tuesday	2.00– 4.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Taughmonagh Community Forum Finwood Park, Belfast	Wednesday	10.00– 12.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Cregagh Community Centre Mount Merrion Ave, Belfast	Wednesday	2.00– 4.30	Generalist Advice
BCDA	BCDA, Ormeau Road	Wednesday	1.00– 2.00	Free Legal Advice Rota
Outreach BCDA	LORAG Balfour Street Belfast	Thursday	10.00– 12.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Sandy Row Community Centre, Sandy Row Belfast	Thursday	2.00 – 4.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Morton Community Centre Lorne Street Belfast	Thursday	10.00- 12.30	Generalist Advice
Outreach BCDA	Women's Aid Adelaide Park Belfast	Friday	10.00– 12.30	Generalist Advice
Southcity Resource and Development Centre (SRDC)	2 Maldon Street. Belfast	Monday - Thursday Friday	9.00-5.00 9.00-4.00	Face to face and Telephone calls Generalist advice, UC, PIPs, housing
Outreach SRDC	No 5 Credit Union 206 Sandy Row Belfast	Friday	6.30-8.00	Generalist advice, UC, PIPs, housing
Outreach SRDC	No 5 Credit Union 206 Sandy Row belfast	Saturday	10.30-12.00	Generalist advice, UC, PIPs, housing
Outreach SRDC	St Simon's Community Hub, Nubia Street, Belfast	Wednesday	10.00-11.00	Specific advice for older people. Pensions-pension credit
Outreach SRDC	Foodstock 150F Andersonstown Road. Belfast	Wednesday	1.00-4.00	Generalist advice, UC, PIPs, housing
Advice Space	208 Andersonstown Road, Belfast	Friday	9.00-12.30 1.00-4.30	Generalist Advice Face to Face

West

Organisation	Location	Days of operation	Hours of operation	Type of service
Falls Community Council (FCC)	St Comgalls, Divis Street belfast	Monday-Thursday Friday	9.30-5.00 9.30-4.00	Generalist Advice Face to face and telephone or virtual if required
Outreach FCC	Sally Gardens Community Centre, Glenwood Close, Poleglass Belfast	Wednesday (Other days according to events in the area eg health open days)	12.30-3.30	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Outreach FCC	Woodbrook Medical Centre- Stewartstown Road Belfast	Thursday Friday	12.30-3.30 10.00-3.00	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Neighbourhood Development Association (NDA)	Curran House Twin Spires, Northumberland Street Belfast	Monday- Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face to face and telephone or virtual if required
NDA Outreach	Divis Community Centre Ardmoulin Place, Belfast	Wednesdays once a month (1 st Wed)	1.30-4.30	Generalist Advice Face to Face
NDA Outreach	Welcome Organisation Townsend Street Belfast – now paused	Once a month as requested (Varies)	1.30 – 4.30	Generalist Advice Face to Face
SCA- Springfield Charitable Association	27 Clonard Cres. Belfast	Mon-Fri	9.30-4.30	Generalist Advice Face to Face
Upper Springfield Development Trust (USDT)	2b Springhill Drive, Belfast	Mon-Fri	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice and triage, multi-channel to include face to face, telephone and email advice.
USDT	36a Norglen Drive, Belfast	Tues-Fri	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice and triage, multi-channel to include face to face, telephone and email advice.
Advice Space (Suffolk Andersonstown)	208 Andersonstown Road Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails,
Advice Space (Falls)	77a Springfield Road Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails,
Advice Space (Shankill)	Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road Belfast	Monday-Friday	9.00-5.00	Generalist Advice Face-to-face, Telephony, Emails,

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Cost of living support guide



Support and advice services to help people across the city with the high cost of living

Introduction

Many individuals and households continue to face pressures due to the high cost of living.

Belfast City Council are working with a range of organisations to enhance their capacity to support those most in need of help.

This guide highlights the support and advice services available across the city which can help residents with rising costs.

It doesn't include details of every local neighbourhood support initiative so please check with local community organisations for other support which may be available in your area.

The Belfast City Council website shares details of organisations and schemes offering assistance at:

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/costofliving

















Warm and welcome spaces

Organisation	Help available	More information
Belfast City Council	27 community centres across the city can provide a warm and welcoming space as well as a varied programme of activities.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communitycentres  028 9032 0202
The Grapevine at 2 Royal Avenue	A drop-in space for older people to meet a friendly face, enjoy a cup of tea and find out about events and services. Manned by Age Friendly Belfast volunteers, it is open every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/winteradvice
Better	Receive a warm welcome at these leisure centres where you can also take part in a range of activities: Shankill Leisure Centre Tuesday: 9am to 11am (Activities to enjoy: badminton and pickleball) Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex Wednesday: 10:30am to 12 noon (Activity to enjoy: table tennis) Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre Tuesday: 10am to 12 noon (Activity to enjoy: table tennis) Falls Leisure Centre Thursday: 11am to 1pm (Activity to enjoy: board games) Scheme runs from 2 December 2024 to end of February 2025.	 ozonetennisarena@gll.org  lisnasharragh@gll.org  falls@gll.org  0330 123 1500
Libraries NI	17 libraries across Belfast offer free and inclusive spaces with a range of services and activities.	 www.librariesni.org.uk
Warm Welcome UK	Information on community organisations, churches, libraries, businesses and other faith groups who have opened their doors to provide warm and welcome spaces to people struggling to heat their homes.	 www.warmwelcome.uk











Help with energy costs



Organisation	Help available	More information
Consumer Council	Energy price comparison tool Save money on gas and electricity bills by using a price comparison tool which will help find the lowest tariffs and cheapest payment methods.	 www.consumerCouncil.org.uk/onlinetools  0800 121 6022
NI Housing Executive	NI energy advice Free advice on saving energy in the home, as well as information about energy efficiency grants and oil buying clubs. Affordable Warmth Scheme A scheme if you own or rent your home and have a total annual gross income of less than £23,000.	 www.nihe.gov.uk/NI-energy-advice  nienergyadvice@nihe.gov.uk  0800 111 4455
National Energy Action	Belfast Warm & Well Project Confidential advice and practical support to help people struggling to pay their fuel bills including advice on saving money, accessing benefits, applying for grants and applying for rebates. NEA also offers free energy awareness and energy efficiency training sessions.	 www.nea.org.uk  @NEANorthernIreland  warmandwell@nea.org.uk  028 9023 9909
Belfast City Council	'Stay Warm' oil stamp saving scheme Save on oil by buying £5 oil stamps and collecting these on a card which can be used to pay part or all of an oil bill.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/staywarm  staywarm@belfastcity.gov.uk  028 9027 0428
NI Direct	Winter Fuel Payment Available to those receiving state pension credit only.	 www.nidirect.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment-centre  0800 731 0160



Organisation	Help available	More information
NI Direct	<p>Cold Weather Payment A Cold Weather Payment if you're getting certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest. The payment is allocated if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days. The web page will be updated when cold weather payments are triggered for any NI postcode areas.</p>	<p> www.nidirect.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment  0800 731 0160</p>
NI Direct	<p>Staying warm in winter Tips and information on government energy support schemes.</p>	<p> www.nidirect.gov.uk/staying-warm-winter  0300 200 7814</p>
Power NI	<p>Energy efficiency support Based on income, Power NI can offer a number of schemes including free insulation, cavity wall insulation or a Snug Plus Heating.</p>	<p> powerni.co.uk  0345 745 5455</p>
Phoenix Natural Gas	<p>Energy efficiency support Based on income, Phoenix Natural Gas can offer a Boiler Replacement Allowance. This is a government scheme, which aims to help with the cost of replacing an old, inefficient boiler over 15 years old, with an energy efficient condensing boiler. The level of grant available is dependent on total gross income of the household.</p>	<p> phoenixnaturalgas.com  0845 455 5555</p>



10 Top ten tips to save energy

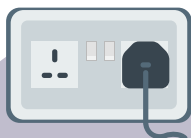
Did you know that 41% of households spend more than 10% of their income on their home energy costs? Here are some tips to help you save energy from National Energy Action.



Washing clothes at 30°C and 1 less cycle per week could save around **£36** a year on energy



Drying laundry on a clothesline instead of using a tumble dryer could save an average of **£75** a year on electricity.



Turning off electric appliances and not leaving items like TVs on standby could save around **£70**.



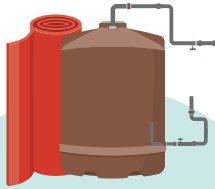
Taking a four minute shower could save you up to **£70** per year on your household energy bills.



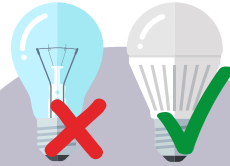
Only boiling the water you need in your kettle could save you **£34** per year.



If you only have a single room thermostat for the whole house, for every degree you increase the temperature, it could increase the heating bill by about **10%**.



Effective insulation of your hot water cylinder is important, increasing the insulation 80mm thick could save you **£45** a year.



Switching off lights when not in use could save your household **£30** a year while switching to LED bulbs could save up to **£13** per bulb per year.



Only run the dishwasher when full. One less run per week could save **£18** a year.














Professional draught-proofing of windows and doors as well as blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards could save around **£100** a year.

Sources: Information sourced from Energy Saving Trust. Northern Ireland prices for oil and electricity are based on an average of supplier tariffs. Correct as of October 2024.

Help with food



Organisation	Help available	More information
Trussell Trust	Emergency food and signposting for people in crisis. A referral is required in most cases.	 www.trusselltrust.org/find-a-foodbank  01722 580 180
	North Belfast Foodbank Ekenhead Halls, 19 North Circular Road, Belfast BT15 5HB Immanuel Church, 35 Agnes Street, Belfast BT13 1GG	 0300 102 1378  info@northbelfast.foodbank.org.uk
	Dundonald Foodbank (covering East Belfast) Orangefield Presbyterian Church, 464 Castlereagh Road, Belfast BT5 6BH 971 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT16 1RL	 0776 384 9030  info@dundonald.foodbank.org.uk
	South Belfast Foodbank 119 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP	 0774 333 2489  info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk
	South-West Belfast Foodbank 124 Stewartstown Road, Belfast BT11 9JQ	 0793 870 6552  info@southwestbelfast.foodbank.org.uk
Social supermarkets	Social supermarkets are usually small shops set up within the premises of a community organisation to offer food, cleaning products and toiletries at discounted prices or via a membership charge. Some distribute food vouchers rather than operating as a shop. All offer wraparound provision and signpost to services such as benefit checks, debt advice, training and employment advice and childcare. Most operate on a referral basis only.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/socialsupermarkets



Organisation	Help available	More information
Society of St Vincent De Paul	Provide emergency food relief food parcels and signposting to other services.	 028 9035 1561  www.svp.org.uk
Salvation Army	Provide emergency food relief as a one-off for people in crisis.	 028 9032 9429  www.salvationarmy.org.uk/contact-us
Consumer Council	Provide information and advice on saving money while shopping and when using energy in the kitchen, as well as links to other useful resources to help with food costs.	 www.consumerCouncil.org.uk/costofliving
Love Food Hate Waste	Provide information on food portions, meal planning and recipes, saving you time and money.	 www.lovefoodhatewaste.com
Belfast City Council	<p>Provide free recipe books to help reduce food waste. See page 11.</p> <p>Belfast City Council also offer food waste workshops and demos on how to make the most of food and leftovers.</p>	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/recipebook  environmentaloutreach@belfastcity.gov.uk

Tips to reduce food waste and save money



Houses in the UK throw out 6.5 million tonnes of food every year. A family of four can save over £80 a month by reducing food waste.

Top tips

- Batch cooking - cooking larger amounts and keeping portions for later can keep down the cost of making food.
- Freeze for later - having meals in your freezer is a great way to avoid buying expensive ready meals or takeaways. Simply double up on the quantities and freeze half.
- Lunch box leftovers – make the most of leftovers to create additional meals. Meats left over from dinner can be added to a healthy salad or tasty sandwich.

Savvy storage

- Store bread in a cupboard or bread bin – it goes stale quicker in the fridge
- Check your fridge is set below 5°C to keep your food fresher for longer
- Apart from pineapples, bananas and onions, the best place to store fruit and vegetables is in the fridge








Differences between ‘Use by’ and ‘Best before’ dates

- ‘Use by’ relates to safety. Food can be eaten up until and on the ‘use by’ date, but not after.
- ‘Best before’ relates to quality. Food will be safe to eat after this date, but it may not be at its best. Use your judgement to decide.






Help for families and children



Organisation	Help available	More information
Family Support NI	<p>An online directory of family support services and childcare providers. Search by postcode to find family support services and registered childcare in your area.</p> <p>Find information about financial assistance for childcare costs. It provides useful information for people with disabilities, details of parenting support organisations and family mediation services plus wider support for people affected by mental health problems, drug or alcohol misuse, domestic or sexual abuse and cancer diagnosis.</p> <p>Information on the website can be translated into different languages.</p>	<p> www.familysupportni.gov.uk</p> <p> 0845 600 6483</p>
Belfast City Council	<p>Home safety checks for residents with young children. The checks offer tips on all aspects of home safety, as well as specialist advice on topics like heating and energy saving.</p>	<p> www.belfastcity.gov.uk/homesafety</p> <p> envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk</p> <p> 028 9027 0428</p>
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership	<p>Publication with information on organisations supporting families and children who are struggling with the cost of living crisis.</p>	<p> www.cypsp.hscni.net</p> <p> cypsp@hscni.net</p>



Organisation	Help available	More information
Parenting Focus	<p>Providing a range of services to parents and carers to ensure they have access to timely support and information to parent effectively and help their child reach their full potential. Services include a Parents Support Line, home support and a wide range of parenting programmes and workshops to support parents and carers and guide them through their parenting journey. Parenting Focus deliver a 4 week Summerhill Foundation workshop developed to specifically support families through the cost-of-living crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  www.parentingni.org  0808 801 0722  help@parentingfocus.org

Reusable period products

Belfast residents can sign up to receive free reusable, non-plastic period products.

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/free-period-products



Mental health support

Avail of services in your area that can provide help and support with mental health and well-being. This includes your GP and specialised healthcare professionals.

For more information visit:

 www.nidirect.gov.uk/mental-health-support

Help for older people



Organisation	Help available	More information
Belfast City Council in partnership with Bryson Energy and Public Health Agency	Handyperson services Advice and support for people aged over 65 and vulnerable adults including free home safety checks and subsidised repair service.	 www.brysonpathways.org (search for handyperson service)  handyman@brysonpathways.org  0800 142 2865
Age NI	Free advice, information and practical support on a wide range of issues including welfare benefits, community care, housing and health.	 www.ageni.org  info@ageni.org  0808 808 7575

Other support and advice




Organisation	Help available	More information
Belfast City Council	Supporting generalist advice centres and services across Belfast to provide free, confidential and independent guidance.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/advice-providers
Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service	Providing free, confidential and independent advice on a range of issues including benefits, consumer advice, debt, employment and housing issues.	 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/advice  028 9039 1765
Advice NI	Sharing independent advice on benefits, budgeting, debt, tax credits and HMRC issues, and how to access additional support on managing bills.	 www.adviceni.net  Email: advice@adviceni.net netTel: 0800 915 4604
Debt Advice NI	They offer free, confidential and independent debt and money advice.	 www.debtadvicenorthernireland.co.uk  0800 917 4607

Organisation	Help available	More information
Credit Unions	Offering a safe place for savings and access to loans at a reasonable rate of interest.	 www.creditunionni.co.uk  028 9061 4394
Housing Rights Service	Housing advice Working to achieve positive change by promoting and protecting the rights of people in housing need.	 www.housingrights.org.uk  028 9024 5640
Housing Rights	Sharing independent housing advice and information on homelessness, housing options and renting privately.	 www.housingadviceni.org  028 9024 5640 Textphone: 028 9026 7927
Helplines NI	Details of different helplines providing information, advice, counselling and be-friending services. Some are telephone helplines and others can help via email, text and live web-chat.	 https://helplinesni.com
Make The Call	Make the Call service Advice service improving the uptake of benefits for people who may be entitled.	 www.nidirect.gov.uk/make-call-service  makethecall@dfcni.gov.uk  0800 232 1271
Public Health Agency	Mental health support directory A directory of organisations that offer services to help improve mental health and emotional wellbeing.	 www.publichealth.hscni.net (search for mental health support directory)
Christians Against Poverty	A range of free services through local churches to help people break free from debt.	 www.capuk.org  0800 328 0006
Department for Work & Pensions	Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) Financial wellbeing support including money and pensions guidance and debt advice.	 www.maps.org.uk  contact@maps.org.uk  0115 965 9570
NI Direct	Cost of living information and advice Information and advice on a range of issues including energy, income support and housing.	 www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/cost-living  0300 200 7814



 belfastcity.gov.uk/costofliving



-  Facebook - @belfastcitycouncil
-  Twitter - @belfastcc
-  Instagram - @belfastcitycouncil



Subject:	'School Streets' Air Quality Monitoring Update Report.
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
Contact Officer:	Vivienne Donnelly, City Protection 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	The Committee will recall that at its meeting of 9 th January 2024, it considered a paper at agenda item 6b concerning monitoring of ambient air quality in the vicinity of a number of primary schools across the city to help to inform Action 22 of the 2021-2026 Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan concerning a pilot scheme for the designation of 'school streets'. https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/belfast-city-air-quality-action-plan-2021-2026#Table5.1
1.2	A 'School Street' is a road or street outside of a school where a temporary restriction on motorised traffic is applied at am 'drop-off' and pm 'pick-up' times during the school day, resulting in a safer and environmentally improved local environment. The restriction is typically applied to both school and through traffic. This Action Plan measure has been proposed jointly by Sustrans and the Department for Infrastructure.
1.3	The Committee was advised in the 9 th January 2024 report that council Air Quality Officers had liaised with Sustrans in order to identify a selection of primary schools situated throughout the city where transport related ambient air quality monitoring in their localities might be undertaken to help inform the designation of School Streets. Selection criteria applied in the identification of suitable schools included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there much traffic congestion at the school gates? • Does the infrastructure / road layout around the school seem suitable for a future intervention such as School Streets? • Is the school keen to increase active travel among pupils? • Is the school in the Active School Travel programme?
1.4	Accordingly, eight primary schools were initially suggested by Sustrans, which were then subsequently surveyed by the council officers to identify suitable monitoring and mounting locations, resulting in the council agreeing to install Earthsense Zephyr ambient air quality monitors initially in the vicinity of the following four primary schools; Rosetta Primary School, Knockbreda Rd; Belvoir Park Primary School, Belvoir Drive; Holy Rosary Primary School, Sunnyside Crescent and; Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glasvey Drive, Dunmurry.
1.5	The air quality monitors were variously installed from mid-March 2024 onwards and for the purposes of this project, monitoring data has been considered until the end of July 2024, to obtain nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) air pollution measurements and trends whilst the schools were in operation and by way of comparator, during the July holiday period.
1.6	This paper provides for the Committee's consideration of summary monitoring data for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter for the four primary schools, expressed as hourly and monthly means, and weekday and weekend diurnal (24-hour profile) nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) means. The paper also considers exceedances of relevant air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of this School's Streets' Air Quality Monitoring Report and in line with discussions with Sustrans and DAERA, to agree that the Zephyr small sensor air quality monitors be maintained at two primary schools; namely Rosetta Primary School and Holy

	<p>Rosary Primary School, and to further agree that the remaining two 'school streets' Zephyr air quality monitors be redeployed to two new sites at Nettlefield Primary School, Randor Drive, and Strandtown Primary School, North Road, subject to suitable lampposts / street furniture mounting locations in those monitoring locations being identified, to help inform potential school streets designations in those areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that the Zephyr monitor currently located at Henry Place and Carlisle Road, adjacent the A12 Westlink, be relocated more southerly along the A12 Westlink corridor to undertake air quality monitoring in the vicinity of St. Mary's Primary School, Barrack Street; situated adjacent to the A12 Westlink and Divis Street, subject to a suitable lamppost / street furniture mounting location being identified.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Committee is advised that council air quality officers installed solar powered Earthsense Zephyr small sensor air quality monitors in the vicinity of the above-mentioned four primary schools from mid-March 2024 onwards. The monitors were installed at locations to target adjacent public roads and transport routes to and from the schools so that there was no impact on school operations or pupils as a consequence of the ambient air quality monitoring.</p>
3.2	<p>Monitoring data has been resolved into hourly mean concentrations to enable comparison with the 200 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ 1-hour mean objective for nitrogen dioxide and longer term 24-hour mean objective for particulate matter (PM₁₀). The Committee will appreciate that the 1-hour mean objective is applied at locations where members of the public might reasonably be expected to spend one hour or more and therefore typically includes kerbside locations such as pavements of busy roads or streets, such as in the vicinity of schools during morning '<i>drop off</i>' and afternoon '<i>pick up</i>' periods. The 24-hour mean particulate matter objective would not normally apply at a roadside or kerbside location, where public exposure is considered to be short-term. A summary of relevant air quality objectives has been provided at Appendix Section 4.1 of this report. Hourly and monthly means, and diurnal weekday and weekend NO₂ mean profile graphs for the four primary schools have been provided at Appendix Sections 4.2 – 4.5 to this report.</p>
3.3	<p>The Committee is advised that no exceedances of the 200 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ 1-hour mean objective for nitrogen dioxide or the longer term 50 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ 24-hour mean objective (not to be exceeded more than 35 times per annum) for particulate matter (PM₁₀) were recorded throughout the monitoring periods. Accordingly, it is considered that there are no requirements to amend the council's existing Air Quality Management areas or to declare any new Air Quality Management Areas as a consequence of the school streets monitoring. Moreover, the outworkings of the school streets monitoring are in broad accordance with the conclusions of the council's 2023 Detailed Assessment for Ambient Air Quality.</p>
3.4	<p>Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is not presently in regulation for the purposes of local air quality management by councils, although a 25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ annual mean target has been established, together with a 15% cut in urban background exposure, also assessed as an annual mean. As previously, the Committee is advised that annual mean targets for PM_{2.5} would not apply at roadside or kerbside monitoring locations, where public exposure is short-term. Monthly mean monitoring data for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) have nevertheless been presented for each of the four schools within Appendix Sections 4.2 – 4.5 of this report for</p>

	<p>additional information. Monitored monthly mean PM_{2.5} concentrations were all substantially below the 25 µgm⁻³ target level throughout the March – July 2024 monitoring period.</p>
3.5	<p>Council air quality officers have shared the summary monitoring data with Sustrans and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Air and Environmental Quality Unit. The Committee will be aware that DAERA funded the purchase of two Zephyr air quality monitors through the 2023-2024 Local Air Quality Management grant process in specific support of this schools’ streets project. It will now be for Sustrans and DfI to consider how they may wish to utilise the monitoring data generated through this project to help inform the designation of ‘school streets’ in accordance with Action 22 of the 2021-2026 Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan. It is however noted that the diurnal (24-hour profile) nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) mean graphs (Appendix Sections 4.2 - 4.5) demonstrate modest increases in nitrogen dioxide concentrations during the weekday peak morning travel period when compared to the equivalent weekend period during the March – June 2024 monitoring period, and to a lesser extent during the July 2024 monitoring period.</p>
3.6	<p>In consideration of the monitoring data to date, it has been agreed with Sustrans to maintain two of the air quality monitors in their current locations to determine if there are any increases in traffic related ambient air pollution in the vicinity of Rosetta Primary School or Holy Rosary Primary School throughout the winter period when school users and the local community may more frequently choose to commute by motor vehicle.</p>
3.7	<p>Sustrans have additionally agreed that the air quality monitors at Belvoir Park Primary School, and Holy Evangelists’ Primary School and Nursery Unit may be redeployed to Nettlefield Primary School, Randor Drive, and Strandtown Primary School, North Road, subject to suitable lampposts / street furniture mounting locations in those monitoring locations being identified, to help inform the potential designation of ‘school streets’ in those areas.</p>
3.8	<p>Council air quality officers have also proposed to Sustrans that the Zephyr air quality monitor currently located adjacent to the A12 Westlink corridor at Henry Place and Carlisle Road be relocated to a more southerly location along the A12 Westlink to undertake monitoring in the vicinity of St. Mary’s Primary School, Barrack Street, located adjacent to the A12 Westlink and Divis Street; again subject to a suitable mounting and monitoring location being identified. St. Mary’s Primary School, Barrack Street was considered as a sensitive receptor within the council’s 2023 Detailed Assessment of Ambient Air Quality for the city.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with this report. Operation of the Zephyr small sensor air quality monitors is supported via the DAERA 2024-2025 Local Air Quality Management grant process. The ‘school streets’ monitoring project is being undertaken from within existing Scientific Unit air quality staff resources.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment.</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices.</p>

4.1 UK Air Quality Objectives.

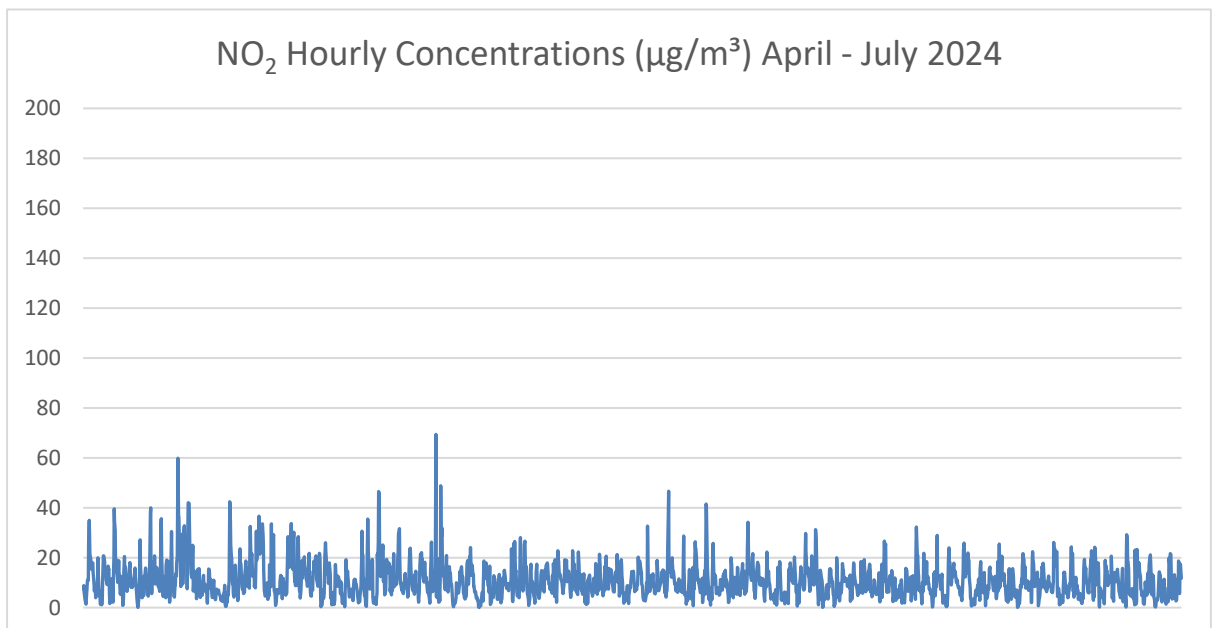
Pollutant	Averaging Period	Objective
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	1-hour mean	200 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 18 times per annum).
	Annual mean	40 µg/m ³
Particulate Matter PM ₁₀	24-hour mean	50 µg/m ³ (not to be exceeded more than 35 times per annum).
	Annual mean	40 µg/m ³
Particulate Matter PM _{2.5}	Annual mean	25 µg/m ³ target concentration.

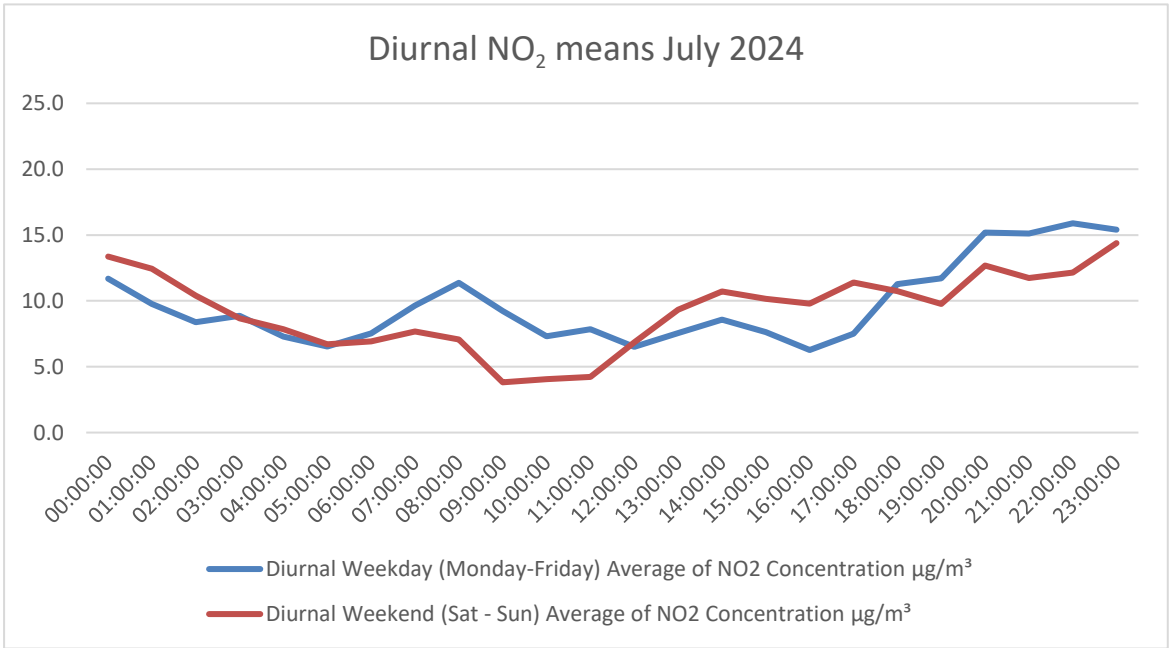
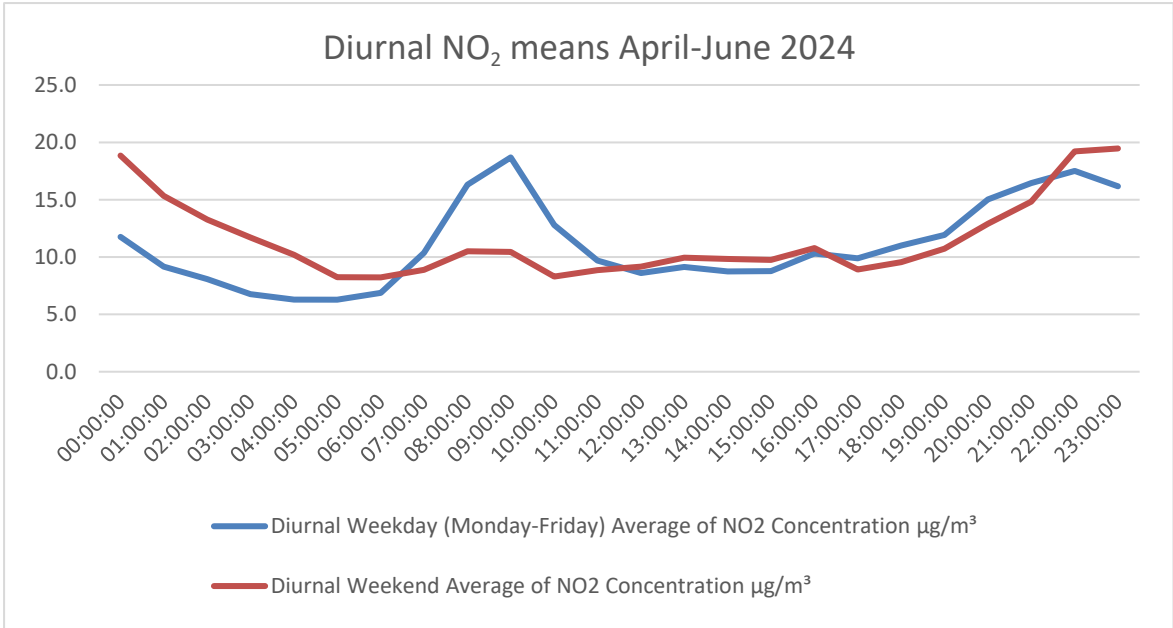
Source - <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/air-quality/standards>

4.2 Rosetta Primary School, Knockbreda Road.

Monthly means (µg/m³)

Pollutant	April	May	June	July
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	12.7	11.5	10.3	9.6
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	7.8	13.1	7.3	6.4
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	5.4	8.9	5.1	4.2

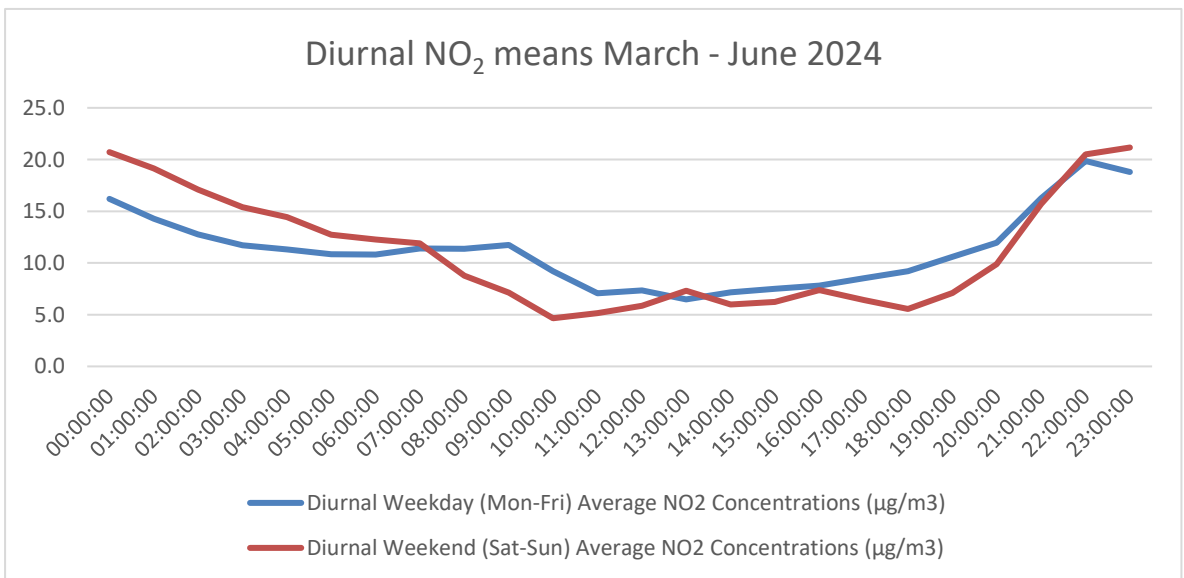
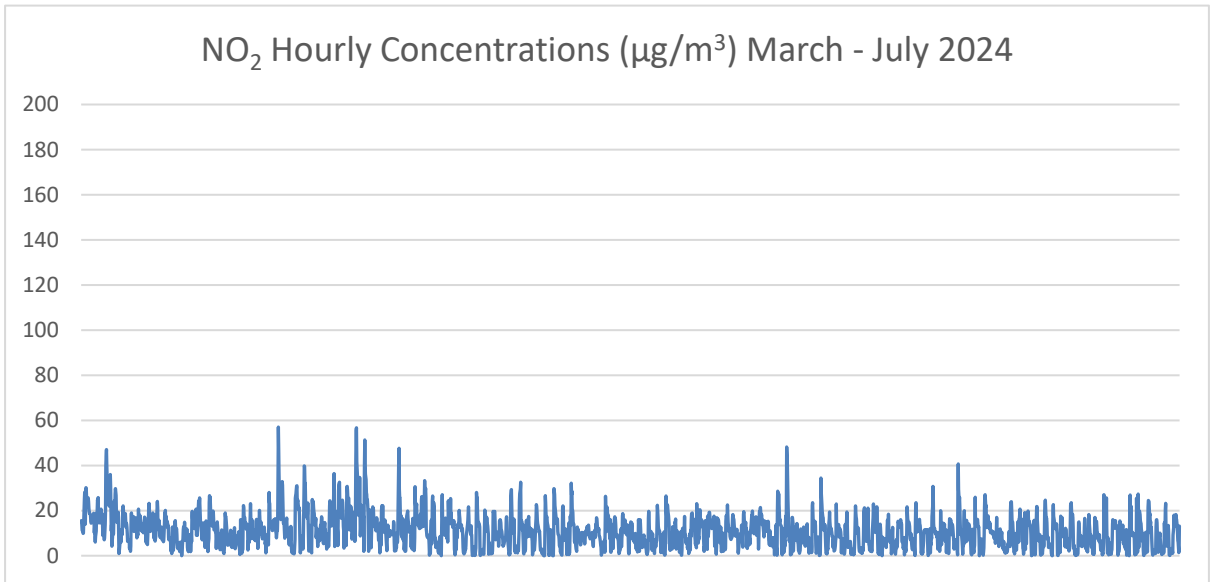


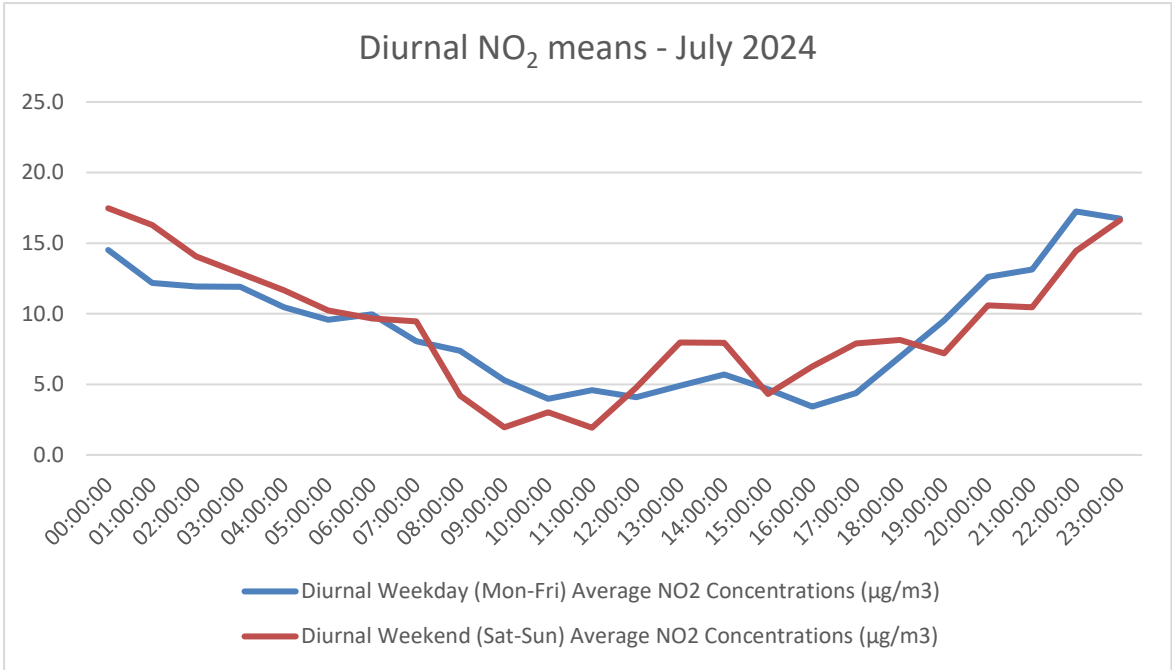


4.3 Belvoir Primary School, Belvoir Drive.

Monthly means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Pollutant	March	April	May	June	July
Nitrogen Dioxide	17.0	13.0	10.1	9.6	9.0
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	5.3	4.8	10.3	6.0	5.2
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	3.3	2.7	7.3	4.0	3.2

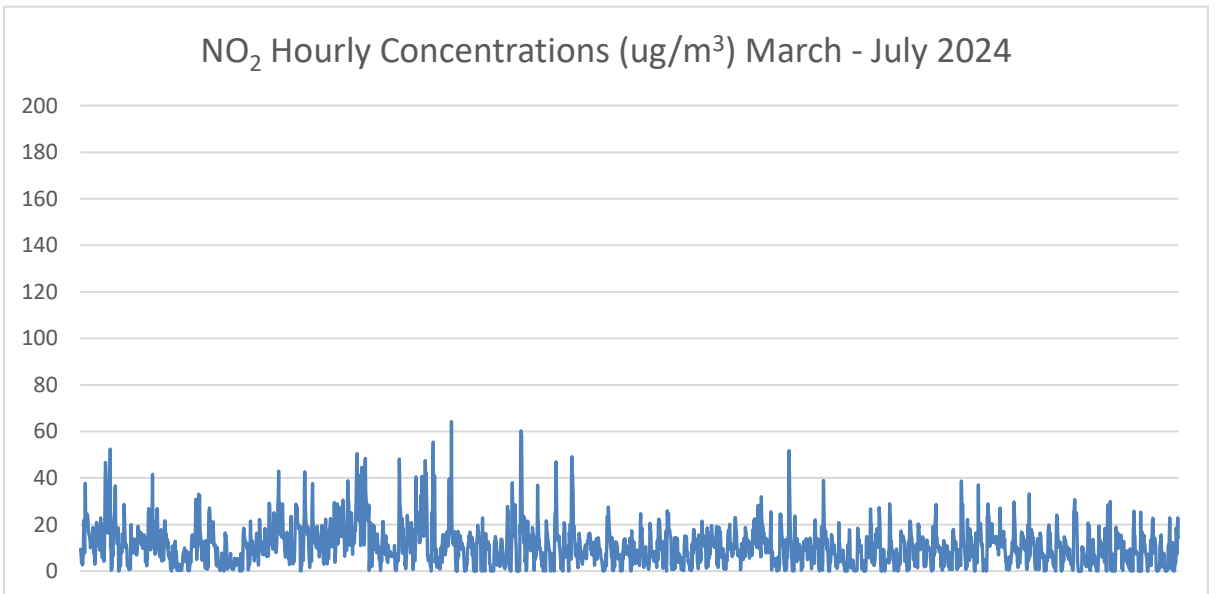


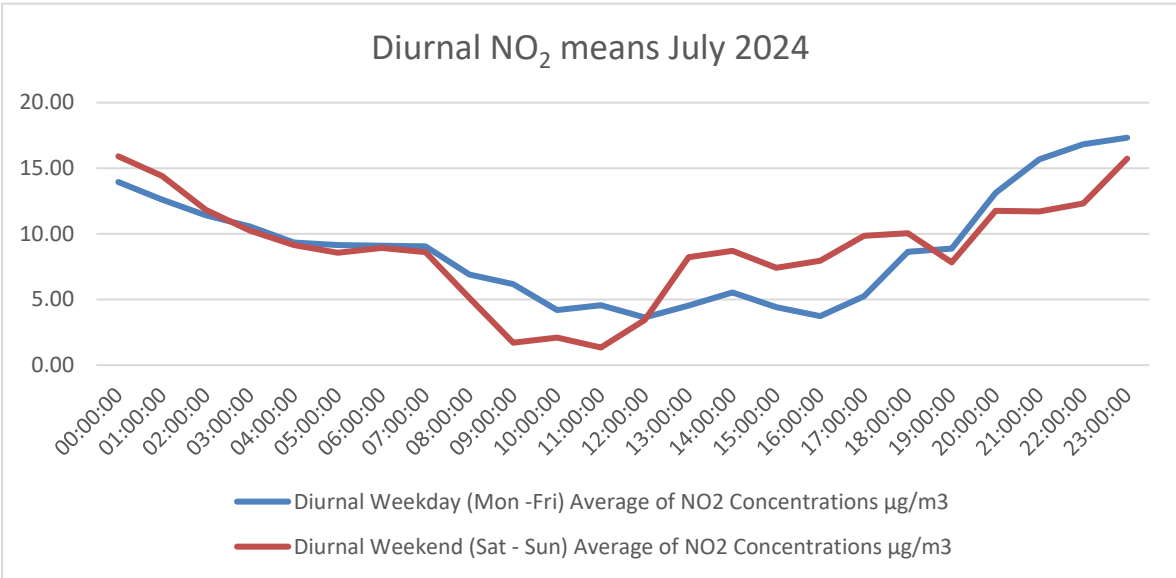
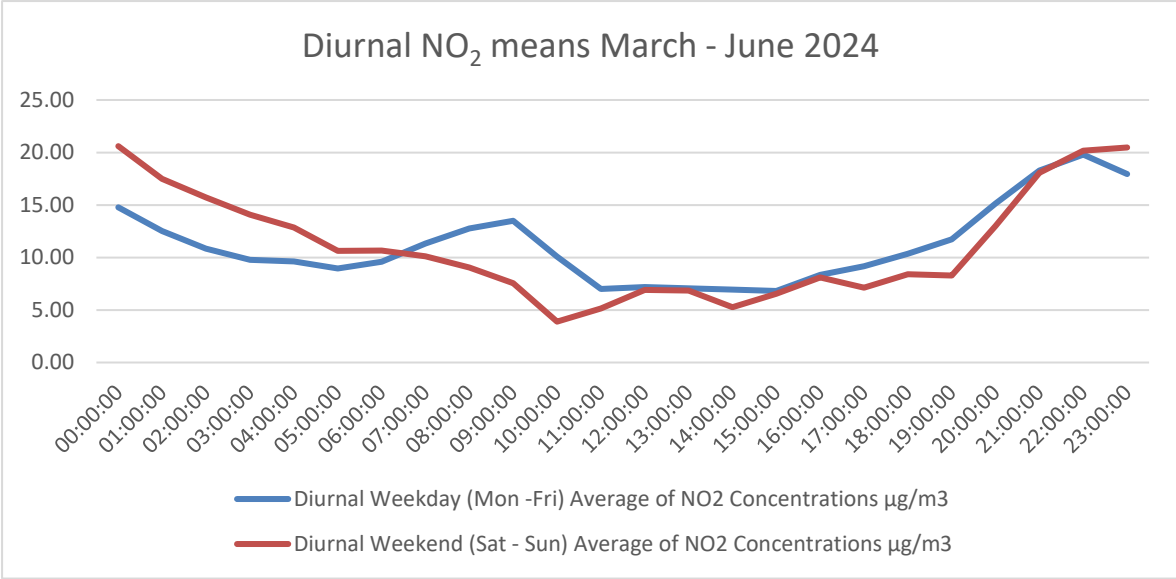


4.4 Holy Rosary Primary School, Sunnyside Crescent.

Monthly means (µg/m³)

Pollutant	March	April	May	June	July
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	14.8	12.7	10.9	9.3	8.9
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	8.0	5.8	12.3	6.6	5.7
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	5.4	3.4	8.1	4.3	3.6



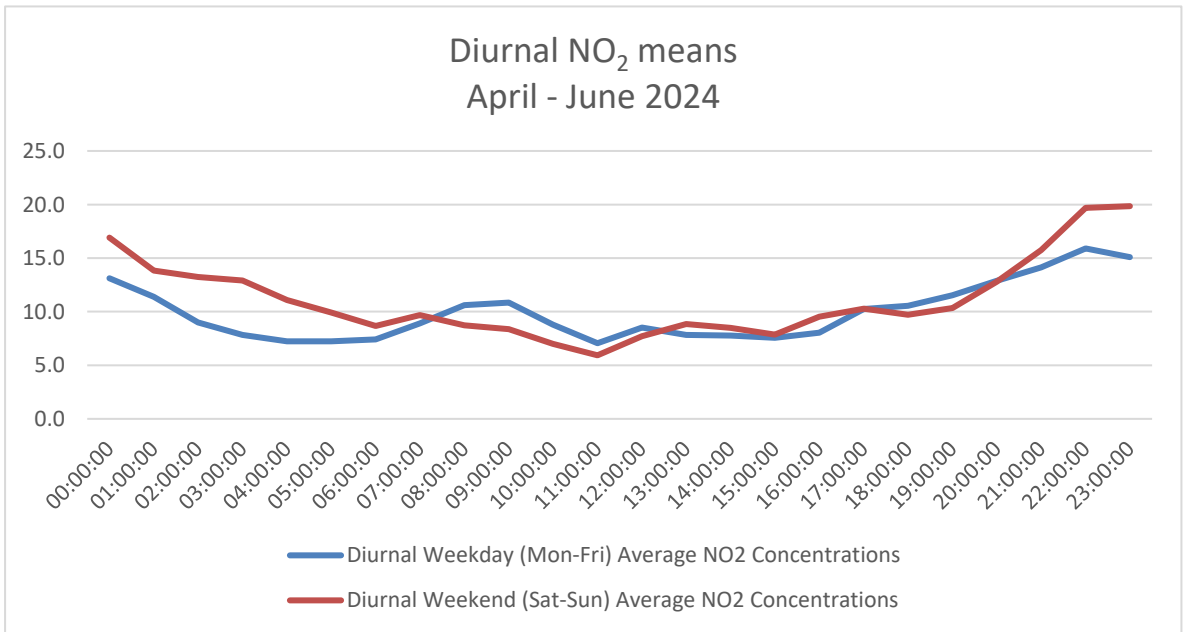
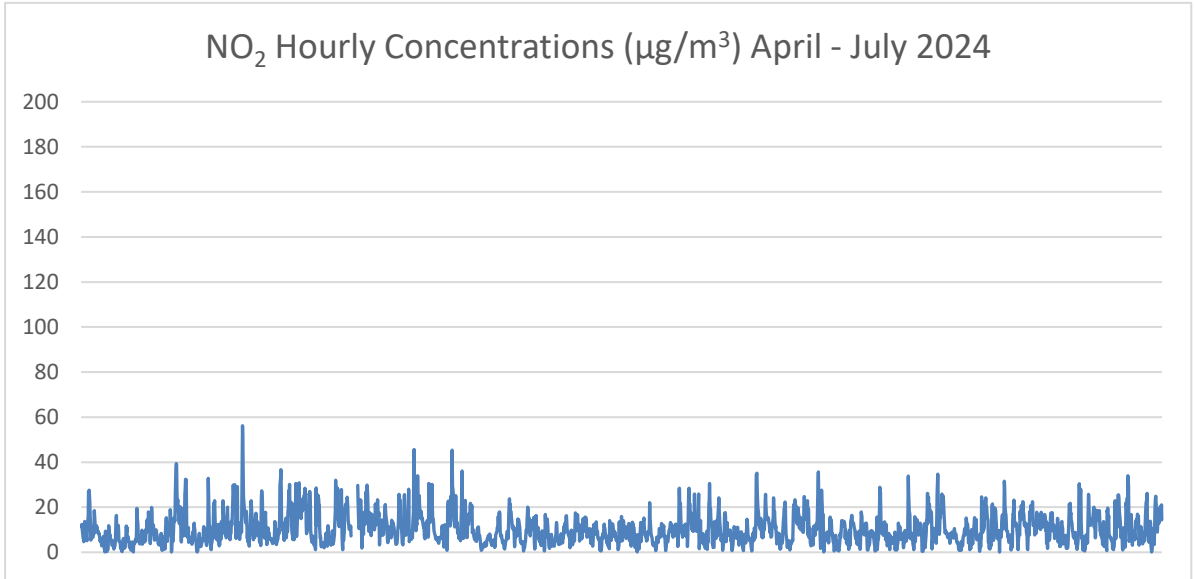


4.5

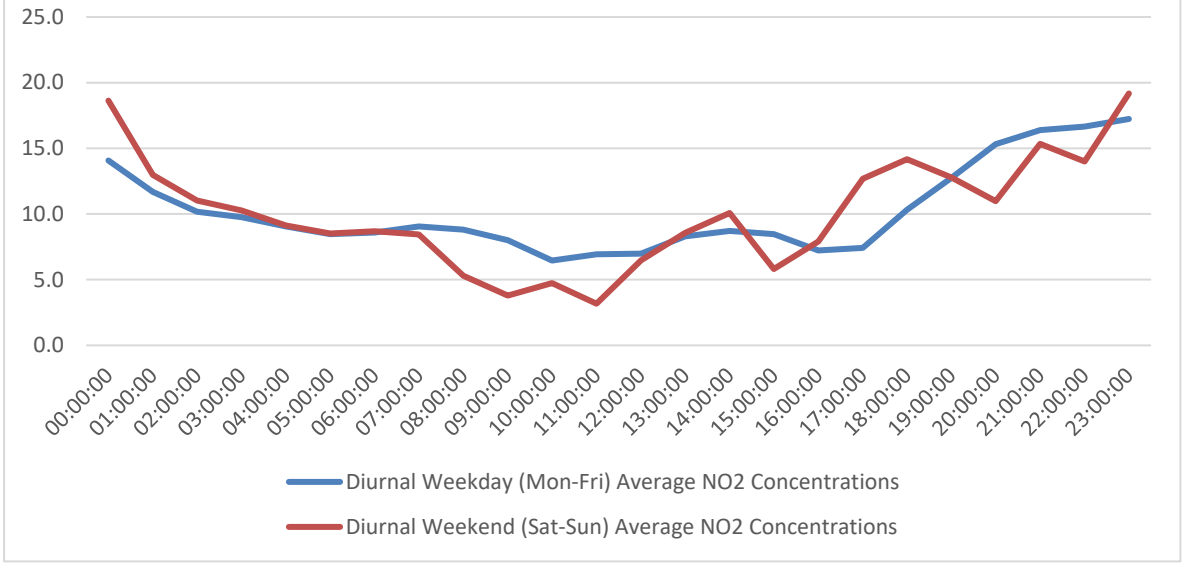
Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glasvey Drive.

Monthly means ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Pollutant	April	May	June	July
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	9.8	11.6	9.4	10.3
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	6.5	13.4	7.6	6.7
Particulate Matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$)	4.0	8.7	4.8	4.1



Diurnal NO₂ means - July 2024



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Subject:	2024 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment. Update on DAERA appraisal report.
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Alastair Curran, Environmental Protection Manager Vivienne Donnelly, City Protection 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	The Committee will recall that it considered, at agenda item 4b of its meeting of 10 th September 2024, the council's 2024 Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) report for ambient air quality, in advance of the USA report being submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' (DAERA) independent technical assessors for appraisal.
1.2	In consideration of the USA report and accompanying Committee report, the Committee noted the contents and conclusions of the Belfast City Council 2024 Updating and Screening Assessment report and agreed that the report be submitted to DAERA's technical assessors for appraisal. The Committee further agreed, at that stage, not to move to revoke the Ormeau Road and Upper Newtownards Road Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) by Order and instead to await acceptance of the 2024 USA report and an update on the conclusions and recommendations, to be received from DAERA / DEFRA.
1.3	The council has now received a Bureau Veritas technical assessors' report from DAERA concerning the appraisal of its 2024 USA, which, in addition to accepting the report and publishing it on the DAERA NI Air website (https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/lqgm/district-council-reports#511), recommends that the council should now progress revocation of AQMA No. 3 - Upper Newtownards Road and AQMA No. 4 – Ormeau Road.
1.4	Bureau Veritas have also suggested that the council should liaise with DAERA to consider additionally revoking the Cormac Street and Albertbridge Road AQMA, and revoking the M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink corridor AQMA for exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective for nitrogen dioxide.
1.5	DAERA have asked that Belfast City Council reverts to the Air and Environmental Quality Unit with a timescale for revocation of the AQMAs and any associated planned public communications so that the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister may be briefed accordingly.
1.6	The formal process for revoking an AQMA is detailed from section '3.53 Amendment and Revocation of AQMAs' of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(22) and within Article 12 Designation of air quality management areas of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.
1.7	DAERA and Bureau Veritas have commented that the council's 2024 USA report has been completed to a high standard, with additional appropriate appendices to show the further work that the Council is undertaking to improve air quality within its area of jurisdiction.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report concerning the outcome of the DAERA and Bureau Veritas technical appraisal of the council's 2024 Updating and Screening Assessment report for ambient air quality.
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee is requested to agree that on the basis of the DAERA and Bureau Veritas comments concerning AQMA 3 Upper Newtownards Road and AQMA 4 Ormeau Road, and the conclusions of the council's 2024 Updating and Screening Assessment report and 2023 Air Quality Detailed Assessment reports that the council will now move to revoke these two Air Quality Management Areas.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee will be aware that the council is statutorily required to review and assess ambient air quality for the Belfast City Council area in accordance with the provisions of 'Part III Air Quality' of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.

3.2	To that end, the Committee will also be aware that the council completed its first review and assessment of ambient air quality for the city in 2004 and concluded that areas surrounding four of the city's main arterial road transport routes were variously exceeding the government's air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and particulate matter (PM ₁₀), primarily as a consequence of road transport emissions.
3.3	The four areas were subsequently declared by Order as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and encompass; (1) M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink corridor; (2) Cromac Street to the junction with East Bridge Street and then from East Bridge Street to the junction with the Ravenhill and Albertbridge Roads and Short Strand; (3) Upper Newtownards Road from the North Road junction to the former Belfast City boundary at the Ulster Hospital and; (4) Ormeau Road from its junction with Donegall Pass to the former Belfast City boundary at Galwally.
3.4	The council, its competent authority partners and other city organisations and bodies have subsequently developed and implemented a series of Air Quality Action Plans, designed to achieve the air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter within the AQMAs, and to improve ambient air quality generally across the city. The most recent 2021-2026 Belfast City Air Quality Action plan may be accessed via the following weblink https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/belfast-city-air-quality-action-plan-2021-2026 . The Committee is advised that the M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink corridor AQMA was revoked for exceedances of particulate matter (PM ₁₀) objectives in September 2015.
3.5	The Committee will be aware that ambient air quality and other corroborating data presented within the council's 2024 USA report confirm that there have been no monitored exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) annual objective mean recorded within the AQMA No. 3 (Upper Newtownards Road) for the last six years and within AQMA No. 4 (Ormeau Road) for the last ten years since 2014. Moreover, the conclusions of the Air Quality Detailed Assessment, considered by Committee at agenda item 12 of its meeting of 13 th June 2023, indicate that there will be no future exceedances of air quality objectives at any human health receptors within these AQMAs. https://minutes3.belfastcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=11151
3.6	LAQM.TG(22), at section 3.57, states that revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance with the relevant objective as evidenced through monitoring. The Committee is advised that monitoring within AQMAs 3 and 4 is carried out by way of a reference grade chemiluminescent automatic analyser and various nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes. LAQM.TG(22) additionally states that there should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period. DAERA and Bureau Veritas have both referred to this 5-year compliance period within the USA appraisal report.
3.7	On this basis, DAERA have consequently advised in their appraisal report that the Department are content that Belfast City Council should now progress revocation of AQMA 3 Upper Newtownards Road and AQMA 4 Ormeau Road. DAERA have additionally advised that the council should refer to 'Article 12, Designation of air quality management areas, and the revocation of such an order' of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, and to LAQM.TG(22) (Revocation of AQMAs) for further guidance.
3.8	'Article 12 Designation of air quality management areas' of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 provides that an order designating an AQMA may similarly be revoked by order, in a form prescribed by DAERA (https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/aqmas/how-to-revoke-an-aqma/). After making such a revocation order, the council is required to publish a notice in the Belfast Gazette and once at least in each of two successive weeks in more than one newspaper circulating in the district to which the order relates. The notice is required to state that the revocation order has been made, to state its general effect and to specify a place in the council district where a copy of the order and of any map (or plan) referred to therein may be inspected by any person, free of charge and at all reasonable times.

3.9	<p>Section 3.53 of LAQM.TG(22) states that in most cases, the decision to revoke an AQMA should only be taken following a detailed study or air quality review, adding that a detailed atmospheric dispersion modelling study or air quality review may allow for compliance to be assessed over a wider geographical area than when compared to monitoring locations alone. LAQM.TG(22) advises that if the conclusions of the study are suitably robust to allow an assessment of compliance to be determined, revocation can be taken forward but due to inherent uncertainties in dispersion modelling, consideration should be given to predicted concentrations being 10% below the relevant objective before revocation of the AQMA is completed. The Committee is advised that the council employs Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants (CERC) Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling Software (ADMS-Urban) for the purposes of ambient air quality reviews and assessments. The Committee is reminded that the Council completed an Air Quality Detailed Assessment in 2023, (referenced in paragraph 3.5 of this report), which considered nitrogen dioxide concentrations across the Belfast City Council area, including for the Upper Newtownards Road and Ormeau Road AQMAs, for a 2019 base year and a 2028 forward projection year. Where appropriate, the council will make use of the atmospheric dispersion modelling data and conclusions of the Detailed Assessment to assist in completion of detailed air quality reviews required for revocation of the Upper Newtownards Road and Ormeau Road AQMAs.</p>
3.10	<p>‘Schedule 2 air quality: supplemental provisions - consultation requirements’ of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 advises that a district council, in carrying out its functions in relation to any air quality review, shall consult such other persons or bodies as follows: DAERA; each district council whose district is contiguous to the council's district; such competent authorities exercising functions in, or in the vicinity of, the council's district as the council may consider appropriate; such bodies or persons appearing to the council to be representative of persons with business interests in the district to which the review relates as the council may consider appropriate; and such other bodies or persons as the council may consider appropriate. The council will therefore give consideration to these consultation requirements at an appropriate juncture within any AQMA revocation process.</p>
3.11	<p>The Committee will be aware that DAERA have asked that the council reverts to the Air and Environmental Quality Unit, with a timescale for revocation, and any planned public communications, so that the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister may be briefed accordingly. At this juncture, it is anticipated that completion of the detailed studies / air quality reviews, approval of such reports by council, appraisal of such reports by DAERA's technical assessors, and all necessary associated publicity and consultations, to inform the revocation of both AQMAs may take approximately up to 12 months to complete.</p>
3.12	<p>Notwithstanding the proposed revocation of the Upper Newtownards Road and Ormeau Road AQMAs, it is the council's intention to maintain the automatic roadside nitrogen dioxide monitoring stations with these AQMAs, and to continue to monitor nitrogen dioxide, subject to agreement with DAERA and the continued provision of financial support via the Local Air Quality Management Grant process. The Committee is advised that data from our roadside monitoring sites form an aspect of DAERA's ongoing reporting on nitrogen dioxide concentrations and trends at urban roadside sites across Northern Ireland within the DAERA and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) annual Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report. The 2024 report may be accessed via the following weblink: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report-2024</p>
3.13	<p>The main benefit of revoking the AQMAs for the Upper Newtownards Road and Ormeau Road is that the air quality standards in these areas have improved and been sustained over a period of years giving assurance that air quality standards have been met and overall air quality has improved in these areas .</p>

3.14	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with this report. It is anticipated that any detailed studies / air quality reviews to help inform revocation of AQMA 3 Upper Newtownards Road and AQMA 4 Ormeau Road will be undertaken from within existing Scientific Unit air quality staff resources. Should financial support be required for any aspect of the detailed studies / air quality reviews, including, for example, obtaining up to date road traffic data and traffic counts for the Ormeau Road and Upper Newtownards Road, funding support will be sought as an aspect of the DAERA Local Air Quality Management Grant 2025-2026 process.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications associated with this report or the revocation of either AQMA 3 Upper Newtownards Road or AQMA 4 Ormeau Road.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Belfast City Airport Request – Rook Management at Victoria Park: Implications to Air Safety
Date:	3 December 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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	The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of a request from the George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) to gain access to Victoria Park to continue habitat modifications to mitigate against the risk of bird strikes.
1.2	This work is part of an ongoing control programme in line with the Airport's Wildlife Hazard Assessment and the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to agree to the request from George Best Belfast City Airport to grant access under licence to Victoria Park to facilitate rook management, in particular the removal of old rook nests and nest site discouragement, in January 2025.
2.2	Members are advised that any decision to grant this permission is subject to legal agreement, developed by the Council's Legal Services department and includes a requirement to ensure that any works are permissible and that any required NIEA licence and consents are in place.

2.3	<p>As the works need to be completed by mid-January, any licence would be progressed under the Strategic Director's delegated authority, taking into consideration Members views.</p> <p>If agreed, the licence will permit works to commence in mid-December and end by mid-January 2025 (subject to the terms and conditions).</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> Members should be aware that the control of birds in the flight path to the airport is a requirement of the airport's Civil Aviation Authority licence. In line with GBBCA's national aerodrome license requirements and associated guidance material presented in CAP772: Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes, the airport is required to identify sources of risk and to reduce and maintain risk to an acceptable level in compliance with the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Rooks</u> Members will recall granting a similar request for rook management at the January 2024 meeting of People and Communities Committee. GBBCA report that although rook nests reduced around the Sam Thompson Bridge, a new cluster of six nests was located along the southern perimeter of the Park. While the number of nests increased in 2024 for the first year since management prescriptions were introduced in 2020, the number of nests and flock sizes observed have reduced.</p>
3.3	<p>The airport has identified the need to continue the current management to reduce and discourage rooks from re-laying in the areas used in the previous year. The proposed works include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The removal of old rook nests to take place during the works period; 2. Any necessary structural pruning of preferred nesting trees and reducing shelter provided by ivy; and 3. The removal of clumps of Birch Besom.
3.4	<p>GBBCA will appoint a suitable contractor with previous experience to undertake the work. The area in question will be cordoned off and the old nests removed using a cherry picker. They suggest this will take a day to complete.</p>
3.5	<p>If members are content, officers will review the submitted risk assessment and insurance certificates in line with procedure and work with Legal Services to issue the requested licence. The licence will include relevant conditions to ensure that the airport confirm that all work is permissible and that any required licences are in place to allow work to take place within the required timescales. The licence will also place an onus on the airport to ensure that health and safety measures are implemented, essential signage is assembled and one-way systems are established where necessary.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> GBBCA will be responsible for any costs associated with the request.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Belfast City Airport Report – Rook Management Update & Recommendations at Victoria Park 2024

Rook Management Update and Recommendations

Victoria Park 2024

Report to Belfast City Council

Re: Licence to George Best City Airport

-Temporary Use of Lands at Victoria Park –for rook nest removal Jan 2025.

Kerry Mackie 20/09/2024

Background

In the interests of air safety, Belfast City Airport under license of Belfast City Council, has been annually deterring rooks from nesting at Victoria park after this species first established a small breeding colony of 20 nests in 2020. By removing previous years' nests and pruning out support branches, nest distribution has become more dispersed and reduced in numbers from 18 in 2020 to 8 in 2023 but increased in 2024 to 15 nests - although two were later abandoned. Using this less-invasive technique, although reaching the desired objective, takes longer and needs to be repeated annually.

Licensed activities undertaken 2024

The removal of rook nests and associated canopy pruning was undertaken on January 23rd 2024 under a Belfast City Council license by Glenburn Landscapes - professional arborists subcontracted directly by Belfast City Airport. Seven old rook nests were removed with any supporting branches/unions modified by the selective pruning with a further two removed from thick ivy previously unrecorded during the previous nesting season.

Results

Rooks in 2024, as in the previous year, nested in a loose colony either side of the water-way north-east of the Sam Thompson bridge but in reduced numbers and with the two nests on the main Island later abandoned. However, a new nest-cluster comprised of six nests was located along the southern perimeter of the park 300m away (Photograph 1 and Figure 1) and coincident to a tree carrying Birch Besom (*Taphrina betulina*), which with its similarity to a rook's nest, may have prompted nesting activity in this area. While the number of nests increased in 2024 for the first year since management prescriptions were introduced in 2020 (Figure 2) the number of nests and flock sizes observed (Figure 3) have reduced and the continuing removal of old nests therefore remains appropriate.



P1. Rook nests along southern periphery of Victoria Park in 2024 and coincident with Birch besom (*Taphrina betulina*)

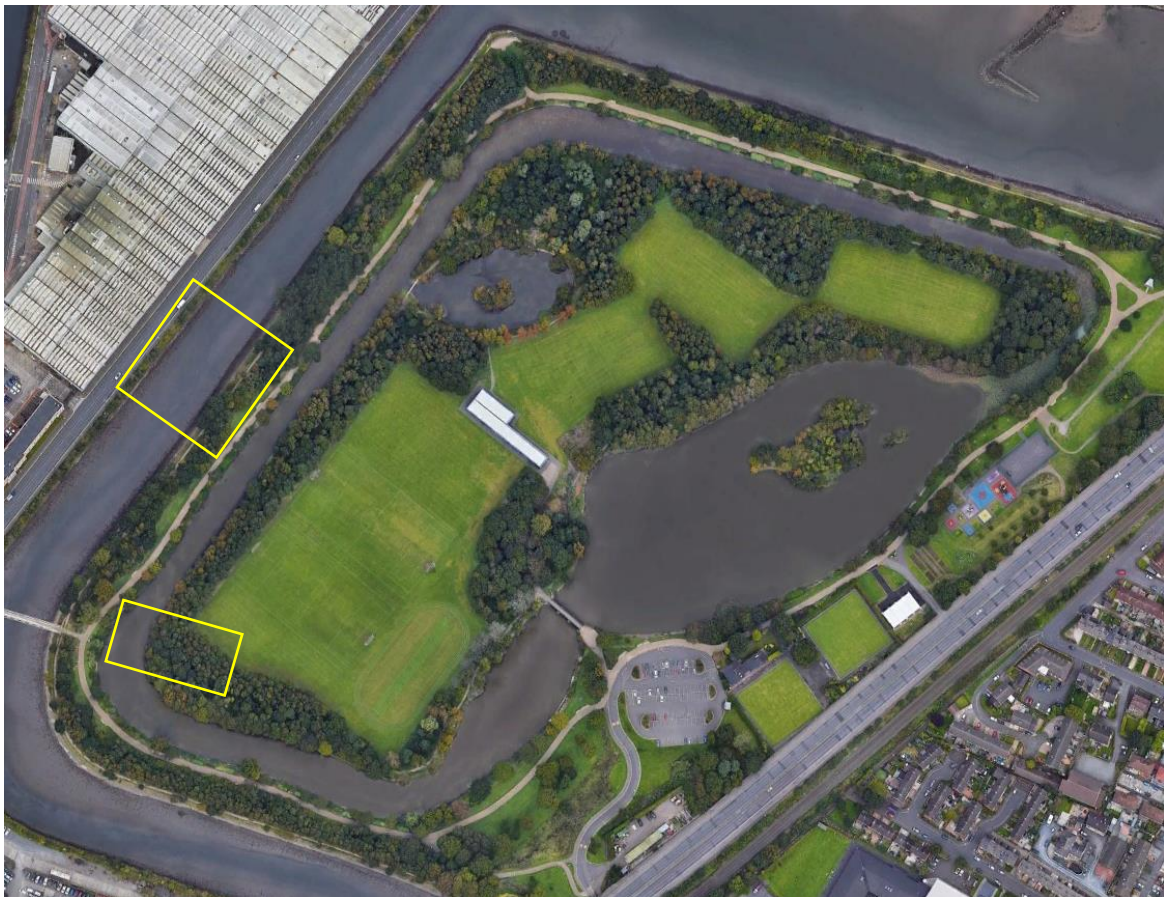


Figure 1. Victoria Park with outlined areas marking location of rook nests in 2024 (lower box outlining the new nesting area), and demarcation for nest removal prior to 2025 breeding season.



Figure 2. Nesting rooks at Victoria Park 2020-2024

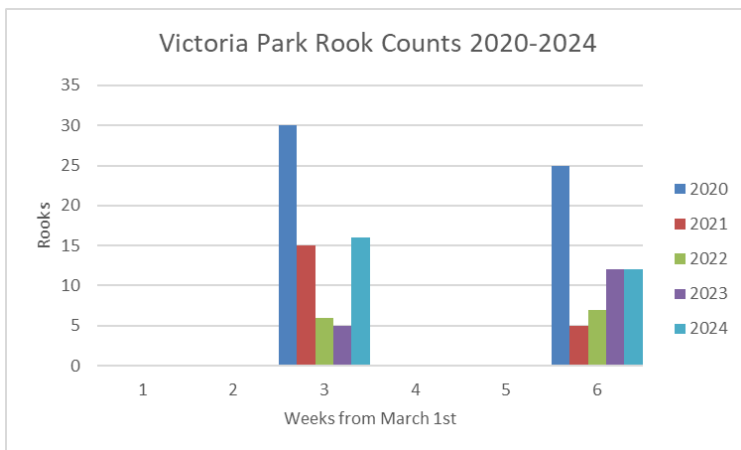


Figure 3. Rooks present during bird counts 2020-2024

To continue dispersing and reducing the number of rook nests at Victoria Park, the Airport needs to continue with current management prescriptions to discourage rooks from relaying in the areas used in the previous year.

The airport therefore needs to remove old nests and reduce the appeal of the most recently selected nesting trees by selective pruning of branch unions that supported last season’s nests. Any additional shelter provided by ivy in the canopy of adjacent trees needs to be reduced by cutting ivy stems close to ground level. Clumps of Birch Besom will also be removed.

Window for management : December 2024 to mid-January 2025.

Time required : 1 day.

- Removal of old rook nests within trees located within the outline boxes in Figure 1 above with associated selective pruning of branching forks and other potential anchor points (as previously licenced Jan/Feb 2021/Jan 2022/Jan 2023/ Jan 2024) prior to the 2025 rook breeding season.
- Remove Birch Besom if present
- Continue to reduce shelter provided by ivy within nesting trees or those immediately adjacent, if required.



Subject:	Request for the use of Ormeau Park Bowling Pavilion
Date:	Tuesday 3 December 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

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 Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request for the hire of Ormeau Park Bowling pavilion from organisers wishing to host a fundraising event in February 2025. The event will be a preloved sale in aid of Gaza and if approved will take place on Saturday 1st February 2025. The event is not being organised by a charity; rather the proceeds of the event will be donated to the charity.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the date noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management paperwork and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for ‘Events’, which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the organisers will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will also include appropriate risk assessments for the event.</p> <p><u>Pre-Love sale in aid of Gaza – Ormeau Bowling Pavilion – 2 February 2025</u></p> <p>3.2 Council has received a request from Sophie Lusby requesting permission to use Ormeau Bowling Pavilion to raise money in support of humanitarian charities in aid of Gaza.</p> <p>3.3 The event will include an entrance fee of £5 per person which will include a tea & coffee alongside a home-made scone or cake. They also wish to raise money by having a collection of second-hand clothes and accessories on sale. With all proceeds being donated to the charity supporting Gaza.</p> <p>3.4 This is the first that these organisers have requested the use of Council facilities so the events admin team have tried to source as much information as possible.</p> <p>3.5 The charity that will benefit from the moneys raised is “All Our Relations – Giving hope to Families in Gaza.” Upon researching the charity, they do not seem to be a UK registered charity. The only information the Events team found is through a website which states the charity is set up to raise money for families in Gaza who have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict. They aim to work with 15 families and assist them on fleeing the current crisis in Gaza.</p>

3.6	All money raised is done via the GoFundMe website which the organisation has set a target of raising £300,000.
3.7	<p>Key Dates</p> <p>Set-Up – 9.30am on Saturday 1 February 2025 Event – 11am to 4pm on Saturday 1 February 2025 De-Rig – 5.30pm on Saturday 1 February 2025</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>If approved the organisers will pay a fee of £25 per hour to hire the bowling pavilion.</p> <p>Outside of the hire fee for the use of the pavilion there are no known other financial or resource implications.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs
Date:	3 rd December 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, ext. 2430
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for seventeen 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, Newington Street, Chichester Road, Deerpark Road, Kerrykeel Gardens, Glenties Drive, Ashton Park, Newforge Grange, Ashley Grove, Lagmore Meadows, Riverdale Park West, Credenhill Park, Brooke Drive, Riverdale Park North, Ardmore Park South, Stewartstown Road, Wolfhill Drive and Kansas Avenue																																																		
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 nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																																		
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Riverdale Park North, BT11 9DL	Páirc Ghleanntán na hAbhann Thuaidh	Off Riverdale Park East, BT11	150
Ardmore Park South, BT10 0JF	Páirc an Aird Mhóir Theas	Off Finaghy Road North, BT10	49
Stewartstown Road, BT11 9NQ	Bóthar Bhaile Stíobhaird	Off Andersonstown Road, BT11	221
Wolfhill Drive, BT14 8NS	Céide Chnoc an Mhactíre	Off Wolfhill Avenue South, BT14	47
Kansas Avenue, BT15 5AW	Ascaill Kansas	Off Antrim Road, BT15	155

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

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

3.6 Newington Street, BT15

- 18 occupiers (26.86%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 1 occupier (1.49%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.

3.7 Chichester Road, BT15

- 23 occupiers (29.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 3 occupiers (3.79%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.

3.8 Deerpark Road, BT14

- 139 occupiers (39.48%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 13 occupiers (3.69%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
- 3 Occupiers (0.85%) had no preference either way.

3.9 Kerrykeel Gardens, BT11

- 47 occupiers (29.55%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Occupier (0.62%) had no preference either way.
3.10	<p>Glenties Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 occupiers (42.85%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.11	<p>Ashton Park, BT10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63 occupiers (44.68%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 8 occupiers (5.67%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 2 Occupiers (1.41%) had no preference either way.
3.12	<p>Newforge Grange, BT9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 occupiers (24%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 4 occupiers (16%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
3.13	<p>Ashley Grove, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 occupiers (66.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.14	<p>Lagmore Meadows, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 138 occupiers (25.36%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (0.55%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 6 Occupiers (1.10%) had no preference either way.
3.15	<p>Riverdale Park West, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 occupiers (45.56%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 Occupiers (1.26%) had no preference either way.
3.16	<p>Credenhill Park, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 occupiers (37.01%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 9 occupiers (5.84%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 6 Occupiers (3.89%) had no preference either way.
3.17	<p>Brooke Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 124 occupiers (38.99%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.31%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 4 Occupiers (1.25%) had no preference either way.
	<p>Riverdale Park North, BT11</p>

3.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 occupiers (36.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 Occupiers (1.33%) had no preference either way.
	Ardmore Park South, BT10
3.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 occupiers (55.10%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (6.12%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
	Stewartstown Road, BT11
3.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 occupiers (21.71%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.45%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 3 Occupiers (1.35%) had no preference either way.
	Wolfhill Drive, BT14
3.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 occupiers (48.93%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (6.38%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
	Kansas Avenue, BT15
3.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 occupiers (36.12%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.64%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. • 2 Occupiers (1.29%) had no preference either way.
	<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>
3.23	<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>
3.24	<p>There is a cost of approximately £6,840 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>
3.25	<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>
3.26	

3.27	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.
4.0	Appendices
	None

1.1	To consider the application for the naming of a new street in the city.						
2.0	Recommendation						
2.1	Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of the application for naming a new street in the city. The Committee may either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant the application, or • Refuse the application and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration. 						
3.0	Main Report						
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.						
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following application for naming a new street in the city. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed name. The proposed new name is not contained in the Council's Streets Register and does not duplicate any existing approved street names in the city.						
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Proposed Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Applicant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lagmore Way</td> <td>Off Lagmore Drive, BT17 area</td> <td>Newpark Homes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Lagmore Way	Off Lagmore Drive, BT17 area	Newpark Homes
Proposed Name	Location	Applicant					
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3.4	Newpark Homes are developing the former site of Christ the Redeemer Parish Hall and lands immediately North and West of Christ the Redeemer Church, located off Lagmore Drive. The developer has proposed Lagmore Way as their first choice street name. The second choice for the new street is Lagmore Crescent. The third choice for the new street is Lagmore Lane. All three names are linked with the surrounding local area and town land 'Lagmore'. The street contains 43 residential properties.						
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.						
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct Equality implications.						
4.0	Appendices						
	None						