

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd January, 2026

HYBRID MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Brennan (Chairperson);
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Beattie, Black, Bunting, Cobain,
de Faioite, R-M Donnelly, Ferguson, Garrett,
Long, Maghie, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin,
Murphy, Murray, Nelson, Ó Néill, Smyth and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;
Ms. S. McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Director
of Corporate Services;
Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. D. Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. K. Forster, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. T. Wallace, Director of Finance;
Mr. E. McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing
and External Affairs;
Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood
Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. K. Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. C. Sheridan, Director of Human Resources;
Ms. N. Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement
Services
Ms. L-A O'Donnell, Senior Manager - Culture and Tourism;
Ms. K. Mullan, Fleadh Cheoil - Operations Lead;
Mr. M. McCann, City Innovation Manager;
Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Support and
Neighbourhood Integration;
Mr. J. Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance
Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance
Coordinator.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 8th January, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the

Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, and subject to the amendments of the minutes under the following heading:

***Hardship Programme 2025/26 –
Response from the Department for Communities Minister***

That the Council writes to:

- the Minister for Communities to express its objection to the confirmation that the Department for Communities hardship funding, provided in 2023/24, would not be available in future years, and to encourage the Minister to look at more equitable ways to tax the profits of energy companies to help fund the service going forward; and
- the Minister of Education to express its concern in relation to the Education Authority's decision to increase the price of school meals, and to state its support of the campaign by trade unions for the delivery of free school meals for all children.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Beattie, Black and I. McLaughlin declared an interest under item 3.b) Community Support Plan - Large Grant Funding Programme, in that they were associated with a group/organisation which had applied for or received funding. As the item did not become the subject of debate, they were not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor Murray declared an interest in items 3.c) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in that he was employed for the S.O.S who were a delivery partner of the Fleadh. As the related interest did not become the subject of debate, he was not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor R-M. Donnelly declared an interest under item 6. (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership, in so far as it related to PEACEPLUS in that she worked for an organisation which was funded under the Programme, and also item 3.b) Community Support Plan - Large Grant Funding Programme, in that she was the Chairperson of New Start Education. As the items did not become the subject of debate, she was not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor de Faoite declared an interest under item 5.c) Planning Information, in that he was on the Board of Governors of Forge Integrated Primary School. As the item did not become the subject of debate, he was not required to leave the meeting.

In relation to item 9.c) Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2026, Councillor Whyte declared an interest in that his employment was associated with one of the event applicants and left the meeting whilst the item was under consideration.

Presentation

Northern Ireland Water

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Dr. S. Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, and Mr. G. Lawther, Head of Developer Services, Metering and Billing representing Northern Ireland Water to the meeting.

The representatives provided a presentation on the following themes:

- NI Water Governance Model and vital service infrastructure overview;
- NI's Wastewater System and Wastewater Network Capacity Issues;
- Challenges for the environment and for New Connections in Belfast;
- Enquiries requiring significant capital interventions to facilitate a connection due to high polluting assets;
- Belfast Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan catchments and Council boundaries;
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and Water Framework Directive;
- Water quality issues in Belfast Lough;
- Belfast Lough modelling confirmed environmental impacts;
- Belfast City Council's ambitions – Local Development Plan;
- Planned investment update; and
- The need for a permanent funding solution.

During discussion, the representatives answered a range of questions in relation to capital spend per head in Belfast (in comparison to capital spend in other council areas), pollution of Lough Neagh, the current funding and investment deficit and future funding models, and the impact of new planning applications on the capacity of the Wastewater Treatment Systems.

Several Members highlighted the need for clear proposals and adequate multi-year budgets, together with interventions on a broader basis to allow smaller developments to proceed.

Dr. Blockwell stated that the current focus was on base maintenance and highlighted that a permanent funding solution was required, and although short-term injections of surplus funds helped, they were not a sustainable solution for critical infrastructure. He pointed out that, because of the scale of the expenditure required in Belfast, available funds had been invested elsewhere. He advised that, without urgent change to the wastewater system, Northern Ireland faced:

- Persistent and worsening pollution;
- Severe restrictions on new housing development; and
- Reduced attractiveness for investors and slower business development.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance, and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and that, where relevant, Northern Ireland Water would provide further information on the issues raised.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following eleven items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following eleven items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Members were advised that content of ‘restricted’ reports and any discussion which takes place during closed session must be treated as ‘confidential information’ and no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

Revenue Estimates 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Planning

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to allow further information to be provided on the efficiency proposals at its special meeting on Friday, 30th January. It was also agreed that reports be submitted on the Pitches Strategy and the strategic future use of Boucher Playing Fields.

The Committee agreed that the decision should not be subject to call-in, on the basis that an inability to immediately implement the decision would result in a breach of statutory duty in striking the rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2026.

Community Support Plan - Large Grant Funding Programme

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to allow further information to be provided at its special meeting on Friday, 30th January.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

The Committee was provided with an update on the planning to support the hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Belfast in August 2026.

During discussion, Members highlighted the need for engagement with local businesses in relation to trading and licensing requirements, the inclusion of local businesses in a food market, further information on campsites, residents’ parking scheme consultations, and further engagement with the wider Bands’ Forum.

The Committee:

- noted the progress to date on the development of the Fleadh Cheoil;
- agreed that an Expression of Interest exercise be undertaken in relation to a food market for local businesses; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future Committee in relation to Camp Site provision and licensing requirements for traders.

City Hall Income Generation Project

The Committee was provided with an update in relation to City Hall Income Generation proposals and the introduction of the charges set out in the next phase of the project.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and:

- Agreed the revision of criteria for the use of Belfast City Hall;
- Agreed the provision of room hire fees and additional charges / recharges for event services;
- Noted that information on the impact of the closure of the front doors/gates of the City Hall, due to ground works, would be provided to the Committee; and
- Agreed to the request from the Director of the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to undertake consultation events in the City Hall.

Update on Employees on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers

The Committee noted the contents of the report which provided an update on the number of employees on temporary contracts, secondments and the number of agency assignees.

Organisational Reviews and Change Programme

The Committee noted the progress on the work programme for the Organisational Reviews and Change Portfolio and timescales going forward.

Communications Update - Belfast City Council use of X/Twitter

The Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs advised the Committee of the Council's current use of its social media corporate account on X (formerly Twitter).

Proposal

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor Smyth,

That the Committee agrees to suspend the Council's use of its social media account on X and await the outcome of the Ofcom review of the monitoring of Grok (AI assistant app), and that officer's also engage with the PSNI Cyber Crime Unit in relation to the issues raised.

On a vote, fifteen Members voted for the proposal and five against, it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- Noted the information provided;
- Agreed to suspend the Council's use of its social media account on X and await the outcome of the Ofcom review of the monitoring of Grok (AI assistant app); and
- Agreed that officers engage with the PSNI Cyber Crime Unit in relation to the issues raised.

Asset Management

The Committee considered a report regarding asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.

The Committee:

1. **St George's Market Unit 6 – Lease renewal** - Approved the renewal of a Lease to Fullarton Pharmacy Ltd for Unit 6 at St George's Market;
2. Agreed that a report be submitted to a future Committee on the strategic use and future provision of Dunbar link and Duncrue, subject to the wider assessment of the Council's Estate and intrinsic links to future waste and fleet commitments; and
3. Agreed that a report be submitted to a future committee on the potential for the insourcing of kerbside collection and a Materials Recovery Facility.

EV Charging Network on Council Sites

The Director of Property and Projects updated the Committee on the proposed EV Charging Network across Council sites and the proposed list of Council sites to be included within the Tender documentation.

The Committee:

- Noted and agreed the broader list of potential sites included at Appendix 1;
- Noted the updated indicative timescales under 3.2 of the report: and
- Noted the opportunity for Members to join an Energy Saving Trust EV webinar, outlined at 3.3 of the report.

Summer Community Diversionary Programme Delivery Update

The Committee considered a report on the proposed changes to the delivery of the Summer Community Diversionary Programme 2026 – 2028.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson,

That the Committee agrees to the following funding allocations:

July Programme – Area based Funding allocation

- North and West Belfast, including the Shankill - £150,000
- East Belfast - £100,000
- South Belfast, including Suffolk - £100,000

August Programme – Area based Funding allocation

- West Belfast - £160,000
- North Belfast - £95,000
- South Belfast, including Suffolk and East Belfast - £95,000

On a vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and seven against, and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee:

1. Agreed the delivery of SCDP as a 3-year funding model;
2. Agreed the following 3 Area Specifications and funding thresholds for the July programme:
 - North and West Belfast, including the Shankill - £150,000
 - East Belfast - £100,000
 - South Belfast, including Suffolk - £100,000; and
3. Agreed the following 3 Area Specifications and funding thresholds for the August programme:
 - West Belfast - £160,000
 - North Belfast - £95,000
 - South and East Belfast, including Suffolk - £95,000.

**Community Support Plan Funding – Financial
Impact on groups which are currently funded
through Community Capacity and Revenue Grant**

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to allow further information to be provided at its special meeting on Friday, 30th January.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Performance Improvement Plan 2026/27

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval of the draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions for 2026-27 (Appendix 1) and to approve their issue for public consultation.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. consider and agree the Council’s proposed 2026-27 draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions (Appendix 1), subject to minor edits based on feedback.**
- ii. agree that the proposed 2026-27 draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions (Appendix 1) are issued for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks. The draft performance improvement objectives are summarised below for Members:**

Draft performance improvement objectives 2026-27
Our services We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.
Our people and communities We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.
Our place We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).
Our planet We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.
Our economy We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.

Compassionate city

We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.

iii. note the next steps, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 below

3.0 Main Report

Background

3.1 Members will be aware that Councils have a statutory performance improvement duty that requires them to develop and consult on an annual Performance Improvement Plan, which must be published by 30 June each year.

3.2 Potential improvement areas for inclusion in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27 have been identified through the corporate planning and estimating process as well as a desk-based review of the evidence base. Draft improvement objectives and indicative actions are provided for Committee in Appendix 1.

3.3 We will formally consult on the draft performance improvement objectives and indicative actions using the online YourSay Belfast platform for a period of 8 weeks (16 February – 13 April 2026) and we will use a range of other communication methods to help raise awareness and encourage participation/ reach. Members will note that during the public consultation period, the Performance Improvement Plan for 2026-27 (i.e., KPIs and targets) will continue to be refined and a final draft will be brought back to Committee in April 2026 for approval.

Next steps and timeline

3.4 To ensure the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27 is published before the statutory deadline of 30 June 2026, the table below sets out the timetable for finalising the plan:

Action	Deadline
SP&R Committee agree for officers to consult on the draft performance improvement objectives and proposed indicative actions.	23 Jan 2026
Council ratify Committee decision to consult on the draft performance improvement objectives and proposed indicative actions.	2 Feb 2026
Commence 8-week public consultation on the draft performance improvement objectives.	16 Feb – 13 April 2026 - TBC

The Strategy, Programmes and Partnership team continue to work with Departments to refine actions, KPIs and targets.	Feb - April 2026
CMT agree the draft Corporate Delivery Plan and the draft Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27.	April 2026
SP&R Committee agree the final draft of the Corporate Delivery Plan and the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27.	24 April 2026
Council ratify Committee decision to agree the Corporate Delivery Plan and the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27.	5 May 2026
Publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26 (submit to the NIAO).	26 May 2026

4.0 **Financial and Resource Implications**

4.1 All priorities are identified through the rate setting process. All agreed activity and performance targets will be reflected within Committee Plans, Departmental Plans, and programme plans, thereby ensuring that they are resourced and managed and improvement is embedded within our planning, performance, and delivery processes.

5.0 **Equality of Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment**

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

During discussion, in response to a Member’s suggestion to include the first phase of the Leisure Transformation Programme, including Girdwood, in the draft performance objectives, the Director of City and Organisational Strategy advised that the document would be updated to reflect this, together with further details of the objectives and actions under the ‘Our Planet’ section.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted the inclusion of the first phase of the Leisure Transformation Programme, including Girdwood, to the draft performance objectives.

Planning Information

The Committee noted the contents of the report which provided an update on major planning applications and applications which had been determined by the Planning Committee.

City Innovation programme

The City Innovation Manager presented the following report for consideration:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on a number of urban innovation initiatives including the Belfast Region City Deal Contracts for Innovation programme, the Belfast Region AI Adoption programme and the way forward for the City Hall Immersive experience.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Approve that, on behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, Belfast City Council enter into an Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board to the value of £431,250 to deliver aspects of the planned £4.4 million Contracts for Innovation programme.**
- 2. Approve that, on behalf of City Deal partners, Belfast City Council provide £50,000 to support an operational partnership agreement (OPA) between the Council and the Strategic Advisory Board to develop the programme business case for the £5 million AI Adoption programme.**
- 3. To note that Belfast City Council’s engagement on any specific opportunities arising from the AI programme will be managed through the Council’s own Data & Analytics Board with updates being brought to Members via this board.**
- 4. To consider the options for the future of the City Hall immersive experience from April 2026.**
- 5. To approve the commissioning of data modelling on the growth of the city region’s innovation sectors to inform future City Deal and Innovation City Belfast decision-making and initiatives.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Belfast City Region Contracts for Innovation programme

On behalf of Belfast City Region Deal (BRCD) Partners, Belfast City Council’s City Innovation Office is currently designing the £4.4 million ‘Contract for Innovation’ programme. This three-year programme will use a modified version of the ‘Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)’ methodology to allow the six local councils of the city region

to procure Research & Development expertise to address large-scale challenges.

- 3.2 The new programme builds on the learning from the recent Augment the City project, which provided £610,000 R&D funding to Belfast Stories to develop prototypes that will help shape the design of their approach to storytelling.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note that to support the delivery of aspects of the new programme, City Deal partners have agreed to enter into an operational partnership agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board (SIB) which has a full-time SBRI team in place and access to other technical expertise. This OPA, which will be between Belfast City Council and SIB, will be to the value of £431,250.
- 3.4 **Belfast City Region AI Adoption programme**

On behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, Belfast City Council are designing a £5 million AI adoption programme for the six BRCD councils. The programme, which will be subject to business case approval, will provide funding to the councils to work with AI specialist to integrate AI into aspects of council service delivery that will support organisational transformation and efficiencies.
- 3.5 Following a series of AI readiness workshops with officers from all six Belfast Region councils (alongside officers from all NI's councils who were also invited), City Deal partners now wish to develop the business case for the programme. This programme is likely to take an agile approach that would include a Discovery Phase, and then a series of alpha, beta and full deployment projects depending on the progress of each.
- 3.6 Members are asked to approve that, on behalf of City Deal partners, Belfast City Council enter into an operational partnership agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board (SIB) which has a full-time AI team in place and access to relevant technical expertise. The business case is expected to cost £100,000 to develop.
- 3.7 SIB will contribute £50,000 for this work. Members asked to approve that Belfast City Council provide the additional £50,000.
- 3.8 The development of the programme business case and related approval process is expected to take approximately six months. Depending on the outcomes from this process, the programme is expected to go live in autumn 2026.

3.9 Members should note that Belfast City Council's engagement on the opportunities arising from this AI programme will be managed through the council's own Data & Analytics Board with updates being brought to Members via this board.

3.10 City Hall immersive experience

The City Hall Immersive experience, in Rooms 7, 8 and 9 of City Hall, was the result of a collaborative six-month R&D project with BT Northern Ireland. The project (to which BT contributed £1 million in R&D technology and expertise) used Augmented Reality, iPads and video displays to explore elements of the speech, geography and history of the city in new and interactive ways. When the six-month R&D collaboration ended in March 2024, Members approved a one-year extension of the project until April 2026.

3.11 The experience received overwhelming positive feedback from visitors and staff, and has proven particularly attractive to younger visitors. Key facts from the feedback include:

- The experience was used over 50,694 times.
- People stayed in the rooms 30% longer than previous.
- Visiting with partner and families increased by 25%
- Increase of 14.5% for city hall tour during the period.
- 88.4% of users would recommend City Hall as a visitor attraction.

3.12 With the extension now coming to an end, there are three main options for going forward. These include:

3.13 Option 1: Close the experience. The rooms would be returned to their previous set up. There are minimal costs associated with this.

3.14 Option 2: Retain the 'Roadrunner' interactive game in room 9. This item has proved popular with out of state visitors and children in particular. This would cost £23,700 for one year (or £32,400 for three years) and would require no staff supervision.

3.15 Option 3: Retain the experience as is. This option will require a number of technical changes to the system (to allow it to continue efficiently beyond its original six-month lifespan). This option would also require support from one full time member of staff. The cost for this option is estimated to be £78,000 for twelve months (including staffing costs).

3.16 Options 2 or 3 could be procured via the Department of Finance's PSSN procurement framework.

3.17 Members are asked to consider the options for the experience going forward. Any option will need to be confirmed and in place by 31 March 2026.

3.18 Data modelling for the Belfast region innovation ecosystem

Belfast Region City Deal partners, and partners from Innovation City Belfast, have been developing a shared innovation investment proposition for the city region. This seeks to maximise the opportunities of the investments made in digital, innovation and skills by City Deal partners, and their impact on those sectors of the region's knowledge economy with the most potential for growth through innovation. This work is mindful of UK Government's Modern Industrial Strategy and its commitment to supporting the eight most important sectors in the economy, which in turn will have significant implications for government's innovation funding over the next four years.

3.19 With this in mind, Members are asked to approve the commissioning of a data modelling piece that will provide fine-grain information on key sectors and subsectors of the city region economy. This will be used to inform decision-making by City Deal partners, and by Innovation City Belfast. This is expected to cost no more than £30,000.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

4.1 Resources for these initiatives have been identified within the existing departmental budgets.

5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

5.1 None at present. Successful programmes will be subject to individual Equality screenings."

The Committee:

1. Approved that, on behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, Belfast City Council enter into an Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board to the value of £431,250 to deliver aspects of the planned £4.4 million Contracts for Innovation programme;
2. Approved that, on behalf of City Deal partners, Belfast City Council provide £50,000 to support an operational partnership agreement (OPA) between the Council and the Strategic Advisory Board to develop the programme business case for the £5 million AI Adoption programme;

3. Noted that Belfast City Council's engagement on any specific opportunities arising from the AI programme would be managed through the Council's own Data and Analytics Board with updates being brought to Members via this board;
4. Agreed to option 3 - *Retain the experience as is*, as outlined in 3.15 of the report for the future of the City Hall immersive experience from April 2026; and
5. Approved the commissioning of data modelling on the growth of the city region's innovation sectors to inform future City Deal and Innovation City Belfast decision-making and initiatives.

Procedure for Renaming of Streets

The Director of Planning and Building Control submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To outline the legislation, policy and procedural considerations relating to the re-naming of streets in the City.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the approved procedure to be followed when a proposal to re-name a street is received and to decide whether to move forward with the renaming process for Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens in the absence of an application from an individual.

Should Members be minded to trigger the renaming process, it is recommended that an initial petition is not carried out but that officers work with Elected Members in the appropriate DEA to generate alternative street names to be included in the survey of persons affected by the renaming proposal.

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1 The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.
- 3.2 This legislation contains no procedural advice regarding the naming or re-naming of streets and in this regard the procedures to be applied are covered by policy and practice.

- 3.3 The current policy on re-naming streets in Belfast is contained in the Street Naming and Building Numbering Policy approved by Council in February 2009 (Appendix 1).
- 3.4 The Council need to carefully consider any application for renaming of streets within its boundaries, as renaming of streets has profound implications on address management for the city, emergency services and the public. In practice this will primarily impact residents and any businesses owners and their tenants whose personal, business and legal documentation associated with their current address will need to be changed. This will be the responsibility of residents and local businesses.
- 3.5 At the Council meeting in November 2025, Members asked for a report on the process for renaming streets given that two streets within Belfast contain the name 'Prince Andrew'; namely Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens.

Overview of the Procedure and key considerations

- 3.6 Relevant policy considerations are outlined below: -

Application

- 3.7 The Street Naming and Building Numbering Policy as approved assumes that an individual will make an application to rename a street.

Initial petition.

- 3.8 Any application for re-naming of a street is expected to be accompanied by an initial petition of not less than one third of all residents of the street showing a positive interest in changing the street name. The adopted policy sets out that a request from an individual without support of survey or signed petition will not be considered and the individual will be informed accordingly.
- 3.9 There is no definition of resident, or explanation of how a petition of residents would be verified, however a resident could be considered to be any person whose name appears in the current Electoral Register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises given that business premises would also be impacted by this name change.

Alternative names

- 3.10 In accordance with current practice under the street naming process, the initial application and petition would indicate

what name is being proposed with a second choice of street name which would be included on the survey form.

Survey

- 3.10 Any application received by the Service for the renaming of a street which has the requisite support outlined above would be presented to Council seeking its approval before proceeding with the application.
- 3.12 If the application is approved, the opinions of persons affected by the renaming proposal would be sought. The policy states that this shall be through a survey of residents over the age of 18 and whose name appears on the current Electoral Register, requesting an indication of their support for or opposition to the proposed name change.
- 3.13 It should be noted that this does not include the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, residential landlords or residents not on the electoral register, whose views would not be taken into account, but who would be affected by any renaming.
- 3.14 If the result of the survey shows that at least two thirds of residents surveyed agree with the proposed name change then a recommendation will be placed before the People and Communities Committee for agreement of the change of name.
- 3.15 If the application is granted approval, Council will supply and erect new street name plates to replace the existing nameplates and will notify relevant stakeholders and the applicant that the street renaming has been approved.
- 3.16 Under the current policy any request or re-application to change a street name which has been refused will not be accepted until a minimum period of 2 years has elapsed.

Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens

- 3.17 The Council has not received an application from an individual to rename Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens. For information, it should be noted that there are only residential properties within the two streets, there are no commercial premises.
- 3.18 Members may decide that despite the agreed process set out in Appendix 1, and in the absence of an application from an individual to rename the two streets, the renaming process should be started for both Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens.

- 3.19 If this is the case, members should consider whether the requirement set out in the policy for an initial petition should be waived. The usefulness of the initial petition (built into the process to illustrate to members that the process should be triggered) should be considered and it may be that it is members may deem it unnecessary both in terms of staff resource and duplication of the survey that will ultimately be undertaken and presented to committee.
- 3.20 If the renaming process is agreed to be started for both streets, alternative names will be required to be included in the survey undertaken, As these alternative names will not be included in an initial application, it is proposed that officers work with elected Members from Botanic DEA (where the two streets are located) to determine alternative street names alongside residents.

Next Steps

- 3.21 If members agree to start the renaming process for the two streets, a further report will be presented to a future People and Communities Committee detailing the results of the initial petition (if required) and outlining the proposed first and second alternative street names. If that report is agreed, the final survey will be undertaken and the results presented to a further committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.22 There may be financial and resource implications if it is decided that an application is not required to change the name of Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens and if Council Officers are tasked with undertaking the initial petition of residents. If the renaming is ultimately approved, Council will supply and erect new street name plates to replace the existing nameplates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.33 None.”

The Committee noted the approved procedure to be followed when a proposal to re-name a street was received and agreed to consult with residents on whether to move forward with the renaming process for Prince Andrew Park and Prince Andrew Gardens in the absence of an application from an individual. The Committee also noted that a report on the consultation would be brought to a future Committee for consideration.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council’s Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme along with updates on capital letters of offer and contracts awarded.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

- **Capital Programme Movements -**
 - **IT Programme—Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology in the Council Chamber** - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
 - **Sydenham Greenway** - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
 - **Staff Cycle Racks Installation** - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.

- **Floral Hall H&S Works**– note the previous health & safety works undertaken on the Floral Hall and agree the second phase of health & safety works is now undertaken with a budget of £565,000 and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- **Belfast Stories** – note the key conditions within the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy (DfE) for the project.
- **Procurement process for 2026/27 Non-Recurrent Programme, Fleet Programme and Externally Funded Projects** - agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2026/27 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
- **Capital Letters of Offer** – to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer.
- **Contracts awarded in Q3 2025/26** – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded.

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

Physical Programme

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.

Capital Programme - Proposed Movements

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

Project	Overview	Stage movement
IT Programme— Digitising Audio- Visual (AV) Technology	Upgrade to digital Audio- Visual (AV) solution in the Council Chamber	Move to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i>
Sydenham Greenway	To develop a feeder path through Alderman Thomas Patton Playing Fields and connect to the Sydenham Greenway.	Move to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i>
Staff Cycle Racks Installation	Installation of new cycle racks in Cecil Ward Building, City Hall and other premises to improve provision.	Move to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i>

3.3 IT Programme— Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology in the Council Chamber

The current analogue AV rack-mounted controller hardware used in the Council chamber is at end of life with no direct replacement available. Transitioning to a digital AV solution is recommended, this will require replacing underfloor cabling, microphones, and associated hardware. The project aims to maintain reliable, high-quality audio-visual capabilities for council meetings and public engagement, and as such aligns with service improvement and efficiency through digital transformation and innovation. The project is part of the overall IT Programme/ Digital Strategy and a business case has been submitted. Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk, pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated. A contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver.

3.4 Sydenham Greenway

Members will recall that ‘Sydenham Greenway’ project was moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme in November 2021. This partnership project with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) aims to develop a greenway/ feeder path through Alderman Thomas Patton Playing Fields and connect to the Sydenham Greenway which will be delivered by Dfi. The Greenway will run from Victoria Park along the Belfast – Bangor Railway line to Hollywood Exchange. Dfi have provided match funding for the project and announced that it is part of the Dfi signature Active Travel schemes. As per the three-stage approval process, the outline business case has been completed. Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to

Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk, pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated. A contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver.

3.5 Staff Cycle Racks Installation

This project was added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging in October 2025. It includes the installation of new cycle racks in City Hall and Cecil Ward Building and upgrading cycle parking facilities in 9 Adelaide and Duncrue. BCC is committed to reducing transport related greenhouse gas emissions through its operations and across the city and promoting travel options that promote health and wellbeing, leading by example as an employer, an organisation delivering services, and as a civic leader. Members are asked to agree that project is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.6 Floral Hall H&S Works - roof installation

This project was moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* on the Capital Programme in December 2024 to deliver a series of immediate health and safety works due to the deteriorating condition of the Floral Hall building. Currently the building has been cleaned and all hazardous elements removed. However, as there is no roof covering over any part of the building, it is fully exposed to weather and natural elements which presents a very high potential for the building fabric to degrade further. In 2024, Members noted that the initial investment was mainly for Phase 1 H&S works and agreed that a further tender figure be brought back for further phases. Members are asked to note that a tender has been received for the roof works for £565,000. This will make the building watertight and allow for exploration of further opportunities for the building. Members are asked to agree Phase 2 of the Health & Safety works at the Floral Hall, that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree to a budget £565,000 being allocated to this project.

3.7 Belfast Stories

Belfast Stories is the Council’s flagship project under the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and is due to open in 2030. Positioned as a tourism anchor, Belfast Stories is set to deliver significant economic and social impact for Belfast

and beyond, helping to regenerate the city centre and connect the tourism offer to the neighbourhoods. In December 2025, Members will recall that they were advised that the Contract for Funding (CFF) had been received from Department for Economy (DfE) for £65m and was under review across a number of council departments prior to acceptance. Overall, it is noted that the CFF is a standard City Deal document and what Council would expect having been involved in City Deal documents over a period of time. Members are asked to note several key conditions within the Contract for Funding including:

- The period of assistance started on 13 January 2026 and runs until 31 May 2032. Any costs not processed by this end date will be ineligible for reimbursement.
- The Council must bear any budget overruns as the Accountable Body/ Lead Partner.
- The funding can only be used for the approved purposes to achieve the agreed outputs and key performance indicators. Any changes must be agreed with DfE.
- The Council must ensure robust project governance structures including compliance to project monitoring and evaluation, and reporting arrangements.
- Council must underwrite ongoing operating costs.

3.8 Approval to Procure 2026/27

Members are asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2026/27 including the Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

3.9 Capital Letters of Offer

Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q3 2025/26 at Appendix 1.

3.10 Contracts Awarded

Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q3 2025/26 at Appendix 2.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial Implications –

Floral Hall H&S Works – £565,000 for Phase 2 of the works. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
Resource Implications – Officer time to deliver.

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

The legislation requirements have been met including screening.

All physical projects are designed for people and are inherently inclusive and accessible.”

The Committee:

- **Capital Programme Movements –**
 - **IT Programme—Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology in the Council Chamber** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver;
 - **Sydenham Greenway** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver;
 - **Staff Cycle Racks Installation** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course;
- **Floral Hall H&S Works**– noted the previous health and safety works undertaken on the Floral Hall and agreed the second phase of health and safety works be now undertaken with a budget of £565,000 and that the Director of Finance had confirmed that this was within the affordability limits of the Council;
- **Belfast Stories** – noted the key conditions within the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy (DfE) for the project;
- **Procurement process for 2026/27 Non-Recurrent Programme, Fleet Programme and Externally Funded Projects** - agreed that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of

tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2026/27 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver;

- **Capital Letters of Offer** – noted the update in relation to capital letters of offer; and
 - **Contracts awarded in Q3 2025/26** – noted the update in relation to contracts awarded.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts Update

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services provided an update in relation to contracts and competitive tenders.

During discussion, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy undertook to provide further information in relation to the existing contract with Oxford Innovation for the Innovation Factory to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 1**);
- Approved the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 2**); and
- Approved the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 3**).

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Medical Services to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.	Up to 2 years	£700,000	K Forster	Reported at Oct 2025 SP&R meeting with duration and potential value now confirmed. Tenders	N	N	N

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				<p>currently being evaluated.</p> <p>Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, taking place 2-9 August 2026 (active bid for 2027), is expected to attract 750,000+ additional visitors over and above the existing civic population and normal tourist numbers expected at that time of year. The Council is therefore seeking suitably qualified and experienced supplier(s), to provide medical and first aid services at this event.</p>			
Upgrade the existing audio-visual solution in the Belfast City Hall Council chamber.	Up to 3 years	£235,050	S McNicholl	The current AV solution and associated hardware used for these meetings is end-of-life and we are	N	N	N

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				<p>recommending replacing the current analogue solution with a modern digital one. £225,000 Capital + £10,050 Revenue</p>			
<p>Campsite(s) for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.</p>	<p>Up to 2 years</p>	<p>Income based contract</p>	<p>K Forster</p>	<p>As part of the Fleadh programme campsite(s) are required to accommodate the number of visitors.</p> <p>The Council is therefore seeking suitably qualified and experienced supplier(s), to set up and manage campsites. Planning applications underway for the identified sites.</p> <p>Costs will be required (£value TBC) for site set up and management; however, aim is to recover majority of</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>N</p>

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				costs through charging to customers.			
Supply of standardised audio-visual equipment for meeting and conference rooms	One off Purchase	£200,000	P Gribben	The majority of the equipment is over 10 years old and struggles to meet the audio and visual requirements of modern remote and hybrid meetings. The adoption of a consistent approach to the management of AV equipment is a strategic move to enhance the council's hybrid meeting capabilities and standardise audiovisual solutions across all meeting spaces	N	N	N

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason	Other Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Construction Information database	Up to 3 years	£40,000	P Gribben	This is an online portal giving access to construction-based information. There is only one provider of this service.	Allium UK Holding Limited	3.	N	N

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification required	SRO	Description	Supplier
Oxford Innovation for Innovation Factory	Up to 6 years & £91k	Additional 12 months and £15,804	K Forster	Extension to existing contract in line with contract with Oxford Innovation for Innovation Factory which finishes in March 2027. The value of the work will be dependent on our requirement throughout the duration of the OI contract and any issues that may arise which we require support with.	KPMG
Provision of a Home Security/Assessment and Repair Service for Older & Vulnerable People	Up to 5 years & £650k	Additional 12 months and £100,000	S Toland	The project is subject to annual funding from the PHA, BCC and the PCSP. The PHA have advised the Council that they wish to review the current model for the delivery of the service. The current contract is due to expire in October 2026, however, we need to wait for the	Bryson Energy

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification required	SRO	Description	Supplier
				<p>PHA review before awarding a new contract. The review is expected to be completed during FY26/27 and a replacement tender will be considered in light of any proposed changes to the existing delivery model.</p>	
<p>Provision of Temporary Resources - Neutral Vendor Approach</p>	<p>Up to 2 years & £8m</p>	<p>Additional 4 months and £7.6m</p>	<p>C Sheridan</p>	<p>It has not been possible to progress the procurement for a temporary agency provider until December 2025. Consequently, the remaining duration of the current agency contract does not allow for sufficient planning and implementation of a new contract, potentially with a new supplier. To ensure an effective implementation including contractual compliance assurance, system configuration, training and transfer of agency workers, a 4-month extension is required.</p> <p>£5m of £7.6m covers overspend under the current contract. Reasons link back to wider resourcing issues as report to members on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>£2.6m to cover forecasted spend on the 4-month extension.</p>	<p>Matrix SCM Ltd</p>

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting

The Committee approved the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on the 12th January, including:

Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3 Update

- The Shared City Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.

PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update

- The Shared City Partnership Members noted the contents of the report, specifically the process for tolerances and the relevant percentage approvals by Project Managers, Programme Manager / Good Relations Manager and Programme Board, and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also notes and agrees the content of the report.

Peace Plus Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Peace Plus Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Workshop - Good Relations Audit Strategy and Action Plan

- The Shared City Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they also note the contents of the report, agree the contents of the new Good Relations Audit and 2026/2027 Good Relations Action Plan for issue to The Executive Office, and approve the Good Relations Strategy to undergo a public consultation exercise via the Council's Your Say Platform. It was also agreed that the Partnership would hold a further consultation session on 4th February to further consider the Draft Good Relations Strategy

Operational Issues

**Minutes of the Party Group
Leaders Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum of 15th January, 2026.

**Requests for use of the City Hall
and the provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
Belfast Chamber	19 February 2026	Governor of Bank of England Business Lunch - A 2 course Lunch with speeches and a fireside chat with Bank of England Governor, Andrew Bailey. Numbers attending – 100	B	£450
Visit Belfast	5 March 2026	Great Neighbourhood Days Out direct engagement evening session between neighbourhood tourism providers and group-travel organisers with presentations and networking. Numbers attending - 65	A & B	£450
East Belfast Community Development Agency	26 March 2026	Inspire Celebration Event – an annual celebration of young people in East Belfast with awards and showcase performances. Numbers attending – 150	D	Current rate free as registered charity
Wheelworks Arts	31 March 2026	Create Against Hate NI: Activities Toolkit Public Launch - Launch of resources developed to guide adults to help young people address issues such as hate crime, foster inclusion, and support the integration of new communities in Belfast. Numbers attending - 100	D	Current rate free as registered charity
NOW Group	2 June 2026	NOW Group Participant Graduation 2026 is an annual celebration event recognising the achievements of participants through the support of NOW group over the previous year Numbers attending – 312	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
MW Advocate Ltd	24 June 2026	Summit of the Cities 2026 will	B	<i>Event post</i>

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
		bring together leaders and delegates from all 12 cities across the island of Ireland to celebrate their history, share ideas, forge partnerships, and accelerate practical action on the issues shaping urban life with panel discussion and speeches. Numbers attending – 300-400		<i>April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Queens University Belfast	7 July 2026	Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Conference on Supercomputing Reception – Standing reception with speeches and catering Numbers attending – 180	A	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Business in the Community	25 November 2026	2025 Environment and Climate Report Launch brings together 200 sustainability professionals to recognize the 150 organisations who took part in the report which aims to improve environmental efforts in a range of sectors. Numbers attending – 200	B & D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Community Sport Network	7 December 2026	20th Anniversary Celebration event with gala dinner and reception followed by presentations which will showcase how sport and physical activity have been used as inclusive, non-political tools to support positive outcomes for individuals, communities and wider society. Numbers attending – 200	C & D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
2027				
Albertbridge Accordion Band	4 September 2027	Albertbridge Accordion Band's 70th Anniversary – Reception followed by performance and concluding with meal and speeches to celebrate community band formed in 1957 and honour founding members now in early 80s.	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
		Numbers attending – 150		

Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2026

The Committee:

1. Authorised the use of City Hall grounds on the dates noted in the report; and
2. Authorised the following events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events:
 - Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Event – 12th April, 2026
 - Belfast Photo Festival – 1 June 2026 – 30th June, 2026
 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 5th June, 2026
 - Féile Rock's Pride Concert – TBC

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Public Art – 2 Royal Avenue (Councillor de Faoite to raise)

In response to the request from Councillor De Faoite, following conversations with the partner organisations in the LGBT+ Hub, for the consideration of public art in the form of a mural on the tower at the Bank Square entrance of 2 Royal Avenue, the Committee agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be brought back to the Committee.

Chairperson