

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

**HYBRID MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE  
- REPORTS TO FOLLOW**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 13th June, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

**AGENDA:**

3. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**
  - (a) Notices of Motion Update (Pages 1 - 16)
6. **Operational Issues**
  - (a) Proposal for dual language street signs (Pages 17 - 26)

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<b>Subject:</b>	Notices of Motion Update
<b>Date:</b>	13 June 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Carville, Executive Support Officer

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide an update to People and Communities Committee on Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that People and Communities Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that the Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and</li> <li>• Agree to the closure of Issues Raised in Advance and Notices of Motion as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted below.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in June 2022.
3.2	This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the June 22 update.
	<b>Notice of Motion Updates</b>
3.3	There are currently 36 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remain active on the live database is attached at Appendix 1.

## Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance

3.4 At SP&R Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:

- **Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed.** All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report, but will be noted in the live database moving forward.
- **Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed in to a strategic programme of work.** These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process.

3.5 Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.

### **Category 1 Recommended Closures:**

3.6 **Proposal for pedestrian crossing at new BCC playpark on Upper Dunmurry Lane (Ref 38)**

Following discussion on this Issue Raised in Advance ..'the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure in regards to an update on the Pedestrian Crossing requests for Upper Dunmurry Lane and Cherryvale'.

	<p>Upper Dunmurry Lane - Whilst DfI had hoped to deliver this scheme in the 2022/23 financial year dependent upon confirmation of budget and availability of contractor resource, unfortunately the scheme is yet to be progressed. Officers will continue to liaise with DfI to progress this request.</p> <p>Cherryvale - DfI continue to undertake the relevant safety assessments required to progress the installation of this crossing. Officers will continue to keep Members updated going forward. It is therefore recommended that this Issue is closed as the specific actions within have been undertaken.</p> <p><b>Historic Graveyards – (Ref No. 48)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed that ‘...Council organise a tour of the two cemeteries for Members; prepare a maintenance and conservation plan; provide a report on the plan and costs and set a timeframe for the completion of the required works’.</p> <p>Site visits have taken place one of which included Chief Executive, Director of Physical Programmes and Director of City Services. With funding support from DfC, Historic Environment Division, condition surveys have been carried out by a conservation architect. The resulting reports include indicative costings for the work required. Proposed works will now follow the standard council process for development as capital projects. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is closed as the requested actions have now been undertaken.</p>
3.7	
3.8	<p><b>Support for Young People and Students (Ref 123)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed that <i>"..this Council notes the adverse effect COVID-19 has had on our city’s young people and students. Accordingly, we call upon the Council to facilitate an ad hoc meeting with key stakeholders to amplify the wide range issues and ensure a joined up approach is taken."</i></p> <p>As previously noted, officers met with Cllrs Kate Nicholl and Sian Mulholland in January 2021 to discuss this Motion and followed up with a short note of key discussion points and potential direction. Feedback from Members on how to progress this Motion was not received. As both the proposer and seconder of this Motion are no longer BCC councillors, and with relevant Community Planning Partners including EA, BHSCT, UU and QUB continuing to support Children and Young People through both Covid response and recovery periods, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>

3.9	<p><b>Recent Violence and Public Disorder (Ref 182)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed that '<i>..Council will: commit to supporting all elements of the Youth Service, including our own Belfast Youth Forum; and will convene an urgent meeting of the relevant statutory agencies and third sector organisations to develop a consistent, young person led approach for the coming summer period; engage with Trade Unions to ensure safety of our staff and; will support the ongoing process for the formation of a NI Youth Assembly; and seek assurances that Youth Citizens' Assemblies will be considered as an engagement model to make recommendations for the city on addressing poverty, inequality, eradicating paramilitarism, integrating communities, expanding opportunity and tackling the climate crises</i>'.</p> <p>Following on from previous updates on this Motion, a new Children &amp; Young People Coordinator was recently appointed and is currently refreshing membership and involvement of the BCC Youth Council. Links have also been made with the NI lead for the UK Youth Parliament and we plan to also reach out to the NI Youth Assembly lead and to the EA lead for their youth engagement forums in due course. We will continue to support C&amp;YP actions identified under community planning as well as via our own service areas within CNS - for example in relation to planning for, and responding to, disorder at a local level - our Community Safety team and PCSPs are funding a number of initiatives focused on diversionary activity and linking with key stakeholders through the partnerships (city and areas) re. same. In light of these ongoing actions, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>
3.10	<p><b>City Centre Safety for Women (Ref 218)</b></p> <p><i>'At the request of Councillor Black, the Committee agreed that an update report be submitted to a future meeting, to include relevant information and feedback, from the PCSPs, Partners and other Stakeholders, on the issue of City Centre Safety for Women</i>'.</p> <p>Following on from previous updates on this Issue Raised in Advance, a report and suggested actions focused on 'inclusive and safe' (including those relating to the safety of women in the city centre) are to be considered internally by officers before being discussed more broadly with the PCSPs to see what can be achieved in 2023/24. As the Clean, Green, Inclusive and Safe action plan will pick these issues up going forward, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>

3.11	<p><b>Request to present to Committee – Inclusive Parks (Ref 251)</b></p> <p>A presentation from Playboard NI and the Mae Murray Foundation was received at People and Communities Committee in June 2022 therefore this Issue Raised in Advance can be closed.</p>
3.12	<p><b>Cleansing Task Force (Ref 255)</b></p> <p>The first meeting of the Cleanliness Task Force was held on 17 August 2022, with a number of meetings held since. It was agreed at the Cleanliness Task Force held on 28 April 2023 that the Task Force had fulfilled its Terms of Reference and that no further meetings would be required at this time. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is closed.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Review of Non-Residential Fees for the re-opening of graves in Blaris Cemetery for Collin Residents (Ref 265)</b></p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance requested that that a letter be issued to Lisburn and Castlereagh (LCCC) seeking a review of non-residential fees for the re-opening of graves in Blaris Cemetery for Collin Residents. A further Member asked the Committee to write to the Minister for Communities to establish if there were any plans to review the Burial Ground Regulations in relation to fees for burials and to ascertain if the Department had any plans to work with Councils to ensure that residents were not faced with disproportionate charges during a bereavement. The Committee accordingly agreed to issue the letters as requested.</p> <p>Correspondence was issued to LCCC and DfC as agreed by Committee and responses received. An update report was provided to Committee in October 2022. In their response, Department for Communities advised that the Burial Grounds Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 were made under section 181 of the Public Health Ireland Act 1878 Act (the 1878 Act). This section does not provide the Department with the power to make regulations regarding burial fees which is the sole responsibility of Councils. LCCC replied to advise that there was a three year period following Local Government Reform from April 2015 to March 2018 where the resident rate was applied. LCCC advised that their position on this matter has been reviewed following by the Northern Ireland Public Sector Ombudsman following a similar challenge and had been supported in decision making and consistency on the matter. Given that the specific actions have been undertaken and that LCCC have outlined their position on this issue, it is recommended that this is now closed.</p>

3.14	<p><b>Support for Parents (Ref 275)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed..’to support parents, the Council commits to providing a list of existing initiatives which it delivers, with a view to working with the voluntary and community sector, as well as other partners, to explore if such initiatives may be improved, as well as seeking to bring forward new programmes during the cost-of-living crisis. The Council also commits to seeking parents’ views on any further support it will provide to families to ensure that parent voice is a significant factor in the design and implementation of new initiatives that will help tackle the cost-of-living crisis for parents’.</p> <p>The first action within this Motion regarding support for Parenting Week 2022 has been completed. A number of support programmes for parents are delivered via our community and play centre programming and via external organisations who book our centres. These include Parent and Toddler clubs, After-Schools Programmes, Homework Clubs, Summer Scheme Programmes and Money Saver Events. Our Play Service also provides a number of further targeted support projects including cultural confidence projects for Ethnic Minorities where we deliver sessions to parents and children from ethnic minority backgrounds and project support for Refugees delivered at three hotels in the city and in Botanic Park. The team are also delivering support to a Neurodiverse Parents Group with sessions for parents to talk and share experiences of children with neurodiverse profiles. Given the volume of ongoing work in relation to this Motion, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>
3.15	<p><b>Bins not being removed from the street (Ref 276)</b></p> <p>This is being progressed as part of the actions arising from the Special P&amp;C committee on the 22nd March 2023 therefore it is recommended that this issue is now closed.</p>
3.16	<p><b>Belfast Cycle Network (Ref 288)</b></p> <p>This Motion requested that the Council engage with PSNI and Department for Infrastructure, to develop a long-term, comprehensive strategy to ensure that the Belfast cycle network is kept clean and free from obstructions, such as parked cars and commercial bins.</p> <p>Officers continue to engage with key partners, in particular DfI, through established Community Planning structures. Processes are in place within council to address any cleansing issues which are raised; however, enforcement of obstructions lies with DfI.</p>



	<p>Given that the specific actions within have been undertaken, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>
3.17	<p><b>Missed bin collections (Ref 299)</b></p> <p>This is being progressed as part of the actions arising from the Special P&amp;C committee on 22nd March 2023 therefore it is recommended that this issue is now closed.</p>
	<p><b><u>Category 2 Recommended Closures</u></b></p>
3.18	<p><b>Belfast City Council Cycling Champion (Ref 124)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed that <i>'this Council agrees to introduce a Belfast City Council - Cycling Champion within the Council to support active travel and bicycle use; and agrees to write to the Minister for Infrastructure calling on the publication of the Belfast Bicycle Network'</i>.</p> <p>An internal officer Connectivity and Active Travel Group has been established and is seeking to ensure that our policies, projects, interventions, funding opportunities and programming are aligned to not only our internal corporate priorities but link with various external structures and plans e.g. Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Belfast Cycling Network. This work will also feed into an All Party Member workshop on the sustainable and active work and engagement that Council are undertaking. Officers intend to present a paper to CMT in the coming weeks regarding a three-year workplace Active Travel Plan which includes the nomination of a senior CMT officer as an Active Travel Champion, therefore it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>
3.19	<p><b>Graffiti Removal (Ref 244)</b></p> <p>This Motion proposed that <i>'...this is not a problem unique to Belfast but is one for which we should consider innovative solutions alongside traditional cleaning methods Council will also work in an inter-agency capacity to address issues around unwanted graffiti across the city. In doing so, Council should consider how its team can be made available to other agencies on a commercial basis'</i>.</p> <p>As per recent updates to the Cleanliness Task Force, a database has been established to track problem graffiti areas to enable the alignment of resources. Environmental Education and Outreach Team are working with the Neighbourhood Manager (OSS) on a pilot to support community groups in graffiti removal. Officers continue to work with partner agencies in regard to education and awareness, with a number of environmental school</p>

	visits undertaken which include the issue of the impact and cost of graffiti. It is officers' intention to write to the Permanent Secretaries of each department to encourage consideration of participation in graffiti removal for team building days/activities. As the specific points within the Motion have been addressed and reporting will be ongoing, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
3.20	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>  There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.
3.21	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>  There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – P&amp;C Committee</b>

Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Agreed actions (agreed decisions from committee/ Council)	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	Status Update
Cllr McDonough-Brown	Referred to P&C	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Given the level of capital investment required to deliver this NoM, this has been referred to Physical Programmes and finance for capital planning considerations.
Cllr Walsh	Referred To P&C	P&C		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Under the Shared Island Fund, the Council is working with Dublin City Council (DCC) to produce a feasibility report by September 2023 around circular economy partnership between Dublin and Belfast. This will investigate the feasibility of a capital project to develop infrastructure, facilities, and institutional frameworks to support the transition to a circular economy and meet national ambitions around climate, waste and economic development. The DCC/ BCC partnership envisages a network of physical centres across the two cities with the potential to expand along the Dublin/Belfast economic corridor. The centres will provide the functions most needed to stimulate and support circular economy opportunities, businesses and communities alike.
Cllr Ferguson	Referred to P&C	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Due to staff resourcing issues, progress on this motion has been delayed but we are hoping to recommence work in the coming weeks with colleagues in the Climate Resilience Team.
Ald McCoubrey	Referred to P&C	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Given the level of capital investment required to deliver this NoM, this has been referred to Physical Programmes and finance for capital planning considerations.
Cllr Garrett	Referred to P&C	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	As Members may recall from the previous update on this Motion, work on the Belfast's Buzzing, All Ireland Pollinator and Greening of Alleyways continues. An application for financial support for the alleyway transformation project has been submitted to the BCC Climate Action Fund . Members will be kept updated on these projects via reporting to P&C and the Climate and City Resilience Committee.

CLlr Michael Collins		P&C	letter to be sent to Department for Infrastructure	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Upper Dunmurry Lane - Whilst DfI had hoped to deliver this scheme in the 2022/23 financial year dependent upon confirmation of budget and availability of contractor resource, unfortunately the scheme is yet to be progressed. Officers will continue to liaise with DfI to progress this request. Cherryvale - DfI continue to undertake the relevant safety assessments required to progress the installation of this crossing. Officers will continue to keep Members updated going forward. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is closed as the specific actions within have been undertaken.
CLlr Nicholl	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	The Graffiti team has now transferred to OSS, which has enhanced the service in the interim whilst work continues on the development of a graffiti policy. Updates on graffiti work have been delivered to the Cleanliness Task Force since its formation in Summer 22. Officers will continue to keep the Cleanliness Task Force and other relevant city centre groups updated on progress.
CLlr McAteer	Straight to Committee	P&C		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Site visits have taken place one of which included CX, Director of Physical Programmes and Director of City Services. With funding support from DFC, Environment and Heritage Division, condition surveys have been carried out by a conservation architect. The resulting reports include indicative costings for the work required. Proposed works will now follow the standard council process for development as capital projects. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is closed as the requested actions have now been undertaken.
CLlr McReynolds	Debated at Council	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers are investigating current community sector provision via our strategic, capacity and locality partner contacts and are also researching schemes operated by other local councils. We will reengage with proposing councillor to outline our findings and consider any action. A subsequent report will be presented to a future committee.
CLlr Groogan	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	At the February 23 meeting of P&C Committee, Members approved a request from Hububb for Belfast to take part in a trial #InTheLoop recycling on-the-go campaign and agreed to proceed with the pilot based on placing recycling bins in the 4 quadrants of the city and in the city centre and noted that an evaluation report would be available following the pilot. The pilot will run for three months in Summer 23 - plans to finalise are ongoing.
CLlr Garrett		P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Funding has been agreed through the Climate Action Fund and a consultant has been appointed to carry out a feasibility study in relation to Beechvale Farm and this site. Updates will be presented to P&C Committee and the Climate and City Resilience Committee in due course.

Cllr Nicholl	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	As previously noted, officers met with Cllrs Kate Nicholl and Sian Mulholland in Jan 2021 to discuss this Motion and followed up with a short note of key discussion points and potential direction. Feedback from Members on how to progress this Motion was not received. As both the proposer and seconder of this Motion are no longer BCC councillors, and with relevant Community Planning Partners including EA, BHSCT, UU and QUB continuing to support Children and Young People through both Covid response and recovery periods, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
Cllr McReynolds	Straight to Committee	P&C		C Reynolds	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	An internal officer Connectivity and Active Travel Group has been established and is seeking to ensure that our policies, projects, interventions, funding opportunities and programming are aligned to not only our internal corporate priorities but link with various external structures and plans e.g. Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Belfast Cycling Network. This work will also feed into an All Party Member workshop on the sustainable and active work and engagement that Council are undertaking. Officers intend to present a paper to CMT in the coming weeks regarding a three-year workplace Active Travel Plan which includes the nomination of a senior CMT officer as an Active Travel Champion, therefore it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
Page 11 Cllr Donnelly	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Using a combination of council feasibility funding and external funding provided by DAERA an specialist, ARUP, was appointed to deliver a broad feasibility study in relation to the 5 routes referenced above. The first phase of the work had identified a number of options for routes scored against feasibility and deliverability. The routes were reviewed at a members workshop on January 25th and further developed with support from key stakeholders and partners at a second workshop on February 15th. Arup are in the process of developing detailed costed concept plans for those routes identified as most feasible for delivery.
Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Unfortunately officers in CNS and the Climate Team have been unable to progress this Motion to date due to resourcing capacity. Officers hope to pick this up going forward.
Cllr Newton		P&C	report to come back to P&C re CCTV equipment and letters to be sent to Dfl Minister and Chief Executive of Transport NI re gritting	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers continue to engage with the PSNI and other key stakeholders in relation to the installation of CCTV in the CS Lewis Square area. Whilst there are a number of issues to consider including installation and monitoring costs, officers will continue to seek a resolution and will keep Members updated via reporting to People and Communities Committee.

CLlr Beattie		P&C	report to come back to P&C Committee	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A meeting between BCC senior officers and Colaiste Feirste representatives is scheduled to progress this Issue. Members will be updated in due course.
CLlr Matt Collins	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Using a combination of council feasibility funding and external funding provided by DAERA an specialist, ARUP, was appointed to deliver a broad feasibility study in relation to the 5 routes referenced above. The first phase of the work had identified a number of options for routes scored against feasibility and deliverability. The routes were reviewed at a members workshop on January 25th and further developed with support from key stakeholders and partners at a second workshop on February 15th. Arup have developed detailed costed concept plans for those routes identified as most feasible for delivery which will be reviewed and finalised at a stakeholder workshop on 26 June 2023.
CLlr Smyth	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	C&YP Coordinator (Stephen Mulholland) was recently appointed and is currently refreshing membership and involvement of the BCC Youth Council. Links have also been made with the NI lead for the UK Youth Parliament and we plan to also reach out to the NI Youth Assembly lead and to the EA lead for their youth engagement forums in due course. We will continue to support C&YP actions identified under community planning as well as via our own service areas within CNS - for example in relation to planning for, and responding to, disorder at a local level - our Community Safety team and PCSPs are funding a number of initiatives focused on diversionary activity and linking with key stakeholders through the partnerships (city and areas) re. same In light of these ongoing actions, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
CLlr Black	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	As per previous update - report and suggested actions focused on 'inclusive and safe' (including those relating to the safety of women in the city centre) are to be considered internally by officers before being discussed more broadly with the PCSPs to see what can be achieved in 2023/24. As the Clean, Green Unclusive and Safe action plan will pick these issues up going forward, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.

Ald. Dorrian	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	As per recent updates to the Cleanliness Task Force, a database has been established to track problem graffiti areas to enable the alignment of resources. Environmental Education and Outreach Team are working with the Neighbourhood Manager ( OSS) on the pilot to support community groups in graffiti removal. Officers continue to work with partner agencies in regard to education and awareness, with a number of environmental school visits undertaken which include the issue of the impact and cost of graffiti. It is officers' intention to write to the Permanent Secretaries of each department to encourage consideration of participation in graffiti removal for team building days/activities. As the specific points within the Motion have been addressed and reporting will be ongoing, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
Cllr McMullan	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	A presentation from Playboard NI and the Mae Murray Foundation was received at People and Communities Committee in June 2022 therefore this Issue Raised in Advance can be closed.
Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sale	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Given the level of capital investment required to deliver this NoM, this has been referred to Physical Programmes and finance for capital planning considerations.
Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sale	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	The first meeting of the Cleanliness Task Force was held on 17 August 2022, with a number of meetings held since. It was agreed at the Cleanliness Task Force held on 28 April 2023 that the Task Force had fulfilled its Terms of Reference and that no further meetings would be required at this time. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is closed.
Cllr O'Hara	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Given the level of capital investment required to deliver this NoM, this has been referred to Physical Programmes and finance for capital planning considerations.
Cllr Michael Collins	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Officers have met with LCCC and discussed cemetery fees. The bereavement fees are due to be reviewed as part of the wider Bereavement Services review - as advised in the report presented to December 22 P&C Committee, on crematorium staffing levels, a further detailed pricing strategy for Bereavement Services will be considered by the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group and will be brought to committee in 2023. Given that the specific actions have been undertaken and that LCCC have outlined their position on this issue, it is recommended that this is now closed

ClIr Flynn	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Due to resourcing issues, officers have been unable to progress this Motion but hope to secure funding from Climate Action Fund in order to move forward with this work.
ClIr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Initial work has commenced, with officers reviewing allotments at site level with a view to addressing poor management of plots and reducing the waiting list. A report will be brought to a future meeting of P&C Committee.
ClIr Michelle Kelly	Agreed at Committee/ referred to P&C	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	The first action within this Motion regarding support for Parenting Week 2022 has been completed. A number of support programmes for parents are delivered via our community and play centre programming and via external organisations who book our centres. These include Parent and Toddler clubs, After-Schools Programmes, Homework Clubs, Summer Scheme Programmes and Money Saver Events. Our Play Service also provides a number of further targeted support projects including cultural confidence projects for Ethnic Minorities where we deliver sessions to parents and children from ethnic minority backgrounds and project support for Refugees delivered at three hotels in the city and in Botanic Park. The team are also delivering support to a Neurodiverse Parents Group with sessions for parents to talk and share experiences of children with neurodiverse profiles. Given the volume of ongoing work in relation to this Motion, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
ClIr Murray	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		C Matthews	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	This is being progressed as part of the actions arising from the Special P&C committee on the 22nd March 2023 therefore it is recommended that this issue is now closed.
ClIr Hanvey	Straight to Committee	P&C	BCC to engage PSNI and DfI to develop a strategy to ensure the Belfast cycle network is kept clean and free from obstructions	C Reynolds	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	Officers continue to engage with key partners, in particular DfI, through established Community Planning structures. Processes are in place within council to address any cleansing issues which are raised; however, enforcement of obstructions lies with DfI. Given that the specific actions within have been undertaken, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
ClIr Pankhurst	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers have met with the proposer of the Motion to discuss a way forward - an update will be presented to P&C in due course.
ClIr Michael Collins	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A report on current leisure centre inclusivity programming and future development/expansion plans was presented to P&C Committee in April 2023. During discussion, Members were provided with a specific update on the Council's engagement with Swimming Buddies and advised that Council officers and GLL senior officers were continuing to engage with Swimming Buddies to explore opportunities to develop and expand services including, in addition to pool sessions, supported dry activities and staff training.



CLlr De Faoite	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Initial report presented to March 2023 People and Communities Committee. The report was referred to enable the proposer of the motion to liaise further with Council officers regarding the proposal and the anticipated costs in advance of a report being submitted to a future meeting
CLlr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C				Recommendation Close	This is being progressed as part of the actions arising from the Special P&C committee on 22nd March 2023 therefore it is recommended that this issue is now closed.
CLlr Kyle	Agreed at Council	P&C		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update report on this Motion is being presented to the June 23 People and Communities Committee.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for dual language street signs
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for ten existing streets within the city.
1.2	To consider a request from a resident of Downview Park West, who has written to Belfast City Council requesting to address members at Committee. This resident is objecting to the dual language street nameplate.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to:  (1) The erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Orchardville Avenue, Wynchurch Avenue, Mayfield Square, Hillhead Avenue, St Meryl Park, Chichester Avenue, Ballymurphy Drive, Airfield Heights and Margaretta Park.

	(2) Receive a deputation from an objector in respect of the application for Downview Park West at a future meeting of the Committee.																																											
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>																																											
	<u>Key Issues</u>																																											
3.1	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 second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																											
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th> <th>Non- English Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Persons surveyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Orchardville Avenue, BT10 0JH</td> <td>Ascaill Orchardville</td> <td>Finaghy Road North</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wynchurch Avenue, BT6 OJP</td> <td>Ascaill Wynchurch</td> <td>Off Rosetta Road</td> <td>113</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mayfield Square, BT10 0QT</td> <td>Cearnóg Ghort na Bealtaine</td> <td>Off Blacks Road</td> <td>169</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hillhead Avenue, BT11 9GD</td> <td>Ascaill an Mhullaigh</td> <td>Off Stewartstown Road</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Meryl Park, BT11 8FY</td> <td>Páirc Naomh Muirgheal</td> <td>Off Glen Road</td> <td>112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Downview Park West, BT15 5HN</td> <td>Páirc Radharc an Dúin Thair</td> <td>Off Downview Park, Antrim Road</td> <td>177</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chichester Avenue, BT15 5EH</td> <td>Ascaill Chichester</td> <td>Off Antrim Road</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballymurphy Drive, BT12 7JJ</td> <td>Céide Bhaile Uí Mhurchú</td> <td>Off Ballymurphy Road</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaretta Park, BT17 0JQ</td> <td>Páirc Margaretta</td> <td>Off Stewartstown Road</td> <td>125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Orchardville Avenue, BT10 0JH	Ascaill Orchardville	Finaghy Road North	93	Wynchurch Avenue, BT6 OJP	Ascaill Wynchurch	Off Rosetta Road	113	Mayfield Square, BT10 0QT	Cearnóg Ghort na Bealtaine	Off Blacks Road	169	Hillhead Avenue, BT11 9GD	Ascaill an Mhullaigh	Off Stewartstown Road	67	St Meryl Park, BT11 8FY	Páirc Naomh Muirgheal	Off Glen Road	112	Downview Park West, BT15 5HN	Páirc Radharc an Dúin Thair	Off Downview Park, Antrim Road	177	Chichester Avenue, BT15 5EH	Ascaill Chichester	Off Antrim Road	70	Ballymurphy Drive, BT12 7JJ	Céide Bhaile Uí Mhurchú	Off Ballymurphy Road	99	Margaretta Park, BT17 0JQ	Páirc Margaretta	Off Stewartstown Road	125
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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 **Orchardville Avenue, BT10**

- 37 occupiers (39.78 %) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 2 occupiers (2.15%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 4 occupiers (4.30%) had no preference either way
- 50 occupiers (53.76 %) did not respond to the survey

One resident from Orchardville Avenue who is not in favour of the dual language nameplate has responded on the survey form that they would prefer that the money was spent on things which directly impact on families. While they believe in equality, they believe that dual language street signage is not the best use of time and money to promote inclusion. This resident is also concerned that the sign could be seen as an endorsement from residents who could become a target for people who are not happy with the signage.

3.7 **Wynchurch Avenue, BT6**

- 20 occupiers (17.70%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 30 occupiers (26.55%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 4 occupiers (3.54%) had no preference either way
- 59 occupiers (52.21%) did not respond to the survey

3.8 One resident from Wynchurch Avenue who is not in favour of the dual language nameplate has responded on the survey form that they are concerned about the divisive impact of an Irish translation on a street name plate.

3.9	<p><b>Mayfield Square, BT10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 49 occupiers (28.99%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.78%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupiers (0.59%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 116 occupiers (68.64%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.10	<p><b>Hillhead Avenue, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 occupiers (49.25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (2.99 %) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier 1.49%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 31 occupiers (46.27%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.11	<p><b>St Meryl Park, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54 occupiers (48.21%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.89%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 57 occupiers (50.89%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.12	<p><b>Downview Park West, BT15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70 occupiers (39.55%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 36 occupiers (20.34 %) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 71 occupiers (40.11%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p>One resident from Downview Park West who is not in favour of the dual language nameplate has written in to complain about the time and money being wasted on what they perceive to be trivial issues. Another resident telephoned to raise a concern about their property depreciating in value should the signage be erected</p> <p>A further resident from Downview Park West has written in and is strongly objecting to the dual language nameplate in a mixed area. The resident feels that a dual language nameplate can be very divisive. The resident has also requested to address the decision makers at Committee.</p>

3.13	<p><b>Chichester Avenue, BT15 5EH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 occupiers (17.14%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 10 occupiers (14.29%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (1.43%) had no preference either way</li> <li>• 47 occupiers (67.14%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.14	<p><b>Ballymurphy Drive, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 occupiers (29.29%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 70 occupiers (70.71%) did not respond to the survey check if these change</li> </ul>
3.15	<p><b>Margaretta Park , BT17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 occupiers (48.80%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.8%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 63 (50.40%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
3.16	<p><b>Airfield Heights, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 occupiers (29.61%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate</li> <li>• 126 occupiers (70.39%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p>
3.17	<p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.18	<p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy. However the Committee is reminded that the Council retain a residual discretion under the Policy to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis.</p>
3.19	<p>The Policy states that it may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this Policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:</p>

	<p>(a) the views of the Occupiers of the street;</p> <p>(b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;</p> <p>(c) consideration of the local context of the application;</p> <p>(d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and</p> <p>(e) all material considerations relating to the application.</p>
3.20	<p>As appears above one of the objectors in respect of the Downview Park West application has asked to make a deputation to the Committee. Committee are asked to consider inviting the resident to a subsequent meeting of the Committee and defer making a decision in respect of that application until it has heard that deputation.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.21	<p>There is a cost of approximately £3,350 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of approximately 28 dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.22	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on the grounds of equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
3.23	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the 10 applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out. However, the Committee is entitled to take into account the concerns raised by the residents as set out above in arriving to their decision.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Street Naming Policy



# Appendix 1

## Dual Language Street Signs Policy

### 1.0 Legislation

The statutory basis for this function is contained within *Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995*, which commenced on 15 March 1995. It provides for street naming, street numbering and the provision of street signs. It also gives Councils the discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or secondary nameplates in a language other than English.

### 2.0 Introduction

The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, to which the U.K. is a signatory, was taken into account when developing this policy, as was guidance published by the UN Special Rapporteur on the practical implementation of language rights of linguistic minorities. The Council's Language Strategy adopted by the Council in May 2018 sets out the Council's commitment to establish a transparent set of principles for promoting, protecting and enhancing the linguistic diversity of the city.

The European Charter establishes an obligation on state signatories not to create barriers in respect of the use of a minority language. The UN Special Rapporteur guidance notes that the threshold where it is reasonable and practical to provide such signs varies between 5 percent and 20 percent of the local population. While this policy applies to all languages, the Council recognises that Irish and Ulster Scots are recognised as minority languages in the European Charter.

For the purposes of this policy "Occupiers" shall be taken to be any person whose name appears in the current Electoral Register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises.

These policy proposals were developed in close consultation with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services and are designed to promote consistent and reasonable responses. However, the policy should not be applied in such a way as to prevent due consideration being given to the particular circumstances of each application. See in particular Section 3(xi) below.

Having regard to the significant resource consequences of administering the implications of the policy, the policy will be reactive in nature. The policy will be managed and implemented based on the resources available and the established annual budget for street signage. The Council reserves the right to pause the processing of applications in the event that resources are not sufficient.

### **3.0 Procedure**

The procedures for seeking and assessing the views of Occupiers and the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a street sign in a language other than English are as follows:

- (i) Applications for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English must be made by an Applicant submitting an application form either by post or electronically to Belfast City Council.
- (ii) An application for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English may be made by an 'Applicant' which for purposes of this policy means: (a) an Occupier or Occupiers of the street for which the application is made, (b) an Elected Member of Belfast City Council who represents the District Electoral Area in which the street is located or (c) a developer of a new street. Any application submitted by a developer with regard to a new street will be considered by the Council in accordance with Section 3(xi) of this policy. With regard to streets without any Occupiers, applications for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English may only be made by an Elected Member who represents the District Electoral Area in which the street is located. The Council will have regard to Section 3(xi) of this policy when considering any such application.
- (iii) When an application is received, the Council will canvass by post all Occupiers of that street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language. Options for a response will be 'Yes', 'No' and 'No Preference'. The Council will note for its records those Occupiers who do not reply. Reply will be by way of a pre-paid envelope and should be returned within one month of receipt.
- (iv) Each survey that is sent out by the Council to the Occupiers of a street for which an application is made will have a unique identifier number. Survey responses received by the Council for that application will be cross-referenced against that unique identifier and will be recorded. The Council may choose to audit certain responses to surveys. These measures are to provide assurance that each Occupier's view is taken into account.
- (v) Applications will be dealt with in the order that they are received.
- (vi) Each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs. This assessment will commence when the application is received and where any adverse impacts are identified, that information will be brought to Committee.
- (vii) Where fifteen percent or more of the Occupiers of that street have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, then such a sign may be erected, subject to the residual discretion of the Council as specified in subsection (xi) below.
- (viii) If the minimum threshold of fifteen percent is not met, the Applicant will be given two weeks to advise the Council of any special circumstances in relation to the application. If such special circumstances relate to the processing of a survey, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, in conjunction with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services will determine whether such exceptional circumstances exist to refer the matter to Committee. Where exceptional circumstances relate to matters other than the processing of a survey, the matter will be referred to Committee. If there are no special circumstances, the application will end.

- (ix) A report on all applications (other than those ended in the circumstances specified in subsection (viii) above) will be brought to Committee for a decision.
- (x) Consideration will to be given to “long streets” where opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street. In these circumstances, the decision as to the erection of dual language nameplates in certain portions of the street will be made by Committee, exercising its residual discretion and taking into account advice from officers.
- (xi) The Council will retain a residual discretion to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis. It may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:
  - (a) the views of the Occupiers of the street;
  - (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;
  - (c) consideration of the local context of the application;
  - (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and
  - (e) all material considerations relating to the application.
- (xii) The survey that is sent to Occupiers will include the name of the street as translated into the second language on the relevant application. The Council will make the appropriate arrangements for the translation from English to that second language. The translation will be carried out by an independent, competent body such as the appropriate Language Department at Queen's University or other appropriate, independent and competent institution.
- (xiii) With regard to the design and placing of the street signs the second language sign shall be located immediately below the English sign and the size of lettering shall be smaller than the English version to avoid any risk of confusion to the emergency services.

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