

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



**Belfast
City Council**

31st October 2024

HYBRID MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room and via Teams on Tuesday, 5th November, 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. **Schedule of Meetings 2025 (Pages 1 - 2)**

3. **Restricted**

- (a) GLL Quarter 1 and 2 - Contract Compliance and Performance Report (Pages 3 - 16)
- (b) Healthwise and Physical and Activity Referral Programme - Update (Pages 17 - 24)
- (c) City of Belfast Crematorium - Income Generation (deferred at October's Meeting) (Pages 25 - 40)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) People and Communities Committee Plan - Update (Pages 41 - 60)
- (b) Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024/25 - Mid-year Update (Pages 61 - 76)
- (c) Stadia Community Benefits Initiative - Six-monthly Update (Pages 77 - 88)
- (d) 2026 European City of Sport - Application Proposal (Pages 89 - 92)
- (e) Older People's Working Group - Update (Pages 93 - 102)
- (f) Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues - Update (Pages 103 - 104)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Integrated Advice Partnership Fund - Additional Funding for Debt Advice (Pages 105 - 118)
- (b) Requests for Events in Park (Pages 119 - 122)
- (c) Belfast City Council - Litter Bin Infrastructure (Pages 123 - 126)
- (d) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 127 - 130)
- (e) Request to Rename a Portion of Durham Street (Pages 131 - 138)

6. **Issue Raised in Advance**

- (a) Request to Present to Committee - Bryson Charitable Group (Chairperson to raise)
- (b) Communication Boards within Parks - Councillor Bunting to raise
- (c) Women's Safety in the City - (Chairperson to raise)



Subject:	Committee Schedule Report
Date:	5th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer
Contact Officer:	As above.

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the People and Communities Committee between January and December, 2025.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is requested to approve the 2025 schedule of meetings.
3.0	Main report
	<p>The Committee meets normally at 5.15 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. However, due to holiday periods and the timing of the monthly Council meetings and, in order to assist with the decision-making process, it has been necessary on occasions to move some of the meetings to later in the month.</p> <p>As previously agreed, special meetings of the Committee will be held to consider housing matters and to receive the Belfast City Youth Council (these dates have yet to be determined).</p> <p>Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 14th January at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 4th February at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 4th March at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 8th April at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 6th May at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 3rd June at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 5th August at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 9th September at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 7th October at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 4th November at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 2nd December at 5.15 pm <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

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

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Subject:	2024-25 People and Communities Committee Plan Six-Month Update
Date:	05 November 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance, and Improvement Manager Mark Challis, Performance, and Improvement Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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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

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	This paper provides a mid-year progress update on the key actions contained in the 2024-25 People and Communities (P&C) Committee Plan, as agreed by the Committee in May 2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the mid-year progress report against the agreed actions within the 2024-25 People and Communities Committee Plan.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will recall that the 2024-25 P&C Committee Plan was agreed at the Committee meeting on 2 nd May 2024.
3.2	At that time, it was proposed that the Committee would receive a six-month progress update report regarding the priorities. This report outlines the progress in the first six months of 2024-25, that is the start of April to end September 2024 (ie the end of Q2).
3.3	The plan was developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda and considering the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that were agreed in May.
3.4	<p>The structure of the plan is themed under the following, aligned to the Belfast Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our People and Communities • Our Place • Our Planet • Compassionate City • Improving our Services • Organisational Priorities.
3.5	The Committee Plan demonstrates that the Department is continuing to focus on the delivery of business-as-usual services while progressing the transformation and improvement agenda in the CNS Departmental key priority areas (Open Spaces & Streetscene; Community Provision; City Services; and Resources & Fleet).
3.6	The Committee has received specific reports on a number of these priorities, and while it is likely that some of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver, the update table in Appendix 1 provides detail and commentary on the progress of all the actions.
3.7	40 actions were identified across the Department's three Directorates. Of these, 27 are currently on track (marked 'green'), 8 are considered at risk and change is required (marked 'amber'), and a further 5 actions are considered behind, requires intervention, and are marked 'red' in the attached table.
3.8	The Department intends to bring a further report to provide an end of year update to the 2024-25 Committee Plan to a subsequent P&C Committee meeting.

3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 9th February 2024, for 2024-25 for the People and Communities Committee, of £105,332,936.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies and plans will be subject to the council's equality, good relations, and rural needs requirements.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – People & Communities Committee 2024-25 six-month update on key priorities.

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People & Communities

Committee Plan 2024- 2025

Six Month Update



Belfast
City Council

Introduction

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

Its specific functions include:

- Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety and wellbeing at a local level
- Developing and delivering programmes, events and activities to promote health, safety and well being at a local level.
- Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.
- Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.
- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including:
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Cleansing
 - Waste Management
 - Parks and Leisure Service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle)
 - Neighbourhood and Development Services
 - Community Services,
 - Community Safety
 - Emergency Planning
 - Building Control

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Ruth Brooks (Chairman)
Party: DUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett (Deputy Chair)
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Collin



Councillor David Bell
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Christina Black
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Christine Bower
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting
Party: DUP
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Fred Cobain
Party: DUP
Ward: Castle



Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Deputy Chair)
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Paul Doherty
Party: SDLP
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Nicola Verner
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn
Party: Green Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown
Party: SDLP
Ward: Botanic



Councillor Ian McLaughlin
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Hedley Abernethy
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Conor Maskey
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Castle

Our People and Communities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Build capacity within our communities.

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
1.Implement the recommendations of the review of the Belfast City Council Funded advice services	Ongoing	On Track	In Quarter 2, growth proposals are being developed to increase the revenue funding for Advice Services Belfast City Council. An implementation plan has been developed to take forward the recommendations.
2.Develop and implement a Community Support Plan which outlines Council's agreed approach to Community support and Neighbourhood Integration and Community Planning Priorities	April 25	On Track	Review commenced in Quarter 1 for development of the Community Support Plan. Significant engagement took place through a series of workshops. Decision on next steps and resources to be agreed by CMT.

Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
3.Delivery and administration of DFC social supermarkets fund to deliver food/ wrap around support in areas of need.	June 2025	On Track	Letter of offer received from the Department for Communities – an increase in allocation received in July 2024. 21 projects were awarded in total £785k, all funding agreements have been issued and quarterly networking meetings in place.

Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.

Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
4.Development of the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and action plan	November 2024	At risk/change required	The final Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy has been drafted and consultation has been completed. Further work required from consultation findings, as a result the timescale to complete this has now moved to March 2025. Officers currently developing action plans.
5.Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan	March 2025	On Track	Work is currently ongoing to be able to deliver the action plan by March 2025. The next progress report to People and Communities Committee is due to in November 2024.
6.Development of Belfast Pitches Strategy and action plan	December 2024	On Track	Draft Belfast Pitches Strategy presented to relevant Directors. Internal review meeting to be agreed to progress to committee. Consultation timeline to be considered and reflected accurately in timeline for delivery of action.
7.Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	April 2025	On Track	At the end of Quarter 1, 2024/25 there have been a total of 2,263 participants involved in the programmes delivered by the IFA and Gaelfast. Quarter 2 figures will be available at the end of October.
8.Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	On Track	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-monthly contract compliance and performance report, covering Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2023/24, was presented to the People and Communities Committee in May 2024. The next six-monthly report, covering Quarter and Quarter 2 2024/25, will be present to committee in November 2024.
Senior responsible officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
9.Scope a review of all Council managed allotment facilities and report back to People and Communities committee	March 2025	On Track	The Performance and Improvement team are supporting this work, and the scoping of work is on tract to be completed by March 2025.

10.Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and undertake a review of selection criteria for the capital programme. (Implement the programme of development of playgrounds across the city to further improve accessibility).	Ongoing	On Track	PIP 2023/24 now complete. New play value and accessibility audit adopted by Council Sept 2024. Sites selected under 24/25 are Grampian Avenue, Michelle Baird & Belfour Avenue playgrounds, design work and equipment ordering under way.
Community Safety			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
11.Review of anti-social behaviour in Parks	March 2025	At risk/change required	A specification will be developed in Quarter 2 for corporate support to undertake a review of Park Wardens. This is in development and some progress has been made, an outline business case to be presented to and reviewed by director. The RAG status of this action to be reviewed.

Our Place

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Heritage Tourism			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
12.To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and	April 2025	On Track	Expression of interest for an operator issued with closing date 11 th October. Pre-market engagement and tender to be completed. Target of April 2025 to have an operator in place.

city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall			
Off-street Car Parking			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
13.Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city	January 2026	On Track	Engagement ongoing with DfI and BCC Legal Services on progressing OSP Order. Consultation is required on the new Off Street Parking Order which will depend on DfI removing their order via NI assembly.
Open Spaces			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
14.Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space	Ongoing	On Track	Continuing to work in partnership with planning on Section 76 applications for council maintained open spaces
Reservoir Improvement Programme			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
15.Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	At risk/change required	The Reservoir Act 2015 resulted in new statutory duties for the Council regarding inspections/maintenance of five reservoirs. Resourcing pressures remain however finance is in place for consultancy support. Work is still ongoing via Property and Projects to procure consultants to undertake required monthly inspections in addition to their annual and ten-year inspection cycle.

Our Planet

Progress Status

R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Transition to low carbon

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
16.Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members	June 2026	On Track	The 2024 Update and Screening Assessment Report has been presented to P&C Committee and is due to be sent for assessment by DAERA's Technical Assessors

Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
17.Agree council approach to funding for a fleet replacement strategy.	Ongoing	Behind/requires intervention	Will be part of outcome of thematic session – to be raised at WPB. Will form part of a medium-term financial plan. Needs further investment of £3.3m.
18.Explore opportunities to fund the conversion of the fleet to alternative non fossil fuels (electric) in conjunction with the Director of Finance.	Ongoing	Behind/requires intervention	Challenges around infrastructure further provision of electrical charging at Duncrue to be considered as part of the medium-term financial plan.
19.Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland	March 2025	On Track	Work on 3 of the 4 key projects (Neighbourhood Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilot) successfully complete pending submission of close out reports. Funding for further wetlands/grass restoration project agreed in June 2024

pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery			
20.Implement and deliver on the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan	October 2033	On Track	Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tree establishment plan for tree planting opportunities (soft and hard landscapes) has been agreed at P&C in June 2024 and due to full Council in July 2024. - In June 2024, we were awarded Tree Cities of the world status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold his status. - We have changed our health and condition tree inspection cycle from once seven years to three years this will improve the health and safety of our trees.
21.Undertake a review of the Belfast Tree Strategy after year 1 (Oct 2024) and then every 3 years after	October 2024	On Track	The review is scheduled to take place in October 2024 by the consultants Treeconomics, who supported Belfast Council to develop the Tree Strategy
Promote sustainable circular economy approaches. Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
22.Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	March 2027	On Track	Council has approved funding for year 1, DEARA has approved capital funding for 50% with aim to go live in Quarter 4
23.Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	March 2025	On Track	Ongoing
24.Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	February 2025	At risk/change required	Proposal to be presented to SDMT and next step to CMT.

25.Consider findings of the report on Paint Re-use scheme and seek approval for full implementation.	December 2024	On Track	Procurement exercise to appoint partner will be carried out in Quarter 2 with an expected go live date for Quarter 3
26.Review of litter bin provision across the City including learning from trial city centre recycling project.	October 2024	On Track	Condition survey for litter bins is currently ongoing. It is planned to take a committee report to P&C and SP&R in the autumn to outline the findings of the survey and recommendations for litter bin provision across for the City.
Climate Resilience			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
27.Scope and develop a Local Biodiversity Action Plan	March 2025	Behind/requires intervention	Funding proposal put forward to Climate Programme Board was unsuccessful. Progression in 24/25 remains subject to additional resources being secured. Funding for an additional biodiversity officer agreed which will help support this work. Timeframe changed from March 2025 to March 2026, due to pending recruitment process for an additional officer.

Compassionate City

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Belfast Youth Council			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update

28.Facilitate, an active and engaged Belfast City Youth Council who work with relevant fora and elected members to ensure that the needs of children and young people are reflected within the Belfast agenda and council priorities.	Ongoing	On Track	Work is ongoing. A residential took place over the summer. Key roles have been nominated and agreed. Meetings happen on a biweekly basis, and partnership work with QUB- Radical rights-based project continues
Good Relations Action Plan			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
29.Delivery of the Good Relations action plan to promote good relations to persons of different religious belief and political opinions or racial group and promote cultural diversity and positive cultural expression for all cultural identities.	Ongoing	On Track	Letter of offer received from Executive Office in Quarter 2 for delivery of the Good Relations action plan 24/25. Plans have been presented to Shared City Partnership and in full delivery mode
Community Safety			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
30.Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	On Track	Projects pertaining to the annual PCSP action plan are being delivered. Annual action plan will be reviewed for April 2025 with DOJ Policing Board.
31.Facilitation of the multi-agency 5 (D) PCSP meeting to support decision making and discussion on the People and Community Safety Action plan and Policing plan.	Ongoing	On Track	Meetings are scheduled monthly across the five partnerships – reactive meetings held as required. Through Quarter 2 there have been across city events engaging local residents and communities.

Improving Our Services

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Bereavement Services

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
32.Undertake a review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	March 2025	Behind/requires intervention	Review remains on-going, timelines have been impacted by the structural requirements for the Administrative and Cemetery Operations functions, CI are working with Legal and CHR to progress. Key workstreams identified within the business plan are unable to progress until the review is complete, e.g. Memorial safety programme.

Port Health

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
33.Undertake a service review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	TBC	At risk/change needed	Baselining exercise has started to look at service review. Challenges remain as this work is heavily dependent on the direction from UK Government and in particular a long-term sustainable funding model.

Houses in Multiple Occupancy

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
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34.Undertake a service review of HMO services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	June 2024	Behind/requires intervention	The service review of HMO services in ongoing, further work is required by CHR and CI to complete the review and implement the agreed changes. As a result, the timeline has been agreed to change to June 2025.
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Organisational Priorities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Bereavement Services

Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
35.CNS to work with Physical Programs and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.	TBC	At risk/change required	Further updates brought to the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group in January and February 2024. Shortlisted to three sites as part of the EOI process. Further support is required from Property and Projects to progress. Consideration being given to establishing a project board for this objective to track progress, register risks and ensure effective governance.
36.CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building	January 2026	At risk/change required	Lead by Property and Projects via the Capital Program the new Crematorium tender period closed at end of May 24. Work ongoing on review of OBC and FBC with updates to Members due

Port Health


Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services


Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
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37. Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2025	At risk/change required	Conversations remain active between key partners and stakeholders in advocating for and promoting the development of a long-term funding model. Again, this is influenced and shaped by UK Government direction and discussions with EU.
Digital Development			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
38. Replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core areas of City & Neighbourhood Services.	August 2025	On Track	The C&NS Case Management Replacement Project are reviewing their timeline at present due to the unprecedented amount of new legislation across the regulatory services and the impact it is having on the Project Team resources
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
39. Development and implementation of the in-cab technology to enhance operational performance and efficiency	August 2025	On Track	Tender issued in July and submissions being evaluated.
Asset Management			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
40. Develop a container policy for parks.	March 2025	On Track	Performance and Improvement team support is in place, scoping has commenced and draft policy development underway.

Contact us:

City and Neighbourhood Services
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 mid-year update
Date:	5 November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann, Lead Officer Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period April 2024 – September 2024 (quarters 1 and 2).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked: to note the progress to date of the strategy annual work plan for the current year 2024/25.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council agreed, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) for delivery of an agreed annual action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.</p>
3.2	<p>IABA asked Council to consider extending the strategy and related level of funding support. Following submission of an agreed action plan relating to 2024/25 financial year, the March 2024 People and Communities committee agreed to extend the strategy and funding to the end of March 2025, pending completion of Council's Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy.</p>
3.2	<p>The IABA provided Council with a detailed breakdown of programmes to be delivered under six main areas. Salary – Development Officer and Coaches, Pathways, Events, Coach Education, Club Support and Governance.</p>
3.3	<p>Following this decision, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has met quarterly with the next meeting taking place via MS Team on Thursday 7th November. The Steering Group is chaired by the Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers, IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials attending. Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan and the programme is on schedule to deliver all KPIs within budget.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>The Leisure Development Unit works directly with IABA officials to verify reporting on performance, vouching actual spend and provides detailed reports for discussion at the Steering Group.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Performance</u></p>

	<p>Council agreed a total of 38 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. IABA have complied with reporting requirements and their performance report for 24/25 Quarters 1 and 2 is at Appendix 1. IABA have provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and have advised that they anticipate that all KPIs will be achieved by the end of 24/25.</p>
3.6	<p><u>24/25 Action Plan</u></p> <p>The IABA have an extensive programme planned for Q3 and Q4, highlights below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Box Cup. 26th - 28th October at Girdwood Community Hub. Sold out 400 spots which will require 3 rings. Competitors from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Italy. • Harry Cunningham Boxing cup. Competitors from Cyprus, Italy and Greece taking part. • Female Development squad. Planned for 40- 50 females, including female coaches. • Fundamentals coaching course. In the City of Belfast Boxing Club in East Belfast. • Antrim 6s. In December, will attract between 300-350 boxers. • Inter County with Galway planned for November. • Try- it day. In Girdwood on 22nd October with 4 schools coming in to participate.
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A total of £200,000 is available within the current financial year to support the current Action Plan. It is likely that the full budget will be expended.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Members agreed that an equality screening be undertaken prior to a decision being made in relation to funding for 19/20. Officers finalised this screening and the findings show that progress has been made in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups and this has been reported separately through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The IABA continue to target underrepresented groups in its delivery of the 24/25 programme with particular focus on the events, club-based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<p>Appendix 1: IABA 2024-2025 Performance Report to end of Quarters 1 and 2.</p> <p>Appendix 2: IABA 2024-2025 Agreed action plan and budget.</p>

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Boxing Strategy KPI Report 24-25 Year to date Total				
To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast				
KPI	Description	Female	Male	Total
1.1	Run 3 talent squads in Belfast (2 Male 1 Female)	46	0	46
1.2	To Run competitive opportunities for Belfast talent squads (2/3)	0	0	0
1.3	Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership	0	0	0
1.5	Number of boxers obtaining support for sport funding or outside funding	0	0	0
2.1	To run 1 volunteer education event with 32 clubs represented and 40 participants (number of participants)	0	0	0
2.2	To run 1 Volunteer recognition event with a minimum of 30 participants from clubs present	0	0	0
3.1	To run 1 Scoring/Event Official Course per year with 10 newly trained officials	4	13	17
3.2	To run 1 Referee and Judging Course per year with 20 newly trained officials	0	0	0
3.3	Delivery of a minimum of 2 Committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance	6	18	24
To recruit, train and sustain active coaches within Belfast				
4.1	5 coaches receive talent coach training and mentoring	0	0	0
4.2	20 new grassroots coaches trained	9	29	38
4.3	50 new people accessing online resources	28	14	42
4.4	Increase the number of female coaches	9		9
4.5	To work with mental health training providers to design a toolkit for every club and to deliver training and webinars. To encourage clubs to appoint a Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion. 10 Clubs to be involved (number of clubs involved)			0
4.6	5 clubs trained on inclusive boxing module			44
To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast				
5.1	160 participants at come and try it event	77	98	175
5.2	1600 pupils taking part in non contact boxing sessions	389	473	862
5.3	160 participants at Belfast Day of Boxing	0	0	0
5.4.1	2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant			0
5.4.2	4 clubs obtaining equipment grants			0
5.4.3	27 clubs obtaining membership development grants			13
5.5	50 new members in Belfast clubs	14	87	101
5.6	15 clubs receiving for support for sport grants			3
5.7	180 participants in holiday camps	61	199	260
To promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast clubs				
6.1.1	2 clubs to attain clubmark accreditation			6
6.1.2	8 clubs to attain reaccreditation			6
6.2	180 participants in good relations programme	61	199	260
Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast				
7.1	Deliver 8 local events			3
7.2	Deliver 2 international events			1
7.3	150 male competitors		0	0
7.4	50 female competitors	0		0
7.5	50 visiting competitors	0	0	0
7.6	150 Belfast competitors	0	0	0
7.7	5 visiting officials	0	0	0
7.8	15 Belfast officials	0	0	0
		704	1130	1834

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Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC CHALLENGES, AIMS AND KPIS

Strategic Challenge	Pathways	Coach Education	Club Development and Grassroots	Governance
Strategic Aims	1.0 To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast. 2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast 3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast. 7.0 Events Schedule and Numbers.	4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast	5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast	6.0 To promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast boxing clubs.
KPI'S	1.1 - Run talent squads in Belfast (1 male, 1 female) 1.2 - To run competitive opportunities for Belfast Talent Squads 1.3 - Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership 1.4 - Promote individual talent boxer grants, and promote the BCC 'Support for Sport' funding opportunities 2.1 - To run volunteer education event for clubs, aiming for 40 participants (could include recognition of volunteers) 3.1 - To run 1 scoring/event official course per year with 10 newly trained officials 3.2 - To run 1 referee and judging course per year with 20 newly trained officials 3.3 - Delivery of minimum of 2 committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance 7.1 - 6 Local Events per year 7.2 - 2 International Events per year 7.3 - 200 male competitors 7.4 - 80 Female competitors 7.5 - 50 visiting competitors 7.6 - 200 Belfast competitors 7.7 - 10 visiting officials 7.8 - 15 Belfast officials	4.1 -5 coaches to receive talented coach bespoke training and mentoring. 4.2 -20 new coaches to be trained each year. 4.3 - 50 people accessing online coaching area to be updated on a regular basis. 4.4 - Increase the number of female coaches across the city 4.5 - All clubs to receive personalized toolkit with clubs to be trained up and appoint a mental health champion – 15 clubs to be involved 4.6- 15 participants to receive disability/inclusive awareness training	5.1 - 200 participants at come and try it event/day of boxing events 5.2- 2000 pupils to take part in non-contact boxing 5.4.1 – 2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant. 5.4.2 - 30 clubs obtaining membership growth/ equipment/ individual athlete grants. 5.5 - 50 new members to boxing within Belfast. 5.6 – 6 clubs receiving for support for sport grants 5.7 – 200 participants in holiday camps	6.1 – 5 clubs per season attaining IABA Governance Framework Workshop. 6.2 – Delivery of good relations programme to 100 participants within the holiday camps
Budgets	£19,000- Pathways & £42,000- Events	£11,500	£21,000	£1,000
Salaries				£105,500
Total				£200,000

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 1: PATHWAYS- FROM GRASSROOTS- TALENT-ELITE (BOXERS, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS)

1.0 Aim				
1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.				
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
<p>1.1 To provide talent squads within Belfast at a range of age groups, linking into the IABA performance pathway and talent ID Testing.</p>	<p>To run talent ID Testing to select boxers for the following talent squads.</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)</p> <p>Also, to link in with UHP camps in which Belfast Boxers will be part of also.</p>	<p>IABA Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will train all talented coaches taking the talent squad training sessions in the assessment and talent ID process.</p> <p>All Squads will also be tested in line with similar tests carried out for senior elite athletes within the Ulster High Performance System, this way exposing young boxers to HP System and fitness and training tests from a younger age.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – Assistant High-Performance Coach</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches for testing process and venue hire. Costs related to Talent camps coaching, accommodation/ Travel.</p>
<p>1.2 To run competitive opportunities for Belfast Talent Squads.</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2& 3 (11-14)</p>	<p>To run competitions/competitive opportunities for the young boxers to display their talent and to demonstrate their progression since being on the talent squad programme. These will be inter county match ups against other County's which we expect 5-10 Belfast Boxers Per event.</p>	<p>The IABA High Performance will support the training programmes for talent squads. As part of this the Assistant HP Coach will look to mentor the coaches to ensure consistency is being delivered from training to competitions.</p> <p>The CAB representatives will arrange a county competition within a Belfast venue and will provide referee/judges and table officials.</p> <p>All Squads will also be brought up to the High-Performance Unit in UUJ to take part in a session with the High-Performance Coach.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x Open Class boys 6+ Bouts)</p> <p>Girl 1,2& 3 (11-14)</p>	<p>CAB Volunteer time to organise, run and administer the county competition/competitive opp's.</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for Venue Hire, officials' fees, and purchase of medals for participants- approximately.</p>

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

1.0 Aim	1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent. - continued			
Action	KPI	Action	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
1.3 Gym Membership for Elite Performers	Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining free membership per year. 3 per year	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group. GLL Foundation scheme. The steering group will be responsible for distributing and communicating widely the scheme and its criteria. IABA staff can help boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote Free Gym membership through GLL Scheme to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast. - No cost aside from staff time
1.4 Promote individual talent boxers' grants and promote the BCC 'Support for Sport' funding opportunities	6 Boxers successful in obtaining grant aid per year. (Mary Peters trust, GLL foundation, HP Athlete Support Scheme).	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group. IABA Performance Pathways committee will be responsible to distribute and communicate widely the scheme and its criteria to all boxers within the HP Unit. IABA staff can help assist boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote grant aid schemes to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast No cost aside from staff time

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

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2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
<p>2.1 To run volunteer education opportunities and events for clubs. The training will be IABA led to recognise and aware the volunteers.</p>	<p>1 event to be delivered per year- targeting 40 participants from the 32 clubs across the city delivered by March 2025.</p>	<p>IABA to provide expertise of Club Development Officer within Ulster, Operations Manager and IABA Health and Safety Officer and Child Protection Officer to deliver a volunteer education and training event within Belfast.</p> <p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the organisation each year.</p> <p>Topics and workshops to be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety of club facilities • Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop • New IABA Policies and procedures • Good Relations Training and update • Fundraising, Grant aid and sponsorship • Affiliation procedures • Volunteer committee roles and responsibilities. • Committee Skills • Examples and workshops providing examples of best practice <p>Community outreach programmes such as: boxing for fitness, mental health and well-being programmes, rehabilitation programmes for offenders.</p>	<p>All 32 Belfast based clubs' representatives to attend.</p> <p>New Clubs under development.</p> <p>Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – Club Dev, Operations Manager, H&S Officer and CP Officer and Workforce Officer</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds could be used for this if based in Belfast, however this could possibly be funded from other sources outside of Belfast. But we would like flexibility to host in BCC and to help cover BCC club costs if required.</p> <p>Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.</p>

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

		BCC- to provide Girdwood Venue through GLL. If this is not possible, we would seek to hire a Belfast Hotel venue		
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3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
3.1 Officials to receive training in line with world standards and systems.	To run 1 scoring/event official course per year- 10 newlytrained officials per year. 10% will be females.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year. CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also	New aspiring referees/judges aged 18+ Current Clubs without referee/judges New Clubs under development	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs. Possibility of running event for the assessment of new officials and for new computerised scoring system
3.2 To deliver grassroots refereeing, judging qualifications and table officials	Delivery of 1 referee & judging course- 20 new referees by 31 st March each year. 10% will be females.	Identify clubs who may not have qualified referees and judges within their clubs.	Clubs looking to run club events and tournaments will need to have appropriately trained referees and judges.	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality and tutor costs. CAB will support and promote training opportunities.
3.3 To deliver committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance.	Delivery of 2 committee courses/training throughout the year to improve club governance.	UBC will also provide Referee Tutors to run the Level 1 and Level 2 referee and judging qualifications	Link in some of the aspects of the club governance framework to help clubs improve their best practice.	Committee training opportunities to be provided through IABA Workforce and Club Development, costs to be covered by Belfast City Council funding.

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

7.0 Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast				
Aim				
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
7.1 – Local Events per year 7.2 – International Events per year 7.3 – male competitors 7.4 – Female competitors 7.5 – visiting competitors 7.6 – Belfast competitors 7.7 – visiting officials 7.8 – Belfast officials	To deliver the number of events, competitors, and official opportunities in the events plan. 6 Local Events per year 2 International Events per year 200 male competitors 80 Female competitors 50 visiting competitors 200 Belfast competitors 10 visiting officials 15 Belfast officials	Through the CAB and Boxing Development Officer liaising together venues across the city will be used to host events & competitive opportunities for both boxers and officials across the city as well as inviting in a range of competition from across the County, Province, Continent	All Belfast Based clubs, boxers, and officials.	BCC funds will be used to host the events and consume the costs agreed in the events plan.

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STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 2: COACH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.				
Aim	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
4.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led Coach education programme for talented coaches within Belfast	To work with 5 coaches per year delivering a bespoke education programme by 31 st March each year	IABA to provide expertise of Assistant HPC within Ulster and the performance pathways committee to help identify talented coaches within Belfast to take part in the programme. IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year.	Identified Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches, actively coaching in Belfast, identified by the Ulster HP Coach as potentially talented coaches with ability to progress to national and international coaching.	IABA Staff time and committee members time -HP Coach Ulster, performance pathways committee and Workforce Officer Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
4.2 To Support the delivery of grassroots boxing qualifications- i.e. Fundamentals or Level 1 IABA Qualification.	20 new coaches by 31 st March each year.10% will be female.	IABA Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the programme each year CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may be either under or over capacity regards coaching-members ratios. CAB will also provide Coaching Tutors to run the Level 1 qualifications.	New aspiring coaches aged 18 + Current Clubs who's carrying capacity is exceeding their number of qualified coaches. Clubs looking to set up new sections to their clubs, e.g. female section, over 50's health and well-being etc.	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
4.3 To update online Coaching / volunteer resources and inform clubs of updates.	Area to be updated on a regular basis with up to 50 new participants accessing the online resources area per year target by 31 st March 2025.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will liaise with the other development officers, HP coaches and CAB to provide a range of online learning opportunities to clubs / volunteers.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	This has now been launched and we will continue to update the online learning areas & social media pages with constant updates and learning ops.
4.4 To increase the number of female coaches in Belfast	To ensure that all coaching courses that are ran throughout the city have female representation. 10% of courses will aim to have new female coaches	IABA will utilise the strategy to help increase the number of female coaches in Belfast. Our Workforce Development Officer will work closely with the Belfast Development officer on assuring designated spots on course for females.	Parents of female boxers, female boxers themselves, youth and school groups, Women's groups etc.- all in a bid to actively target females to become coaches.	BCC Funds and IABA Funds- no additional funds required.

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4.5 To work alongside mental health providers to generate a boxing specific tool kit and train clubs up in mental health and wellbeing awareness	We will work with TAMHI and other providers to design a toolkit for every club and run training and webinars with each club where we will encourage clubs to appoint a mental health champion. 15 clubs involved.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will organise with each club the training / webinar sessions that will be delivered by professionals to each individual club.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	Belfast City Council Funds requested for design of toolkit and to bring in providers to deliver training and workshops with clubs.
4.6 Disability and inclusivity awareness training to be provided to clubs.	To have 15 participants from our clubs attend inclusive training module. This is to help put disability and inclusive physical activity into all our clubs.	IABA will provide the Workforce Development officer who will work with the Boxing Development Officer to set a date for training and to engage with clubs. Now incorporated within the IABA Fundamentals coaching course in partnership with CARA.	Coaches, Committee, Parents and Boxers.	Belfast City Council Funds Requested for room hire, refreshments and tutor costs.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 3: Club Support and Grassroots Development

5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast				
Aim	KPI's	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
5.1 To hold come and try it events in collaboration with BCC sports development initiatives	200 pupils. 15% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA to organise and arrange schools come and try it events in conjunction with CAB. 2 Community Based coaches to run the event. IABA Development Officer to arrange. BCC to fund and promote event as BCC Event, BCC Media and PR Team to help get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	2X Community Based Boxing Coach-salary cost Venue Hire, additional coaches to deal with capacity and marketing and advertising info and hire o ring etc if necessary
5.2 Continue to run non-contact boxing sessions in schools	2000 15% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Development officer to organise and arrange non-contact sessions within schools. 2 Community Based coaches to run sessions. BCC to fund and promote schools' sessions. BCC Media and PR Team to help do a media launch for schools' sessions and get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	2X Community Based Boxing Coach- £23,000(salaries) Equipment to be purchased for new coach to conduct the duties of the role.

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<p>5.4.1 – New clubs grants 5.4.2 – Equipment grants / individual athlete grants/Membership Development Grants</p>	<p>To have 2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant</p> <p>Monitor the growth of membership across Belfast – providing all with equipment, individual and club membership growth grants (30)</p>	<p>BCC to provide grant aid for seeding grants and equipment grants through the sports development team if possible.</p> <p>The Steering Group committee could help to administer and manage the process if the sports development team cannot administer this process. The levels of funding are minimal with only 2 seeding grants available per year and 4 equipment grants. (should there be new clubs).</p> <p style="color: red;">Where we have no new clubs, we could look at giving individual athlete awards to specified talent. This could also be utilized where all membership growth grants are not expended.</p> <p>The committee can devise the application process and scheme if required.</p>	<p>New Boxing Clubs within Belfast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding Grants for newly developed clubs or junior sections of senior clubs. Equipment Grants for clubs who can demonstrate the need for equipment for new clubs or existing clubs who have grown or need replacement equipment. Or Membership Development Grants <p>All at a cost of £500 per club to run come and try it event/holiday camps in a bid to increase membership of their clubs.</p> <p>Up to 32 clubs a year x £500. = £16,000 approx.</p>
<p>Aim</p>	<p>5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast - CONTINUED</p>			
<p>Action</p>	<p>KPI's</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Target Audience</p>	<p>Resource/Budget/eligible cost</p>
<p>5.5 New members</p>	<p>50 new members within clubs. 10% will be females</p>	<p>To feed new members thorough the school's programme and membership growth programmes into the club environment. Link directly in with the clubs.</p>	<p>Targeting underrepresented groups within the sport</p>	<p><i>Using initiatives listed above.</i></p>
<p>5.6 Promote the Belfast City Council Community Support Funding</p>	<p>Encourage 6 clubs to apply per year</p>	<p>IABA Staff to work with clubs to work up applications for Support for sport schemes.</p>	<p>32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast</p>	<p>N/a No programme costs, only staff time.</p>
<p>5.7 Boxing Holiday Camps</p>	<p>200 participants per year. 15% will be from under-represented areas of the sport</p>	<p>IABA Staff to arrange and organise Easter and Summer Holiday Camps for Boxing. CAB to provide coaches to aid Community Coaches.</p> <p>To run a number of holiday/ membership growth programmes during holiday periods (Summer, Halloween or mid-term) Total of 200 participants with a specific emphasis on female inclusion.</p>	<p>32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast, target local schools also.</p>	<p><i>2X Community Based Boxing Coach- salary</i> Programme Costs- Venue Hire, Coaching Wages for additional coaches, marketing materials to facilitate bookings onto camps.</p>

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 Plan

		IABA will administer the booking process.		
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STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 4: GOVERNANCE

Aim	6.0 To promote, improve, and sustain good governance standards within Belfast Clubs			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
6.1 To work with Belfast based clubs to achieve the IABA Good Governance Framework	5 clubs to attend workshops or 1 to 1s with the IABA Club development officer.	IABA Development Officer to work with clubs to achieve this and will work 1 to 1 with clubs to put governance framework and structures in place in order to be more attractive to funders.	All Belfast based clubs	IABA Club Development Officer Staff Time BCC Funds club attendance fee, workshop costs to include venue hire, refreshments.
6.2 – To deliver a good relations programme within Belfast	To deliver a good relations programme to our clubs. 10% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Operations Manager to build in Good Relations training into the holiday camps with 100 participants. This will link in directly with our holiday membership growth programmes and we will run individual club good relations training with our clubs at least once per year. Designing a bespoke scaled down training programme from what is currently delivered to IABA Members	All Belfast based clubs	IABA Staff Tie- Operations Manager over oversees Good Relations and Equality issues and programmes. IABA Good Relations bespoke Training Course designed for boxing in Ulster. Costs- tutor, venue hire and hospitality and any administration costs



Subject:	Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2024-2025 mid-year update
Date:	5 November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan. Operational Director, City and 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: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative (SCBI) for 2024/2025 quarters 1 and 2 .
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That members of the Committee are asked to note progress to date.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.
3.2	The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.
3.3	In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in Gaelic Games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities became fully incorporated into the action plan at the start of financial year 2019-2020, with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at the Delivery Board and the Policy and Performance Group.
3.4	The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary.
3.5	The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA

	<p>have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of coaching sessions provided b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching c. Number of sessions improving club governance d. Number of volunteering opportunities e. Participation opportunities for under 16s f. Female participation rates g. Number of people completing skills development programme i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups k. Community group usage of stadia l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark m. Educational opportunities o. Number of programmes targeting ASB q. Improved collaborative working r. Number of disabled participants s. Number of older people participating
3.6	The policy and performance group held their meeting on Thursday 8 th August to review performance for 2024/25 and to be updated in terms of the programme for 2024/25.
3.7	Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, workplans are developed each year. The Action Plan for 2024-2025 has been produced by the partners and includes a mixture of sports specific programmes with both National Governing Bodies and collaborative initiatives delivered jointly by both the sporting organisations.
3.8	<p><u>Performance</u></p> <p>The programmes and performance indicators for 2024/2025 were agreed by the Policy and Performance Group. Delivery during quarters 1 and 2 proceeded as planned and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendices 1 and 2.</p>
3.9	Collaborative work is delivered through a joint work programme. The next highlight in this programme is a conference to be held in Black Mount Shared Space Centre on Sunday 24 th November, with a theme of Coaching Through Games. The conference will focusing on Physical Literacy & Skill Development through Games, theoretical and practical sessions will involve and empower coaches, activity leaders, teachers and parents to involve and empower using small sided games techniques.

3.10	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.</p> <p>The budgeted expenditure for 2024/2025 has been approved by the Policy and Performance Group and programme delivery is on course for full spend.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IFA Performance Report Q1&2 2024/2025 (appendix 1) 2. IFA Q3&4 plan 2024/2025 (appendix 2) 3. GAA Performance Report Q1&2 2024/2025 (appendix 3) 4. GAA Q3&4 plan 2024/2025 (appendix 4)

SCBI Performance Report_IFA_		Q2		
ACTUAL Q4 2024 - 25				
Intermediate Benefits	Q1	Q2	Highlights (key contributors)	YTD TOTAL
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	48	40	Club Mentoring - Women's Clubs/Sections. 8 weeks of mentoring. 5 coaches. Glentoran, Albert Foundry, Donegal Celtic	88
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	6	5	6 - Mentoring Programme 5 - Mentoring Programme	11
c. Number of sessions improving club governance	3	4	4 Safeguarding Courses: 1 x Rosario 1 x Aquinas 1 x Dungoyne 1 x DSCO Course	7
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	0			0
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	0	400	150 @ U19 Euros Final Fanzone - July 250 @Senior Men V Luxembourg - Sept	400
f. Female participation rates	22	75	20 @ U19 Euros Final Fanzone - July 50 @Senior Men V Luxembourg Fanzone - Sept 3 @ DSCO Course 2 - Mentoring Programme	97
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	6	5	5 - Mentoring Programme	11
i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	0			0
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	0			0
k. Community group usage of stadia	3	4	<u>2 Safeguarding Courses:</u> 1 x Aquinas 1 x Dungoyne <u>2 Fanzones:</u> 1 x Senior Men V Luxembourg U19 Euros Final	7
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0			0
m. Educational opportunities	51	44	4 Safeguarding Sessions 40 x Mentoring Sessions	95
o. Number of programmes targeting ASB	0			0
q. Improved collaborative working	16	26	Safeguarding x 1 - IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Safeguarding x 2 - IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Safeguarding x 3 - IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Safeguarding x 4 - IFA, BCC, Leagues, Clubs (4) Fan Zone 1 - IFA, BCC, Vendors (3) Fan Zone 2 - IFA, BCC, Vendors (3) Mentoring - Clubs, IFA, BCC, Leagues (4)	42
r. Number of disabled participants	0			0
s. Number of older people participating	0	80	30 @ U19 Euros Final Fanzone - July 50 @Senior Men V Luxembourg Fanzone - Sept	80
			Total	838

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Intermediate Benefits	Q1 Total	Q2 TOTAL	Q2 Highlights (key contributors)	YTD TOTAL
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	83	201	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps, ICGG	284
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	206	132	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps	338
c. Number of sessions improving club governance	4	6	ICGG	10
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	30	130	Inclusive Camp, summer camps	160
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	742	657	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps	1399
f. Female participation rates	51	308	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps, ICGG	359
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	688	651	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps, ICGG	1339
i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	7	120	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps	127
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	8	20	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps	28
k. Community group usage of stadia				
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark				
m. Educational opportunities	48	74	ICGG, Inclusive camps, Summer camps	122
o. Number of programmes targeting ASB		20	summer camps, Inclusive Camps	20
q. Improved collaborative working	80	57	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps, ICGG	137
r. Number of disabled participants	20	212	Inclusive Summer Camps, Summer Camps, ICGG	232
s. Number of older people participating	14	15	summer camps, ICGG	29

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GAA quarter 3 and 4 plan.

Coach Education

Award1 Child Football Coaching Award (Oct - Nov)

Award 1 Child Hurling Coaching Award (Oct - Nov)

Award 2 Football Coaching Award Feb - March 2025

Award 2 Hurling Coaching Award Oct - November

Referees Seminar November 30th November

Referees Young Whistler Courses Oct - November

Club School Link Sept - Nov, Jan to March (10 schools, 10 clubs)

Handball programmes in primary & post primary schools ongoing

Go Games Oct - Nov, Feb - March: U12 - U10 (Numerous venues in Belfast)

Winter Games Jan - March - U7 - U9 (Numerous venues in Belfast)

Super Games every wednesday sept - 1st week dec & every wed Jan - March - Numerous venues in Belfast and codes, see below

Year 8 Hurling

Wed 18th Sept, Mon 14th Oct, Wed 13th Nov, Mon 27th Jan (Knockout), Wed 5h March (Finals)

Year 9 Camogie

Mon 23rd Sept, Wed 16th Oct, Wed 20th Nov, Mon 3rd Feb (Knockout), Wed 12th March (Finals)

Year 9 LGFA

Mon 7th Oct, Wed 6th Nov, Wed 22nd Jan (Knockout), Wed 26st Feb (Finals)

Year 10 Football

Wed 25th Sept, Mon 9th Dec, Mon 24th Mar, Wed 9th April (Knockout), Wed 16th April (Finals)

Year 10 Hurling

Mon 25th November, Wed 15th January, Mon 20th January (Knockout), Fri 31st January (Finals)

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Subject:	2026 European City of Sport application proposal
Date:	Tuesday 5 th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To members with a proposal that Belfast City Council should submit an application nominating Belfast to be designated European City of Sport 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
	Members are requested to consider:
2.1	The information provider below and approval for officers to pursue the application.
2.2	Approval for a 'letter of intent' to be submitted before the end of 2024 in advance of a formal bid submission in 2025.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Officers have identified an opportunity for Belfast to submit a bid through 'ACES Europe' to be designated as European City of Sport for 2026.</p> <p>"ACES is a non-profit association based in Brussels which assigns every year the recognitions of World Capital, European Capital, Region, City, Island, Community and Town of Sport."</p> <p>The bid process requires the provision of a 'letter of intent' which confirms the Councils intention to submit a formal application. The letter of intent is submitted through the Office of the Lord Mayor and is normally lodged two years before the anticipated year of designation. In this case, a letter of intent would be required before the end of 2024.</p> <p>The formal bid would be prepared and submitted during 2025 in time for the awards to be confirmed in the Autumn of 2025. The designated European City of Sport year would run from January to December 2026.</p> <p>Overall cost of the process would be circa £30,000 which includes bid and evaluation costs and 'in year' designation/branding rights. Any 'in year' costs would only be incurred if the bid is successful. Approximately 50% of the total would be required for the bid and evaluation process.</p> <p>Being designated as European City of Sport would provide an opportunity to showcase the excellent sports and leisure facilities/services provided by Belfast City Council along with the rich sporting heritage of the city. A year long programme of activities and branding opportunities would form the basis of the formal bid.</p> <p>The detailed bid would be presented for approval before the final bid is submitted to ACES Europe in the Autumn of 2025.</p>

3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider:</p> <p>The information provider above and approval for officers to pursue the application.</p> <p>Approval for a 'letter of intent' to be submitted before the end of 2024 in advance of a formal bid submission in 2025.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided above and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Communications & Public Relations</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The proposed bid submission would cost circa £30,000. It is proposed that funding would be provided on a 50/50 bases shared between BCC and GLL. BCC funding would be covered within existing City and Neighbourhood Services budgets. No additional BCC funding will be required.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Older People's Reference Group
Date:	5 th November 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

☒

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Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="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 update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 17th September 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2,1	Members are asked to note the contents of the paper and recommend that members of the All-Party Reference Group on older people send a nominee if they are unable to attend meetings.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.
3.2	The meeting was held on 17 th September 2024 in the City Hall. The meeting was not in quorum and therefore no minutes were taken.
3.3	Members are asked to recommend that all members of the All-Party Reference Group on Older People send a nominee if they are unable to attend meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 12.30 on Tuesday 10th December.
3.4	Members may wish to note the following update on the main items discussed.
	Age Friendly Belfast Update The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.
	Presentation from Great Belfast Senior's Forum(G6) The G6 attended the meeting to provide an overview of issues affecting older people. Issues that were raised included the need to maintain a focus on accessible transport for older people and concerns over the reduced availability of winter fuel payments.
	Presentation from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) The meeting received a presentation from BHSCT from Ciara Mc Clements, who is also the Chair of HASP. She provided an overview of the work undertaken by BHSCT particularly in relation to loneliness and isolation.

3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – Age Friendly Update 17.09.24

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Subject:	Age Friendly Belfast Update
Date:	17 th September 2024
Reporting Officer:	Joanna Holland, Age Friendly Coordinator
Contact Officer:	Joanna Holland, Age Friendly Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update members on the Age Friendly Belfast plan and Age Friendly Belfast activities.
2.0	Recommendations

2,1	Members are asked to note the updates provided on the Age Friendly Belfast Plan and activities.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023 – 2027</p> <p>Members will recall that the plan focuses on the following key themes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure/getting out and about. 2. Social connections 3. Health and wellbeing 4. Financial security/cost of living
3.2	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Age Friendly Design Principles</p> <p>The Age Friendly Coordinator in partnership with the Age Friendly Coordinator in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council has arranged a webinar for Thursday 24th October from Dr Mark Hammond -the session will explore how the needs and aspirations of older people can be better addressed by architects, planners and developers creating new residential developments. We will explore the different ways that built environment professions think about older people, what we mean by 'age-friendly' housing, and how we can mainstream it in the places we work.</p> <p>Another piece of work that will be completed as part of the Age Friendly Network NI is the design of a questionnaire to assess the housing needs and issues of older people to be completed with older people's groups.</p> <p>The Age Friendly Coordinators also report back at the Age Friendly Network for NI , which met on 25th June and 4th September.</p>
3.3	<p>Social Connections</p> <p>Tea Dances-</p> <p>Since the last committee report Age Friendly Belfast have organised 4 tea dances and supported the Lord Mayor's Office with the D Day themed Tea dance. They continue to be very popular, with many people meeting up with friends but also new people attending.</p> <p>Connection Hub update</p> <p>The first drop-in session of the connection hub, also known as the Grapevine started on Tuesday 16th April 11am-2pm in 2 Royal Avenue and continued every Tuesday until the end of June. There was a break for the month of July and it started back again on Tuesday 6th August. Each week two age friendly volunteers are there to meet and greet older people dropping in. As requested they are supported on site by the Age Friendly Coordinator and Community Projects Manager, Volunteer Now, in case any issues should arise.</p>

3.4	<p>Whilst numbers of older people dropping in started off with a handful, the numbers have steadily increased, with up to 15 people dropping in each week for a chat and some tea. Some observations that have been made in relation to the people dropping in - there is a high percentage of men and most of the people are living alone. As a result of the drop in people have connected into other activities and one has signed up with Volunteer Now to become a befriender.</p> <p>Feedback from the Age Friendly volunteers has also been positive, with all agreeing to continue to do sessions after a break during July.</p> <p>Whilst the Grapevine has been open, other organisations have used the session to coincide with the promotion of their services, such as the Alzheimer's Society and Forward South Partnership and the Clare Project.</p> <p>There will be an evaluation of the project when it has been operation for 6 and 12 months to review potential to develop the Hub concept in other venues. However, this will be dependent of staff and financial resources available.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>On Wednesday 29th May there was a dementia information day in the City Hall. Information stands ranged from regional to local and were able to offer one to one support both to people living with dementia and also carers and family members. There was great feedback from the event- and there were nearly 200 people who dropped in. As a result of this event dementia Information days have also been arranged for local areas including East and North Belfast by the local dementia friendly neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Isolation and Loneliness Training</p> <p>As a result of its popularity the Older, Active & Connected Programme Co-ordinator from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has been able to organise more sessions of the isolation and loneliness sessions- these will be happening during September and October and will include online and face to face sessions.</p> <p>Physical Activity kit bags for older People</p> <p>The Older, Active & Connected Programme Co-ordinator from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust ordered equipment to help increase physical activity amongst older people. It was delivered to the Morton Community Centre and has been distributed amongst all the BCC owned community centres. It is hoped that further training can be delivered to the Assistant Community Development Officers to ensure they can provide programmes using the equipment to older people to help increase physical activity levels and as a result help prevent falls and other injuries.</p>
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3.5	<p>Financial Security / cost of living.</p> <p>Peter from Advice Space has recently attended the HASP meetings and as result is able to provide updates on the advice sector and its impact and issues affecting older people.</p> <p>Connections have been made with colleagues in economy and place to help promote the 50+ Jobstart programme to the Age Friendly distribution list.</p> <p>A meeting was held in September to explore Belfast City Council becoming an Age Friendly employer.</p>
3.6	<p>Internal Officer working group.</p> <p>The internal BCC officer working group has been established to ensure that work which will benefit older people is carried out through greater collaboration, sharing of information and resources. There have been three meetings in April, May and August, in which partners shared projects on older people, inputted activities to be included in the Positive Ageing Month booklet and also work has begun on the Age Friendly calendar to ensure council initiatives which support older people are highlighted.</p>
3.7	<p>Positive Ageing Month</p> <p>Plans have begun to organise Age Friendly events during the month of October and the Positive Ageing month booklets have been distributed.</p> <p>There are many events and activities planned for the month of October to encourage older people to try something new.</p> <p>Events organised exclusively by Age Friendly include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st October 11am- 12pm boccia sessions in 2 Royal Avenue to coincide with the Grapevine and Active Ageing week. • 4th October Age Convention Event 12-2pm to launch Positive Ageing Month • 8th October Tea dance in Belfast Castle to help celebrate its 90th year. • 15th October Movie afternoon in City Hall 2-4pm Calamity Jane • 16th October Walking tour of Friars Bush 11am • 22nd October Movie afternoon in City Hall 2-4pm Arsenic and old Lace • 24th October online Age Friendly housing webinar <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.</p>

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Subject:	Update on Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues (NILGPTI)
Date:	5 th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane – Neighbourhood Services Manager Godfrey Mc Cartney – Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Committee is asked to note the report confirming representation from elected members on the Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues (NILGPTI).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members may recall that a paper was brought to committee in September seeking representation from elected members on the Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues (NILGPTI). NILGPTI was established in 2000 by Councils in order to develop and maintain relationships and communication between Local Government, Ministers, Government Departments and Public Bodies to deal collectively with matters pertaining to Travellers.</p> <p>Following discussion at committee and subsequent follow up, members should note that Cllr Christine Bower (Alliance) and Cllr Rois-Marie Donnelly (SF) were nominated in June 23 as the representatives on NILGPTI for this council term (until May 27) as part of the process for appointing nominees to external bodies.</p> <p>Officers will advise NILGPTI of these arrangements and advise that they should contact nominated representatives with information. Officers from Council's Good Relations Unit will also attend meetings.</p> <p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>The Partnership annual membership fee is £500 per Council, this can be covered from existing budgets. Costs related to Members and Staff time and travel would also have to be covered from existing budgets..</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment associated with this report.</p>
3.2	
3.3	
3.4	
3.5	
4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A



Subject:	Integrated Advice Partnership Fund – Additional Funding for Debt Advice
Date:	5 th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports

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After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advise members of communication received from Department for Communities in relation to a proposed Integrated Advice Partnership Fund which will provide additional funding for debt advice. • To ask members to consider the proposed approach for seeking proposals and awarding funding.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report and approve the recommended approach for seeking and approving proposals for funding.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background information</p> <p>Members will be aware that Council provides significant funding for advice services through the Community Support Programme (funded by Department for Communities - DfC) and through direct council funding. In September 24, DfC contacted council officials informally to provide information about a proposed Integrated Advice Partnership Fund which will provide additional funding for debt advice.</p>
3.2	<p>DfC has a statutory requirement to provide debt advice to individuals and households in need. The debt advice levy provides the Department funding to deliver free debt advice in NI. Additional, one-off funding has become available due to HMT revisiting previous years debt levy allocations and applying a revised calculation for all the devolved nations. Therefore, this is temporary funding which will not continue beyond 2025/26.</p>
3.3	<p>At the time of writing, no formal award has been made to Council. However, in the interests of progressing this work, members are asked to consider the contents of this report which are based on the draft MOU for the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (attached at APPENDIX 1) and indicative allocation for Belfast.</p>
3.4	<p>The draft MOU outlines that the objective of the fund is to 'Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach'. The aim is to reach a broader section of the community who would benefit from debt advice but have not yet presented themselves to any advice services. This could include having advice partners in non-traditional advice settings to break down the barriers people have before coming forward for debt advice.</p> <p>To achieve this projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver holistic (income maximisation, debt and welfare) advice in community accessible settings such as health, education, faith-based locations. • be a collaborative partnership with two or more organisations, one of which can supply the free, independent, FCA regulated debt advice. Projects can be led by a single organisation with the planned collaboration evidenced in their proposal. • demonstrate improved outcomes (financial and wellbeing) for people accessing the service. • include an aspect of face to face/in person delivery.

3.5	<p>Proposed approach</p> <p>Members will be aware that advice services in Belfast are currently provided through funding agreements with five area consortiums to deliver generalist advice services across all geographies (n,s,e,w, central) within the city. Council has an existing funding relationship with the 5 lead partners in each consortia which are listed below;</p> <p>North – Vine Centre</p> <p>South – Ballynafeigh Community Development Agency (BCDA)</p> <p>East – Advice Space (East)</p> <p>West – Falls Community Council</p> <p>Central – Advice Space (Central)</p>
3.6	<p>Members will also be aware that CNS completed an independent review of Belfast City Council Advice Services in December 2023 which included several recommendations which members accepted and agreed that officers would work with the Belfast Advice Group to implement. This review recommended that Council retain the Consortia Structure for the delivery of generalist advice services.</p>
3.7	<p>Given the review recommendations and that the aim of this fund is to support partnerships and open new access routes for referrals, officers recommend that activity is delivered through the current consortia model and that lead organisations are asked to submit proposals that meet the outcomes of the fund. The current partners are well placed to use this funding to enhance their reach, develop new programmes and increase awareness and opportunities for people to access advice.</p>
3.8	<p>Each consortia has members from different community and advice organisations within their area and there are strong referral networks and pathways between partners. Organisations who currently deliver advice services have expertise and existing staff who can deliver appropriate advice to those in need. In addition, some partners, such as Advice Space, have relationships with organisations whose members can be particularly impacted by issues that require advice support, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Chest, Heart and Stroke and Cedar.</p>
3.9	<p>Over the past 4 years, Council has supported Social Supermarkets and delivery of recent Hardship Programmes. There has been support from officers to increase connections across different programmes and the organisations involved in delivery of activity. An event held on 29th October in City Hall, was organised in response to request from organisations that council facilitate awareness raising of existing services and promote collaboration. Our advice partners are involved in this work and will use these connections to develop proposals for the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund.</p>
3.10	<p>Members should also note that the likely delivery timeframe will be from February 25 – March 26. This provides further rationale for using the existing model since development of other delivery models would impact on actual delivery time.</p>
3.11	<p>Officers recommend that council should seek proposals from existing Lead partners within each advice consortia that will meet the aims of this Fund. These proposals will then be assessed against agreed criteria and a further report on the outcome of assessments will be brought back to committee for consideration in January 25. Once council approval has been</p>

3.12	given, funding can be issued to groups in February 25. This timeframe is based on receipt of the official MOU from DfC by end of November 24.						
	Members are asked to note that proposals may include both area and city wide project delivery. This is based on initial feedback from all advice leads and the fact that partner organisations must have a staff member qualified to provide regulated debt advice, this will impact on the project proposals which are developed.						
	The suggested allocation for Belfast is;						
	<table><tr><td>24/25</td><td>25/26</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>£160,804.82</td><td>£87,448.66</td><td>£248,253.48</td></tr></table>	24/25	25/26	Total	£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48
	24/25	25/26	Total				
	£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48				
	DfC have confirmed that any unspent allocation in 24/25 can be carried forward to 25/26, all funds have to be spent by 31 st March 2026.						
	Members may recall that a further recommendation from the Review of Belfast Advice Services was that council consider its funding allocation towards advice services in the city. A significant issue in relation to funding advice services in the city is that there is no dedicated budget for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service which has been funded through in year council underspend since 2013.						
	Members have agreed to consider a growth bid for advice funding that will create ongoing funding for the Tribunal Service and an enhancement to existing generalist advice funding from 25/26. Council will agree the required resource and outputs for generalist and tribunal advice when the outcome of this bid is known. This growth bid is separate to the funding explored in this report as the funding in this report is for an additional area of work over a short time frame.						
	Officers are completing work with the Belfast Advice Group (BAG) (a consortia of all 5 lead partners) to formalise BAG governance. This will ensure accountability for advice services that are delivered collaboratively and enhance opportunities to share staff and other resources across BAG, another recommendation from the review.						
<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>							
The administration of this fund will be carried out by existing staff, there is no financial impact for council as 100% funding is being provided by DfC							
<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>							
Belfast City Council will carry out a screening exercise for this programme.							
4.0	Appendices						
4.1	Appendix 1 – Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Integrated Advice Partnership Fund						



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN: The Department for Communities and XXXXXX District Council

INTEGRATED ADVICE PARTNERSHIP FUND

This Memorandum outlines the policy background and financial and administrative arrangements between the Department for Communities (hereinafter referred to as the “Department”) and XXXXX Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) in relation to 2024/26 Integrated Advice Partnership Fund.

1. Overview

The Department has a statutory requirement to provide debt advice to individuals and households in need. The debt advice levy provides the Department funding to deliver free debt advice in NI.

The levy is applied to the financial services industry by the Financial Conduct Authority. The monies collected through the levy are allocated based on the proportion of adults in each of the nations of the UK who are indebted. The amount of funding available varies from year to year based on the MaPS ‘Need for Debt Advice’ survey.

The Department recognises the necessity to maximise the reach of the current debt advice service, managed by Advice NI. Whilst the ‘Need for Debt Advice’ survey 2023 shows that within NI 183k citizens have a ‘need for debt advice’, in 2023/24 our funded service supported 3,395 citizens. However, it is important to note that people who need support do not always present.

Additional, one-off funding has become available due to HMT revisiting previous years debt levy allocations and applying a revised calculation for all the devolved nations. Therefore, this is temporary funding which will not continue beyond 2025/26.

This has provided the Department with an opportunity to explore and implement additional options, we aim to increase debt advice reach through early intervention ensuring that more people facing financial difficulties have access to comprehensive support and guidance tailored to their specific circumstances.

To this end the Minister has approved an Integrated Advice Partnership fund to test proposals which focus on enabling better integration of funding/services, collaboration for early intervention and prevention to increase the reach of debt advice. This approach is grounded in collaborative advice partnerships; connecting services to improve the uptake of debt advice reach via an integrated approach.

Collaborative and integrated advice delivery can involve a range of options which could be to test new innovations or to maximise existing services and networks, for



example: pro-active information and awareness raising activities, providing advice in accessible settings such as social supermarkets, food banks, doctors surgeries, faith-based groups and other less traditional advice locations including partnering with organisations such as Christians Against Poverty, Trussell Trust and others who work in local communities.

This funding should target local need by working in partnership with the local voluntary and community sector to ensure the delivery of better, more responsive services and better outcomes for communities, through a range of diverse methods that complement the existing NI Debt Advice service administered with our delivery partner, Advice NI.

2. Purpose of this Document

This Memorandum of Understanding

- Sets out the Funds' duration and scope;
- Describes the roles and responsibilities;
- Sets out the financial arrangements; and
- Provide arrangements for governance and accountability.

3. Duration

The allocations for the Integrated Advice Partnership fund apply within the following timescale: 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2026.

All activities supported by these monies must take place within this period.

Expectations that funding will continue beyond March 2026 should be robustly managed and made clear from the outset that this will not be the case.

4. Objective and Scope of funds

As stated within the overview the integrated advice partnership fund will focus on enabling better integration of funding/services, collaboration for early intervention and prevention to increase the reach of debt advice. The objective of the fund is to:

'Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach'.

The aim is to reach a broader section of the community who would benefit from debt advice but have not yet presented themselves to any advice services. This could include having advice partners in non-traditional advice settings to break down the barriers people have before coming forward for debt advice such as shame and stigma.



To achieve this projects must:

- deliver holistic (income maximisation, debt and welfare) advice in community accessible settings such as health, education, faith-based locations.
- be a collaborative partnership with two or more organisations, one of which can supply the free, independent, FCA regulated debt advice. Projects can be led by a single organisation with the planned collaboration evidenced in their proposal.
- demonstrate improved outcomes (financial and wellbeing) for people accessing the service.
- include an aspect of face to face/in person delivery.

Further details on the objective and high-level specification can be found at **Annex A**.

Whilst the Department will not be assessing proposals, council approved projects are required to be shared and agreed with the Department prior to work commencing.

An element of the allocation for the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund is available to fund internal council costs. Costs must be solely and wholly related to the administration of this fund. Up to a maximum of 10% of the total fund can be claimed for these costs.

5. Not in Scope

We will not fund:

- Any activities undertaken or costs incurred prior to the start of the work; or
- The cost of bankruptcy/DRO/insolvency fees for individual clients; or
- Any other direct financial assistance to clients.
- An existing project unless the fund is used to expand the project beyond its currently funded parameters and meets the objectives of this fund.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

At Council level officials will:

- Ensure any proposed interventions for expenditure is agreed in advance with Department
- Be responsible for ensuring the expenditure of the funds aligns with the high level objectives set out by the Department
- Ensure the funds are properly managed and all procurement and statutory obligations are adhered to;



- Assign points of contact to liaise with Departmental officials to provide regular verbal and written updates;
- Establish effective working arrangements based on co-operation, partnership and mutual assistance between local statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations;
- Collaboratively agree appropriate protocols and procedures for determining the approach to interventions;
- Work closely with funded organisations to ensure
 - they adapt the formal protocol for regulated volunteering;
 - that there is mandatory reporting on money spent and impact;
- Receive assurance that organisations will provide guidance around the safety and protection of the staff engaged in assessing and delivering interventions supported through the fund;
- Ensure that where disputes arise between council and funded organisations and cannot be resolved quickly, they are escalated to higher levels of management within the respective organisations; and
- Maintain effective working relationship based on co-operation, partnership and mutual assistance with Departmental Officials

At Departmental level, officials will:

- Release funds immediately upon receipt of the electronically signed Letter of Variance and Memorandum of Understanding;
- Provide support, guidance and where appropriate, share central government information from across departments, including data relating to need;
- Maintain regular contact with council through designated points of contact to request updates and information;
- Collate information received from councils and record any emerging issues sharing lessons and good practice emerging.

7. Financial Arrangements

The allocations will be provided through the established Community Support Programme arrangements. There is no requirement for councils to match fund this provision. The 2024/25 allocation of funding will be released immediately after return of the electronically signed Letter of Variance and this Memorandum of Understanding.

An accounts directive has been agreed with the Department that will allow any funding received in 2024/25 year to be carried over into council reserves for the 2025/26 year with the expressed purpose that it remains ringfenced for the Integrated Advice Partnership fund.

Full accounts directive letter to follow.

8. Governance and Accountability



The Minister is accountable to the Assembly for the funding policy and ensuring that it has been properly spent as designated. It is important to ensure that public money is spent in an accountable and transparent way, and that the governance arrangements are proportionate.

9. Monitoring & Reporting

Reporting will be via an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) report card – this will be agreed, alongside the reporting cycle, with the Council, prior to projects commencing. The Council will ensure that all necessary monitoring information is sent to the Department in accordance with the relevant timescales. Both parties will comply with any deadlines set for requests for information concerning implementation or expenditure of these funds. Where this is not possible both parties will agree mutually suitable alternatives. Department representatives from the 'Advice and Finance Inclusion Team' will meet with the Council officials on a regular basis to monitor delivery of interventions and to share information.

Reporting on this Integrated Advice Partnership Fund must be kept separate from reports for the baseline CSP CD, Advice and Debt Advice.

10. Publicity

The Council will ensure that Departments contribution of funding to the project under this Letter of Variance is appropriately recognised through a variety of mediums. This includes press, speeches, publications, banners, signage, advertisements and media interviews. Northern Ireland Executive/DfC branding must be prominently displayed. Electronic branding and logos are available by contacting the DfC Communications and Engagement Office by email to

Commsengagement@communities-ni.gov.uk;

The Council will keep DfC regularly informed of marketing, press and PR activity including the planning and delivery of public statements, announcements and promotional activity concerning the project.

11. Audit

This grant is subject to normal Government accounting rules and is also subject to the Council's internal controls and scrutiny by the Local Government Auditor.

12. Access



Both the Council and the Department will comply with the deadlines set for any requests for information concerning the programme. The Department, the Comptroller & Auditor General/Local Government Auditor or their representatives will be provided with all such accounting and other information relating directly or indirectly to the Programme as requested. The Department, the Comptroller & Auditor General / Local Government Auditor or their representatives will have permission to enter upon any premises owned or occupied for the purposes of inspecting an asset or accounting record relating to the funding.

13. Formal Commitment to Memorandum

Signed

Dated

On behalf of Department for Communities

Signed

Dated

On behalf of XXXX Council



Annex A

Objective and High-Level Specification

Overarching Objective:

Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach.

Projects must:

- deliver holistic (income maximisation, debt and welfare) advice in community accessible settings such as health, education, church communities etc.
- be a collaborative partnership with two or more organisations, one of which can supply the free, independent, FCA regulated debt advice. Projects can be led by a single organisation with the planned collaboration evidenced in their proposal.
- demonstrate improved outcomes for people accessing the service as well as the positive financial and wellbeing benefits of advice to other services and partners.
- include an aspect of face to face/in person delivery.
- agree to a reporting and monitoring cycle as agreed between DfC, council and delivery partner.
- share learning to inform future approaches.
- be delivered by 31/03/26.

What can you apply for?

Activities that work within a community setting, whether this be a school, health service, community centres, faith locations etc, to improve access to or the scope of debt advice services in NI, along with any other holistic advice provision to strengthen collaboration between voluntary sector advice organisations. Partnership working.

Organisations can apply for any activity they feel meets the objective and against which they will be able to report back to us after having spent the grant.

Funds must be spent by 31 March 2026.

We will not fund activities undertaken or costs incurred prior to the application/proposal being approved.



The types of expenditure that would be considered would include, but not be restricted to, the following:

Training for paid staff and/or volunteers to improve the quality of debt advice, and reasonable associated expenses (including cover to enable staff to participate);

Additional infrastructure that will directly benefit debt advice, for example AdvicePro case management software, computers for staff members, computers for clients to tackle digital poverty and debt.

Additional contributions to the running costs for the provision of debt advice, to extend its scope beyond existing funding streams. This could include, for example, salary costs, volunteer expenses, premises or equipment costs.

To note: Any organisations applying for new salary costs should be fully informed of the temporary nature of the fund, there will be no further funding beyond 2025/26 and therefore expectations should be managed.

In assessing proposals, the following factors should also be taken into account:

Value for money.

Debt advice services extended to address unmet need within a community setting;

Access to quality of debt advice is expanded and improved;

Those according to the Money and Pensions Service's [Debt Needs Survey](#) who do typically need debt advice i.e.:

- Under 35 years old.
- In households with children and low incomes (73% have an annual household income of less than £30,000 before tax).
- Most (61%) rent their home from social or private landlords and a further 28% own their house on a mortgage.
- They also were more likely to have experienced an income shock in the previous three years, like redundancy or a drop in earnings.

We will not fund:

- Any activities undertaken or costs incurred prior to the start of the work; or



- The cost of bankruptcy/DRO/insolvency fees for individual clients; or
- Any other direct financial assistance to clients.
- An existing project unless the fund is used to expand the project beyond its currently funded parameters and meets the objectives of this fund.

CONFIDENTIAL: Draft Policy

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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events
Date:	Tuesday 5 November 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

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No

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received two requests from event organisers to host events in Belfast City Council Parks in 2024 & 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIYMS Boxing Day Fun Run – Orangegrove Athletics Club – Belmont Park • Belfast Photo Festival 2025 – Botanic Gardens
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and 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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters 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 include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><u>CIYMS Boxing Day Fun Run – Orangegrove Athletics Club – Belmont Park – Thursday 26 December 2024</u></p>
3.2	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Orangegrove Athletics Club to host their annual boxing day fun run at Belmont Park on Thursday 26 December 2024. The fun run has been running for 40 years and this is the second year it will be hosted by Orangegrove Athletics club. Participants are encouraged to come in fancy dresses with prizes being awarded to the best entrants. The number of entrants will be capped at 250 to safely accommodate all runners.</p>
3.3	<p>The event is aimed at raising money for Northern Ireland Hospice with the entrance fee being £10 per person. The entrance fee will be used to cover the costs for hosting the event and first aid with all remaining funds being donated to the NI Hospice.</p>
3.4	<p>The event organiser has requested permission to collect money on site during the event. Belfast City Council are in receipt of a letter from NI Hospice authorising Orangegrove to fundraise on their behalf. NI Hospice charity number: NIC102337.</p>

3.5	<p>Key dates for the event are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Up – Thursday 26 December – 9am • Event – Thursday 26 December 2024 – 12pm to 2pm • De-rig – Thursday 26 December 2024 – 2pm <p><u>Belfast Photo Festival – Botanic Gardens – 5 – 30 June 2025</u></p>
3.6	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Belfast Photo Festival who are a not-for-profit organisation that presents one of the leading international festivals of photography in the United Kingdom and the Visual Arts Festival of Northern Ireland. Launched in 2011, this now annual photographic event has been described as one of the “best photography festivals in the world” (Capture Magazine) and attracts upwards of 100 thousand visitors a year, celebrating some of the finest National and International contemporary photography across 30 museums, galleries and public spaces. Capturing wide appeal through popular culture, accessible themes and unexpected encounters with photography, the festival aims to instil and inspire public enjoyment and participation by utilising the most accessible artistic medium and bringing it to new audience in cool and unusual ways. The festival consists of exhibitions, talks, symposiums, workshops, screening, masterclasses, portfolio reviews and tours.</p>
3.7	<p>The event runs annually in Botanic Gardens with no issues arising in previous years either during the installation or the duration of the event. The event is free for the general public to experience throughout the park and there will be no charity collections made on site.</p> <p>The exhibition takes place at the same time as “Live at Botanic” but the two events have been successfully engaging and co-existing for a number of years now without issue.</p>
3.8	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Up – 20 May to 5 June 2025 • Event Run Time – 5 June to 30 June 2025 • De Rig – 1 July to 8 July 2025
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known financial or resource implications.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Belfast
City Council



PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Belfast City Council Litter Bin Infrastructure
Date:	5 th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director CNS
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer OSS

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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update members on the litter bin infrastructure review and improvement project.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the update on the street litter bin improvement projects. b. that a report will be brought back to the committee on the outworkings of the various pilot initiatives (Dog Fouling bin options & smart technology option for City Hall) detailed within this report, with recommendations for next steps.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Over the past year Officers have been working to improve our street litter bin provision across the City, including rolling out pilot initiatives aimed at improving recycling. As part of this work, Officers have put in place a new litter bin provision contract which provides the Council with a wider range of options for bin provision, including access to replacement metal litter bins, a single and double polyethylene option, recycling options, replacement provision for greenways, and a post mounted option. Within the contract, the Council also reserved the right to 'add or remove items from the Contract in line with the Council's requirements. Following a procurement exercise, Safety Solutions NI were successful and were awarded the contract which has been operational since May 2024.
3.2	Alongside this, Officers have been conducting a litter bin condition survey. It is hoped that data collected through this will help to inform the roll out of a full litter bin replacement programme, subject to resources being available. This programme will also consider the best options for litter bin placement throughout the city, and has been designed to support the new In Cab technology programme. Officers aim to complete this survey by the end of the financial year, subject to resource availability. Final data will include a GPS map of all litter bins within the city.
3.3	Members will be aware that many of our current street litter bins are either in a poor state of repair, or have been completely removed due to having become a health and safety risk. In the first instance, the Council will prioritise replacement of those bins that have been removed due to having become a health and safety hazard.

3.4	<p>Following that, those bins that are in a very poor state of repair will be replaced.</p> <p>Requests for new bin placement will be considered, but will be subject to operational considerations and resource availability.</p>
3.5	<p>In an effort to try to minimise waste and extend the life of all of our litter bins, Officers are hoping to put in place a dedicated operational team that would have responsibility for city wide litter bin maintenance. This, along with a proposed bin replacement budget enhancement, has been submitted for consideration as part of a service growth proposal.</p>
3.6	<p>Litter Bin Pilot Initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="320 757 1497 1081">Dog Fouling Waste Bins: Members had asked Officers to considering a pilot initiative aimed at tackling Dog fouling through the provision of specific dog waste bin options. Prior to roll out, officers are undertaking a benchmarking exercise looking at best practise and operations within other Councils. A paper will be brought back to a future committee to consider the outworkings of this work, proposal areas to be included and next steps. <li data-bbox="320 1081 1497 1451">Smart Technology (BigBelly) Bins: Members will have noticed that some of our traditional black metal litter bins within the grounds of city hall have been replaced with new smart technology (Bigbelly) litter bins. These bins have been installed free of charge, including maintenance, for a trial period. One general waste bin was installed within the grounds of City Hall, and a double being (general waster plus recycling) installed at Cathedral gardens, with the. Photos below of bins in situ. <div data-bbox="368 1464 742 2029">  </div> <div data-bbox="845 1473 1265 2029">  </div>

3.7	Benefits of Big Belly Bins and the smart technology include the elimination of windblown litter. This, along with seagulls removing litter from bins, has been an issue for some time at City Hall. They will also help to reduce collections as bins communicate ready-to-collect status and can hold 5x the capacity for traditional litter bin. Smarts and added capacity can reduce collections by over 80%. The fully enclosed bin eliminates a major food source for rats and other pests. This will be particularly welcome during the Christmas Market period. As well as these operational benefits the bins aim to enhance public space recycling options, reduced GHG Emission due to fewer collections reducing fuel consumption and GHG emissions. Crucially, these bins have great potential advertising / data revenue source which would make them a more viable option for appropriate spaces longer term.
3.8	Officers plan to extend the pilot to include a further eight bins installed with the grounds of city hall in time for the start of the Christmas market set up.
3.9	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications within this report. All actions to date have been covered within existing service revenue budgets.
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs
Date:	5 th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control,
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Acting Property and Legal Officer, ext. 2464

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for nine

	existing streets within the city.																																								
2.0	Recommendation																																								
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Glenveagh Drive, Glenbawn Link, Mount Eagles Grove, Marlborough Park North, Knutsford Drive, Mill Valley Lodge, Rosapenna Drive, Hawthorn Glen and Brenda Park.																																								
3.0	Main Report																																								
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																																								
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																								
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3.4	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	<p>Glenveagh Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57 occupiers (32.38%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.7	<p>Glenbawn Link, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 occupiers (36.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.8	<p>Mount Eagles Grove, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 occupiers (50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.9	<p>Marlborough Park North, BT9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 occupiers (21.56%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 39 occupiers (25.49%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. 4 occupiers (2.61%) had no preference either way. <p>One resident is not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate as they are concerned about the cost.</p>
3.10	<p>Knutsford Drive, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 occupiers (35.91%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 14 occupiers (9.85%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. 1 occupier (0.70%) had no preference either way.
3.11	<p>Mill Valley Lodge, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 occupiers (43.75%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (6.25%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate. 1 occupier (6.25%) had no preference either way.
3.12	<p>Rosapenna Drive, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 occupiers (26.09%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (2.17%) was not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
3.13	<p>Hawthorn Glen, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 117 occupiers (35.45%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 Occupier (0.3%) had no preference either way.
3.14	<p>Brenda Park, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 occupiers (47.62%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (4.76%) had no preference either way.

3.15	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> <p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
3.16	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.17	<p>There is a cost of approximately £2790 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> <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> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

PROPOSAL FOR RENAMING OF A SECTION OF
DURHAM STREET

Subject:	Proposal for renaming a section of Durham Street
Date:	5th November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Fletcher, Acting Property and Legal Co-Ordinator 2464

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
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6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction,
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request to rename a section of Durham Street between Glengall Street and Hope Street
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grant the renaming of the section of Durham Street between Glengall Street and Hope Street to Boyne Bridge Place or refuse the request.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	Belfast City Council's street naming policy also considers requests to rename streets.
3.3	A request has been received from Blackstaff Residents Association to rename the section of Durham Street between Glengall Street and the junction with Hope Street. The proposed name is Boyne Bridge Place. The request, including a map showing the section of road under consideration, is contained in Appendix 1. The request is supported by local politicians as set out in the letter in Appendix 2.
3.4	In line with the street naming policy any request for the renaming of a street must consider the impact on occupiers who reside on the street and who would be affected by the subsequent change to their address. The policy indicates that any application/request for re-naming of a street should be accompanied by an initial petition of not less than one third of residents of the street showing a positive interest in changing the street name. Following a review of the section of road being considered, the Building Control Service has concluded that there are no residents who occupy this part of the Durham Street and who would be affected by this name change, including the businesses which have access from Durham Street. Therefore, no petition is possible in the specific circumstances of this request.
3.5	In addition, the policy requires two thirds of the residents of the street who appear on the electoral list to be in support of the renaming. No survey has been carried out as indicated by the policy as there are no residents residing in this portion of the street and who would be affected by this proposal.
3.6	Officers have spoken to businesses in the Murrays Exchange building who have confirmed that while access to the building is provided from the section of Durham Street under consideration, none use this for addressing purposes.
3.7	The new Grand Central Station is addressed off the section of Durham Street between the Grosvenor Road and Glengall Street and is therefore not affected by the proposed renaming.
3.8	Officers have also consulted with Royal Mail who have confirmed that they have no objections to the proposed name, which is not contained in the Council's Streets Register and does not duplicate existing approved street names in the city.
3.9	Blackstaff Residents Association have advised that the name is proposed for this section of Durham Street to preserve and promote the history of the area, due to it being the site of the

	Boyne Bridge, which is due to be demolished as part of the ongoing construction work at Grand Central Station.
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.11	There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications.
4.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter from Blackstaff Residents Association requesting the renaming of the section of Durham Street.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Letter from local elected representatives in support of the request to rename the section of Durham Street</p>

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BLACKSTAFF RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

177 Tates Avenue
Belfast
BT12 6NA

The Manager
Roisin Adams
Building Control
Ground Floor
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

25 March 2024

Applications for the Renaming of a section of Durham Street to BOYNE BRIDGE PLACE.

Blackstaff Residents' Association was formed on Tuesday 3rd May 1978, with the following objectives

- I. Provide a forum where complaints may be ventilated and, by discussion and constructive criticism strive to improve the standard of life for the residents of Blackstaff Council Ward.
- II. To assist Government Departments, Local Authorities and other bodies, by discussing and giving the possible reaction to schemes proposed; to initiate discussions on schemes which, in the opinion of the Association, would contribute to the Development of the Community.
- III. To support or organise activities which would encourage Community Development.
- IV. To protect and promote the interests of the Blackstaff Ward Community.

The association made both written and verbal representations to the Boundary Commission on the naming of the District Council Ward, and the proposal to have it named Blackstaff was excepted.

Blackstaff Residents' Association in wishing to preserve and promote the history of the area, request that the section of Durham Street (shown on the map in yellow), between Hope Street and Glengall Street be renamed from Durham Street to 'Boyne Bridge Place'. The said area is presently the location of the Boyne Bridge which is to be demolished as part of the overall Transport Hub development. The encapsulated 1642 bridge is at the Sandy Row end of the Boyne Bridge, and has to remain in situ, as a planning condition. The 1642 bridge was first named, The Great Bridge, thereafter a variety of names including Brickhill, Saltwater and Boyne Bridge.

There are no houses on either side of the present bridge and therefore no residents would be involved from the immediate area. That said the request would be of historical importance to the wider Sandy Row community.

Should you require any additional information or clarification, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

William Dickson BEM
Chairperson.



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15th October 2024

Ref Application to rename a section of Durham Street

Belfast City Council
Building Control
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

Dear Sir / Madam

We are writing in support of the proposal received to Belfast City Council on to re-name a section of Durham Street "Boyne Bridge Place". This would be the section of the road running from Glengall Street to Hope Street and where the current Boyne Bridge is situated.

As you are aware planning approval has been given for the current Boyne Bridge to be demolished, this decision was made in 2019 and was a very upsetting for the local Sandy Row community who fought hard to try and save the bridge. To put into context this section of the Durham Street where the bridge is currently situated, was always known as Sandy Row to the local community, residents were aghast when they were advised by Translink that it is in fact on Belfast maps as Durham Street.

The street name "Boyne Bridge Place" would ensure that the historical significance of the Boyne Bridge would be acknowledged and in some way ensure that culture and history of this landmark would be recognised. The renaming of this section of Durham Street would never replace the Boyne Bridge, but it would go a long way in recognition to those who have fought so hard to try and save it from being demolished.

Kind Regards

Cllr Tracy Kelly
Cllr Ron McDowell
Edwin Poots MLA
Mr William Dickson

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