

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



**Belfast
City Council**

1st December, 2023

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will as a Hybrid meeting in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 5th December, 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:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest
- (d) Request to Present - Forward South Partnership

Representatives of the Forward South Partnership wish to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the Open Botanic Festival.

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Presentation - Review of Advice Services (Pages 1 - 76)
- (b) Quarter 2 Finance Update (Pages 77 - 86)
- (c) Large scale events - annual review (Pages 87 - 98)

- (d) Saint Brigid's GAC / Musgrave Park (Pages 99 - 102)

3. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Notice of Motion – Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway (Pages 103 - 104)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Tiny Urban Forests (Pages 105 - 108)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Notice of Motion Update (Pages 109 - 120)

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot Update (Pages 121 - 152)
- (b) Playground Improvement Programme (Pages 153 - 172)
- (c) 2023 Leisure Centre Holiday Recreation Schemes Report (Pages 173 - 192)

6. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Pre-Loved Toy Scheme (Pages 193 - 196)
- (b) Proposal for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 197 - 200)
- (c) DfI/PSNI Street Access Pilot Update (Pages 201 - 204)
- (d) Applications for dual language street signs for Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Park North (Pages 205 - 208)

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

- (a) Signage at Finaghy Community Centre - Cllr Murray
- (b) Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Colin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre - Cllr M Donnelly

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Belfast
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Subject:	Motion – Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway
Date:	5th December, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to a Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 28th November.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 28th November, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th December:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway</u></p> <p>"This Council recognises the success of Belfast's greenways in creating a green lung in the city, providing respite from traffic and delivering safe, accessible routes to employment, education and leisure. It agrees to undertake a feasibility study into a Blackstaff Greenway, which would follow the route of the Blackstaff river from the Stockman's Way roundabout through Boucher Road playing fields and continuing through the Boucher Estate terminating at the 'Rise' sculpture; recommends that such a feasibility study should examine connections to Adelaide Train Station; and where a full greenway is not possible this study should also examine alternatives, including the creation of a shared cycle and pedestrian path or the creation of a walking trail."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tara Brooks</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Micky Murray</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Motion – Tiny Urban Forests
Date:	5th December, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Tiny Urban Forests, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 28th November.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 28th November, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th December:</p>
3.2	<p><u>Tiny Urban Forests</u></p> <p>"This Council notes the work that has begun in Plymouth to create 96 mini urban forests in the city and is pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. The Miyawaki forestation method is a unique way to create an urban forest. With this method of plantation, an urban forest can grow within a short span of 20-30 years while a conventional forest takes upwards of 100 years plus to grow naturally. In the Miyawaki technique, various native species of plants are planted close to each other so that the greens receive sunlight only from the top and grow upwards than sideways. As a result, the plantation becomes approximately 30 times denser, grows 10 times faster and becomes maintenance-free after a span of 3 years.</p> <p>Tiny Forests are community-led tree-planting initiatives which aim to improve local access to green space and help communities to better understand the challenges faced by nature. These forests are very much suited for small pockets of unused wasteland in urban settings, as well in places such as schools, community centres etc. Urban forests bring many benefits to communities beyond their impact on biodiversity. Green spaces can help to improve people's mental health, reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, and even counter the phenomenon of heat traps in cities, where expanses of concrete and asphalt raise temperatures unnaturally high. We are already aware of a lack of tree coverage in our built up working class areas throughout the city and this offers an opportunity to tackle this, as well as enhancing our urban biodiversity and understanding of the importance of it.</p> <p>This Council will commit to working with its partners in the One Million Trees project to explore the viability of Tiny Urban Forests being incorporated into it."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Davy Douglas</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Notices of Motion Update
Date:	5 December 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City Operations
Contact Officer:	Paula Carville, Executive Support Officer

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide an update to People and Communities Committee on Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that People and Communities Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that the Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and Agree to the closure of Issues Raised in Advance and Notices of Motion as referenced in Appendix 1 and outlined below.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in June 2023.
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 23 update.
3.3	Notice of Motion Updates There are currently 31 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.
3.4	Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance At SP&R Committee on 20 th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p><u>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</u></p>
3.5	<p>Belfast Cycle Network (Ref 285)</p> <p>As advised in the June 2023 update, processes are in place within Council to address any cleansing issues relating to the cycle network - however, enforcement of obstructions lies with DfI. BCC officers continue to engage with key partners, in particular DfI, through established Community Planning structures, however, enforcement of obstructions is not within BCC's remit and lies solely with DfI.</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure has reminded all drivers to 'Think before you Park' ahead of the introduction of new parking restrictions which came into operation on Friday 3rd November. The new restrictions coming into force will help to address this issue by prohibiting parking wholly or partly on a footway at a number of specific locations, including footways adjacent to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a bus lane; • the limits of any bus stop in a lay-by or any bus stop as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; • the limits of any bus stand in a lay-by or any bus stand as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; • the limits of any mandatory cycle lane as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; and • the limits of any mandatory school keep clear as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time.
3.6	<p>The Rule also revokes and re-enacts existing prohibitions on footways. All vehicles found to be in breach of the new restrictions will receive a £90 Penalty Charge Notice, discounted to £45 if paid within 14 days.</p>
3.7	<p>Further details on the new parking restrictions can be found at https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/drivers-reminded-think-you-park-new-parking-restrictions-come-operation</p>
3.8	<p>Given that the specific requests within the Motion have been addressed and that the Council has no further powers to exercise in this regard, it is suggested that this Motion is closed.</p>

3.9	<p>Vaping (Ref 313)</p> <p>A report updating on progress in relation to this Motion including updates on current policy context and recent strategic level engagements in relation to tobacco control and vaping issues; and a draft BCC response to the 'Creating a Smoke Free Generation' public consultation was noted and agreed at the P&C November 23 Committee meeting. With regards to the proposal for 'the Council to ban the use of vapes by under 18s in all its sites and premises', the Corporate Health and Safety Manager will bring a report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course regarding the use of electronic cigarettes in Council sites and premises. Given that the specific actions requested within this Motion have been addressed, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.</p>
3.10	<p>Lagan Valley Regional Park (Ref 323)</p> <p>As agreed at August 2023 P&C Committee, a letter was issued to DfI outlining concerns at the withdrawal of funding for LVRP. A response was received and presented to P&C Committee in November 2023. As the specific action within this Issue Raised in Advance has been undertaken, it is recommended that this Issue is now closed.</p>
3.11	<p>Request to receive a presentation – Causeway Coast Dog Rescue (Ref 333)</p> <p>The People and Communities Committee received a presentation from Causeway Coast Dog Rescue at its meeting on 10 October 2023 - it is therefore recommended that this Issue is now closed as the specific action within has been addressed.</p>
	<p><u>Category 2 Recommended Closures</u></p>
3.12	<p>Policy regarding Bilingual Signage for New Developments (Ref 334)</p> <p>A report on Dual Language Street Signage applications made by developers was presented to the People and Communities Committee meeting in November 2023 - the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations as defined in the report and agreed to the proposed process. It is recommended that this Issue is now closed.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – P&C Committee</p>

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Notice of Motion – Live Database

Belfast

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
9	Notice of Motion	01/11/18	"On the Ball" Campaign	Cllr O'Neill	To be referred to SP&R	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A pilot project providing free period products in a range of premises including Civic buildings, Council community centres and Better Leisure centres as well staff toilets has been in operation since January 2023. The project will conclude in December 23 at which point an update will be brought to elected members initially through the Women's Steering Group and then SP&R in January 2024.
12	Notice of Motion	03/12/18	Lighting of City Parks	Cllr McDonough-Brown	Referred to P&C	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Stephen to confirm info with Gary McNeill.
15	Notice of Motion	04/02/19	Recycling in Colin Neighbourhood	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 November 2023 around circular economy opportunities 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 deliver transformative circular economy opportunities between the two cities and along the Dublin/Belfast economic corridor.
22	Notice of Motion	01/07/19	Glyphosate-Based Weed killer	Cllr Ferguson	Referred to P&C	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers are currently preparing a bid to the Climate Fund for funding for a resource to progress work on this Motion.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
27	Notice of Motion	02/09/19	Play Facilities for children with Disabilities	Ald McCoubrey	Referred to P&C	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update on paper on the Playground Improvement Programme will be presented to People and Communities Committee in December 2023 which explores an alternative approach to the ways in which playgrounds are selected for the Improvement Programme, with a focus on play value and inclusion.
30	Notice of Motion	02/09/19	Rewilding our Wards	ClIr Garrett	Referred to P&C	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An application to the Climate Fund for funding for an Alleway Transformation Officer for a 12 month period has been approved, with recruitment expected to commence in the coming weeks. When appointed, the officer will oversee 12 pilot projects across the city - Members will be updated by reports to P&C Committee in the coming year.
63	Notice of Motion	02/03/20	School Uniform Exchange	ClIr 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.
76	Notice of Motion	01/07/20	Littering	ClIr Groogan	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An evaluation of the Hubbub Recycling Pilot will be presented to January 2024 P&C and will be used to prepare a bid to the Climate Fund for the purchase of more recycling bins for distribution across the city in areas of high footfall. Members will be kept updated via reports to P&C Committee going forward.
89	issue Raised in Advance	11/08/20	Future Use of former Horticultural Training Site	ClIr Garrett		P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Work to progress a feasibility study in relation to Beechvale Farm and the former horticultural site at Musgrave Park is ongoing - Members will be kept updated via reports to P&C/Climate and City Resilience Committee.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
145	Notice of Motion	07/01/21	Creating Better Access into the Hills	Cllr Donnelly	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A feasibility study and costed delivery plan has now been developed. A members workshop was held on November 21 st to share the findings of the study. A number of routes identified as potentially deliverable and taken to concept stage through this piece of work are now moving forward as part of the Peace Plus bid. If successful, these routes will form a path network linking Forth Meadow Greenway where it crosses Glencairn Park to the National Trust lands at Divis, across to Ligoniel and onward to Cavehill. A further route is currently being taken through detailed feasibility between Black Mountain Shared Space and Whiterock. This will be the subject of further public engagement in early December 2023. The outcome of the engagement will be considered in early 2024.
146	Notice of Motion	07/01/21	30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers are currently preparing a bid to the Climate Fund for funding for a resource to progress work on this Motion.
159	Issue Raised in Advance	12/02/21	CCTV Equipment CS Lewis Square and to consider the CCTV needs for the remainder of the Greenway	Cllr Newton		P&C	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.
160	Issue Raised in Advance	12/02/21	Colaiste Feirste and Divis Back Path	Cllr Beattie		P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Council Officers have met with Coláiste Feirste board members and Spórtlann officials and discussed the organisation's financial position. There is no current policy or funding to support the revenue costs of external organisations operating their own sports facilities. Officers will continue to advise and support the organisation on programming and sports development opportunities. People and Communities committee agreed to offer financial support for programming at Divis Back Path subject to additional resources becoming available.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
161	Notice of Motion	01/03/21	Belfast Hills "Call to Action" document	Cllr Matt Collins	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A feasibility study and costed delivery plan has now been developed. A members workshop is scheduled for November 21 st to share the findings of the study. A number of routes identified as potentially deliverable and taken to concept stage through this piece of work are now moving forward as part of the Peace Plus bid. If successful these routes will form a path network linking Forth Meadow Greenway where it crosses Glencairn Park to the National Trust lands at Divis, across to Ligoniel and onward to Cavehill. A further route is currently being taken through detailed feasibility between Black Mountain Shared Space and Whiterock. This will be the subject of further public engagement in early December 2023. The outcome of the engagement will be considered in early 2024.
254	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/05/22	Belfast City Council Inclusive Play Parks	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update on paper on the Playground Improvement Programme will be presented to People and Communities Committee in December 2023 which explores an alternative approach to the ways in which playgrounds are selected for the Improvement Programme, with a focus on play value and inclusion.
255	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/05/22	Cleansing Task Force	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sale	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Following agreement at June 23 P&C, the Cleanliness Task Force continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 26 January 23.
258	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	28/06/22	Capital Investments in Parks, Public and Open Spaces	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.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
262	Issue Raised in Advance	09/08/22	Review of Non-Residential Fees for the re-opening of graves in Blaris Cemetery for Collin Residents	Cllr Michael Collins	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C	S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	As outlined in the update presented to People and Communities Committee in June 23, officers have undertaken the specific actions requested within and have been advised by LCCC of their position on this matter, which is supported by the NIPSO. However, officers will bring this issue to the next meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group for discussion.
270	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	23/08/22	Herbicide Reduction Policy	Cllr Flynn	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers are currently preparing a bid to the Climate Fund for funding for a resource to progress work on this Motion.
273	issue Raised in Advance	22/09/22	Council Allotments	Cllr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Work to progress this Issue Raised in Advance is ongoing. An update report will be brought to People and Communities Committee in early 2024.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
285	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/11/22	Belfast Cycle Network	Cllr Hanvey	Straight to Committee	P&C	C Reynolds	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	<p>As advised in the June 2023 update, processes are in place within Council to address any cleansing issues relating to the cycle network - however, enforcement of obstructions lies with DfI. BCC officers continue to engage with key partners, in particular DfI, through established Community Planning structures, however, enforcement of obstructions is not within BCC's remit and lies solely with DfI. The Department for Infrastructure has reminded all drivers to 'Think before you Park' ahead of the introduction of new parking restrictions which came into operation on Friday 3rd November. The new restrictions coming into force will help to address this issue by prohibiting parking wholly or partly on a footway at a number of specific locations, including footways adjacent to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •a bus lane; •the limits of any bus stop in a lay-by or any bus stop as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; •the limits of any bus stand in a lay-by or any bus stand as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; •the limits of any mandatory cycle lane as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time; and •the limits of any mandatory school keep clear as delineated by markings on the carriageway at any time. •The Rule also revokes and re-enacts existing prohibitions on footways <p>All vehicles found to be in breach of the new restrictions will receive a £90 Penalty Charge Notice, discounted to £45 if paid within 14 days.</p> <p>Further details on the new parking restrictions can be found at https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/drivers-reminded-think-you-park-new-parking-restrictions-come-operation Given that the specific requests within the Motion have been addressed and that the Council has no further powers to exercise in this regard, it is</p>
286	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/11/22	Corey Jack Aughey Memorial Park	Cllr Pankhurst	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	<p>Officers have met with the proposer of the Motion to advise on policy and procedures in relation to this request. Further information requested by the department is yet to be received.</p>

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
287	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/11/22	Inclusive Leisure Services	CLlr Michael Collins	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers will present an update on this Motion to People and Communities Committee in early 2024.
288	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/11/22	Imagination Library	CLlr De Faoite	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	The proposer is liaising with other councillors to determine if a revised proposal would be appropriate.
313	Notice of Motion	04/03/23	Vaping	CLlr Kyle	Agreed at Council	P&C	S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	An report updating on progress in relation to this Motion including updates on current policy context and recent strategic level engagements in relation to tobacco control and vaping issues; and a draft BCC response to the 'Creating a Smoke Free Generation' public consultation were noted and agreed at the P&C November 23 Committee meeting. With regards to the proposal for 'the Council to ban the use of vapes by under 18s in all its sites and premises', the Corporate Health and Safety Manager will bring a report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course regarding the use of electronic cigarettes in Council sites and premises. Given that the specific actions requested within this Motion have been addressed, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
321	Notice of Motion	27/06/23	Playful Belfast City Streets	CLlr McMullan	Straight to Committee	P&C	D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	The proposer will meet with relevant officers within City and Neighbourhood Services to detail how the proposal can best be brought forward, with a view to potential presentations from the external organisation being added to the committee schedule.

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	December 23 Update
323	Issue Raised in Advance	08/08/23	Lagan Valley Regional Park	ClIr Murray	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	As agreed at August 2023 P&C Committee, a letter was issued to DfI outlining concerns at the withdrawal of funding for LVRP. A response was received and presented to P&C Committee in November 2023. As the specific action within this Issue Raised in Advance have been undertaken, it is recommended that this is now closed.
328	Notice of Motion	29/08/23	Urban Wildflower Meadows	ClIr McLaughlin	Straight to Committee	P&C		D Sales	Ongoing	Initial exploratory meetings with both the proposer and seconder of this Motion have taken place, with officers continuing to progress work. Members will be updated via a report to People and Communities Committee in due course.
333	Issue Raised in Advance	12/09/23	Request to receive a Presentation - Causeway Coast Dog Rescue for 10th October meeting	ClIr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		D Sales	Recommendation Close	The October meeting of People and Communities Committee received a presentation from Causeway Coast Dog Rescue - it is therefore recommended that this Issue is now closed as the specific action within has been addressed.
334	Issue Raised in Advance	12/09/23	Policy regarding Bilingual Signage for New Developments	ClIr Ó Néill	Issue Raised in Advance	P&C		K Bentley	Recommendation Close	A report on Dual Language Street Signage applications made by developers was presented to the People and Communities Committee meeting in November 2023 - the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations as defined in the report. It is recommended that this Issue is now closed.
345	Notice of Motion	24/10/23	Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins	ClIr Smyth	Debated at Council	P&C		D Sales	Ongoing	Officers continue to engage with the PHA and other relevant stakeholders to progress this Motion.
Total			31					31		



Subject:	Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot Update
Date:	5th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officers:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek Members agreement to a short-term extension of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the City Council and Cavehill Mountainbikers club.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to a two-month extension of existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>On the 9th of November 2021 People and Communities Committee agreed the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club which has underpinned a Mountain Biking Pilot Project in Cavehill Country Park focusing on a partnership approach to the Club's management of the 'The Middle' trail (see Appendix 1).</p>
3.2	The MOU agreement, which commenced on 20/12/21 for a two-year duration, states that longer-term extension of the agreement with the Club is "subject to successful conclusion (in the opinion of the Council) of the pilot focusing on 'The Middle' trail, "satisfactory review and evaluation and internal Council committee approval".
3.3	A project Oversight Board has met regularly throughout the pilot period comprising of representatives from BCC; Cavehill Mountainbikers Club; Belfast Hills Partnership; and Cavehill Conservation Trust. In line with the MOU, now that the December 2003 end date is approaching officers intend to evaluate the pilot project using the agreed evaluation framework and bring a final report to Committee.
3.4	Members are asked to agree to a two-month extension of the existing MOU between BCC and Cavehill Mountain bikers Club (Attachment 2). This extension to the MOU will enable that existing management arrangements with the Club to remain in place until the report detailing the findings of the evaluation and recommendations are brought to Committee in early 2024.
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – 9 th Nov 2021 P&C Report - 'MOU BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club' Appendix 2 – BCC & CMB signed MOU 2021

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Subject:	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) BCC & Cavehill Mountainbikers Club
Date:	9 th November 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, North

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	North Area Working Group had previously instructed officers in 2019 to proceed with a number of actions in relation to taking forward a mountainbiking pilot in Cavehill Country Park in partnership with Cavehill Mountainbikers Club. In December 2020, officers secured the services/support of Outdoor Recreation NI via a quotation exercise to assist them in developing and implementing the pilot project. A Project Oversight Group has been established and a number of key actions have been achieved over the past ten-month period – including the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document included at Appendix 1 – which if agreed by Committee/Council will enable the pilot to proceed as planned.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to:

	<p>1. Note the contents of the proposed MOU document which has been drawn up following a series of focussed discussions and engagement with lead officers in CNS and Legal Services, with specialist advice provided by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, and input from Cavehill Mountainbikers Club re. same. The document has also been shared with the Cavehill MTB Project Oversight Group which also includes membership from Belfast Hills Partnership and Cavehill Conservation Group.</p> <p>2. Agree the terms of the MOU.</p>															
3.0	Background															
3.1	At a meeting of the North Area Working Group in March 2019, members agreed that Council officers should take forward a number of actions in relation to mountain biking on Cavehill.															
3.2	<p>At the reconvened North Area Working Group meeting held on 29 January 2020 members were updated in terms of progress to date against each of these actions outlined in the table below.</p> <table><tr><th>Agreed action</th><th>Status</th><th>Update</th></tr><tr><td>Identification and mapping of mountain bike club proposed trails</td><td>Completed</td><td><p>Lead officers externally commissioned commercial trail designers and mountain bikers identified and mapped trails currently in use at Cave Hill.</p><p>The Council's Outdoor Recreation & Education Officer completed a desktop survey and mapping exercise. This was compiled into a report reflecting the extent of mountain biking and cycling at Cave Hill. The trails identified through the report were confirmed by the mountain bikers.</p><p>Field visit held with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) 10th January 2020. ORNI have provided advice to Council in relation to potential next steps.</p></td></tr><tr><td>Externally facilitated discussions with residents group</td><td>Completed</td><td>A meeting between senior CNS officers and those residents opposed to mountain biking on Cave Hill was facilitated by an external consultant.</td></tr><tr><td>Environmental assessment by consultant</td><td>Completed for the Middle Trail</td><td>Allen and Mellon Environmental Assessment completed for the Middle Trail – no significant environmental risks identified.</td></tr><tr><td>Engagement with key stakeholders</td><td>Ongoing</td><td><p>Engagement to date has included:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cavehill Conservation Group• Cavehill Mountainbikers Club• Cycling Ireland/Ulster• Local residents</td></tr></table>	Agreed action	Status	Update	Identification and mapping of mountain bike club proposed trails	Completed	<p>Lead officers externally commissioned commercial trail designers and mountain bikers identified and mapped trails currently in use at Cave Hill.</p> <p>The Council's Outdoor Recreation & Education Officer completed a desktop survey and mapping exercise. This was compiled into a report reflecting the extent of mountain biking and cycling at Cave Hill. The trails identified through the report were confirmed by the mountain bikers.</p> <p>Field visit held with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) 10th January 2020. ORNI have provided advice to Council in relation to potential next steps.</p>	Externally facilitated discussions with residents group	Completed	A meeting between senior CNS officers and those residents opposed to mountain biking on Cave Hill was facilitated by an external consultant.	Environmental assessment by consultant	Completed for the Middle Trail	Allen and Mellon Environmental Assessment completed for the Middle Trail – no significant environmental risks identified.	Engagement with key stakeholders	Ongoing	<p>Engagement to date has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cavehill Conservation Group• Cavehill Mountainbikers Club• Cycling Ireland/Ulster• Local residents
Agreed action	Status	Update														
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Engagement with key stakeholders	Ongoing	<p>Engagement to date has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cavehill Conservation Group• Cavehill Mountainbikers Club• Cycling Ireland/Ulster• Local residents														

	Committee approval of routes identified as suitable environmental consultant by	Recommendation accepted at NAWG meeting on 29 Jan 20	NB Proposal is to proceed with adopting 'The Middle Trail' as an initial pilot – with work to be overseen by an external agency.
	Public consultation – <i>if required</i>	Can be undertaken as part of project initiation and evaluation processes if approval given.	
3.3	In September 2020, Finance Oversight gave approval for non-recurrent funding of £30k to be allocated to cover the costs of securing the services of an independent consultant to assist council officers in developing and implementing The Middle Trail pilot and to cover the signage and trail adaptations/modifications costs on-site re. same.		
3.4	Following a quotation exercise, Outdoor Recreation NI were appointed in December 2020 and a Project Oversight Group (POG) comprising of relevant council officers, ORNI, Cavehill Mountain Bikers Group as well as representation from Belfast Hills Partnership and Cavehill Conservation Group was established and has been meeting regularly throughout 2021.		
3.5	Between January 2021 to date a number of pieces of work have been taken forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Series of site visits to The Middle Trail and wider site with POG members• Review and development of trail signage and a trail management plan;• Engagement (ORNI-led) with key stakeholders;• Development of MOU in consultation with Legal (version for consideration/approval included in Appendix 1)		
3.6	ORNI also provided an update, by way of presentation, to the May 2021 meeting of the North Area Working Group.		
3.7	ORNI liaised with the Project Oversight Group to identify organisations/individuals to participate in a series of one to one consultations during March/April 2021 as part of the stakeholder engagement process in order to provide further information on the project and gain initial feedback on project proposals. Stakeholders identified included Cycling Ulster, Grass Roots Mountain Biking, IMBA Europe, NI Orienteering / Lagan Valley Orienteers, North Belfast Harriers, UFRC (walking club), Farmer with Grazing Rights on Cavehill and a number of local residents/regular park users.		
3.8	ORNI is currently working on an Evaluation Framework which will then be used by officers and the Project Oversight Group to monitor and evaluate the pilot.		

3.9	Formal adoption of the MOU by committee/council will enable officers/the POG to finalise the other required elements such as the trail management plan, the new signage requirements, agreed amendments to the Middle Trail and to initiate the evaluation framework to enable the pilot to formally commence.
3.10	As per the MOU, the Project Oversight Group will continue to meet throughout the pilot period and the intention would be to bring a final project evaluation report through to committee/council Nov/Dec 2022.
3.10	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.11	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: MOU between BCC & CMC re Cavehill Middle Trail Mountainbiking Pilot</p> <p>Appendix 2: ORNI presentation to NAWG May 2021</p>

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Purpose	This Memorandum of understanding ("this MOU") is an overarching and legally enforceable agreement which sets the context and relationship between Belfast City Council and the Cavehill Mountainbikers Club regarding the pilot use of a mountain bike trail in Cave Hill Country Park.
Version	Final
Date	01/12/2021 (approved by Council)
Parties	<p>Belfast City Council ("BCC")</p> <p>Belfast City Council is the local government authority with responsibility for the city of Belfast, the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland. The Council serves an estimated population of 333,871 (2011), the largest of any district council in Northern Ireland, while also being the fourth smallest by area.</p> <p>A number of informal, ridden in, mountain bike trails exist across Cave Hill Country Park. As the landowner Belfast City Council is seeking to manage its responsibility under the Occupier's Liability (NI) Act 1957 whereby it has a duty of care to all users of the Country Park. Elected members representing North Belfast have agreed to test a pilot approach to the management of natural trails based on a model previously implemented by Forestry and Land Scotland. The pilot will focus on the 'The Middle' trail (see Appendix 1) and will identify and test an approach for the mechanism for the management, inspection and maintenance of such mountain bike trails.</p>
	<p>Bernard McClure, Simon Johnston, John O'Neill and Steven Rainey, whose addresses are known to BCC, on behalf of Cavehill Mountainbikers Club ("CMC"). BCC will not disclose these addresses to any third party, unless compelled by law to do so.</p> <p>CMC is dedicated to the advocacy, stewardship and development of a Cave Hill Mountain bike trail network on behalf of its users.</p> <p>CMC work to facilitate an independent voice for mountain bike trail users, promote a culture of responsible stewardship of a trail network, and to generate funds to put back into the trails and community. The charity aims to manage trail maintenance, improvement and development in partnership with local landowners and managers.</p>

Background

1. Mountain biking has seen significant growth in participation in Great Britain and Ireland. This has been reflected in both the development of purpose-built mountain bike trail centres and an increase in the use of unauthorised mountain bike trails developed without permission from the landowner. The latter are primarily natural trails or desire lines.
2. Unauthorised or natural mountain bike trails are viewed by mountain bikers as an important contribution to local economies, providing physical and mental health benefits, offering sporting challenges, providing a connection with nature, and giving people opportunities to test their skills.
3. While the vast majority of mountain bikers who access land do so responsibly, there are more and more examples of situations in which land managers are experiencing problems relating to unauthorised trail building. In summary, these include potential risks to other users, conflict with other users, disruption to land management practices, negative impacts on the natural and or built environment.
4. Many public land managers across Great Britain and Ireland (e.g. Coillte, Natural Resources Wales and Forestry and Land Scotland) have proactively engaged with the mountain bike community to develop new ways of working through appropriate agreements that reflect their aspirations and capacity. In Scotland, the National Access Forum has engaged with landowners and the mountain bike community to develop solutions and guidance. "Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails – A guide for managers and riders" was published in 2018. Both parties believe that this publication provides an underlying approach suitable for adoption in the context of trail management in Cave Hill Country Park.

Developing shared understanding and solutions

5. CMC is one of the first formed in Northern Ireland specifically to engage with BCC regarding a formal approach to developing mountain bike trails in Cave Hill Country Park. The initial focus is 'The Middle' trail pilot. This will benefit both the Council and users while establishing and embedding a culture of responsibility and sustainability.
6. BCC has been working to ensure they operate within legislation such as Occupier's Liability (NI) Act 1957 and to reflect best practice for the management of outdoor recreation whilst ensuring that the Cave Hill Country Park site remains both safe and appealing to a wide range of users.
7. Both BCC and CMC are committed to follow the guiding principles of the Visitor Safety Group and adopting good practice in relation to the development of natural mountain bike trails
8. The aim is to develop mutual respect for the rights and responsibilities of mountain bikers, all other park users and the landowner (BCC). Achieved through joint working such as that proposed in this MOU.

Duration and Review of the Agreement

9. The agreement will commence on 20/12/21 and will be for 2 years.
10. Any extension of this MOU is strictly subject to successful conclusion (in the opinion of the Council) of the pilot focusing on 'The Middle' trail, satisfactory review and evaluation and internal Council committee approval. Notwithstanding any other provision of this MOU, the parties agree that this MOU constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of each party, and is enforceable against each party in accordance with its terms.

Individual aims of the parties

Aims of CMC

11. CMC's mission is to manage, sustain and improve a natural trail network in Cave Hill Country Park through a programme of trail adoption and sustainable stewardship in partnership with BCC.
12. To ensure successful conclusion of the 'The Middle' Trail pilot. To pilot a new approach to community of interest and place led trail management and establish best working practices and operating methods for the future.
13. Promote sustainable stewardship, safety, and best practice for trail maintenance work.
14. Be community interest led and ensure riders' voices are heard by decision makers.
15. Generate independent funds to invest in trail maintenance and trail development, with prior agreement with landowners and managers.

Aims of BCC

16. To promote Cave Hill Country Park as a first-class natural visitor attraction for a wide range of outdoor recreation pursuits within North Belfast (and the City and Region as a whole) ensuring that those who visit are adequately informed about the activities available/permissible on the site and any associated risks/guidance re. same.
17. To work in partnership with CMC to manage mountain biking on Cave Hill Country Park focusing on one trail on a pilot basis, taking account of health and safety and legislative requirements to respect the needs of all users, current and potential, who visit the Country Park.
18. To practice regular and ongoing community engagement in line with statutory requirements and responsible management.

Collective aims of parties

19. To promote the benefits of Cave Hill Country Park with opportunities for mountain biking forming a component part.
20. To undertake the pilot project confined to 'The Middle' trail only and to identify and test a mechanism for the management, inspection and maintenance of 'The Middle' Trail.
21. In the event of a successful pilot, engage in a process to identify a number of potential additional natural trails for adoption.

22. Respect the need to integrate outdoor recreation as part of the sustainable management of Cave Hill Country Park which provides benefits to wide range of users.
23. To take collaborative action to try to prevent the development of additional natural trails within Cave Hill Country Park and deter deliberate sabotage of 'The Middle' Trail. CMC to undertake proactive ongoing engagement and advocacy with the mountain bike community. Where satisfactory evidence is available to BCC demonstrating that any individual has been responsible for causing deliberate damage to 'The Middle Trail', BCC will use reasonable endeavours to use its existing power to pursue the expulsion of any such individual from Cave Hill Country Park for a reasonable (in the opinion of BCC) period. BCC to be responsible for the removal of any new additional trails and where possible will engage with CMC prior to undertaking action.
24. Compliance with planning, environmental, health and safety and occupier's liability legislation, ensuring all undertakings by CMC, contractors, third parties and developers take place in a safe environment.

Delivering the aims of the agreement

Both Parties (BBC & CMC)

25. During the pilot of 'The Middle' Trail, both parties will engage with a Project Oversight Group (see separate Terms of Reference Appendix 2) which will provide direction and leadership on the Cave Hill Mountain Bike Trail pilot project.
26. In addition, for the duration of the agreement, a contract group will meet 4 times per year. Membership shall consist of a delegated lead from each party and co-opted attendees as required. Frequency of meetings can be revised by agreement of all parties. Standard agenda items will include:
 - Health & Safety
 - Known planned operations within Cave Hill Country Park in the next 6 months
 - Complaints, accidents and general feedback
 - Route review of the pilot 'The Middle' Trail
 - Diversion Plans
 - Inspections – what has been highlighted
 - Plans for CMC works for next six months.
 - Process for investigating and dealing with trail sabotage on 'The Middle' Trail
27. To ensure best practice as set out within the National Access Forum (Scotland) guidance on the management of unauthorised trails, is adopted and implemented.
28. Agree route description and produce detailed map (s). This should include routes to access the start of defined trail. This initial focus will be the pilot of 'The Middle.'
29. BCC will provide landowner information to meet its responsibilities under occupier's liability.

CMC

30. CMC to manage the agreed route with named competent trail managers. Recorded evidence of trail managers' experience to be provided to BCC prior to the signing of this MOU. Evidence is in the form of experience of mountain biking, competition and wide cycling industry – as there are no recognised qualifications available.
31. At all times CMC must comprise a properly constituted (in the opinion of BCC) and regulated club, with a written constitution, elected office bearers, provision for regular minuted meetings and a minuted annual general meeting, and a designated bank account. CMC at all times must also be affiliated to a regulatory mountain biking body (to be approved of in advance and in writing by BCC) and must produce written evidence of such affiliation to BCC prior to the signing of this MOU and on each anniversary of this MOU. If CMC should fail to comply with this clause 31 in any respect, BCC will be at liberty to terminate this MOU and withdraw any permission given hereunder on giving 7 days' written notice to CMC.
32. Prior to the signing of this MOU, CMC will submit to the Council a Trail Management Plan with regard to its proposed activities in Cave Hill Country Park, and this Trail Management Plan must be approved in writing, by the Council, before CMC can begin any of the activities in Cave Hill Country Park which are permitted by this MOU. The Trail Management Plan will include
- Key Responsibilities of CMC & BCC
 - Risk Assessment for 'The Middle' Trail
 - Risk Assessment for trail maintenance and inspection
 - Inspection procedure
 - Random Fault Reporting Procedure
 - Process for Identification and reporting of hazards
 - Maintenance Procedure
 - Accident Reporting Procedure
33. CMC acknowledges that BCC gives no representation or assurance as to the suitability, or otherwise, of the pilot Middle Trail for the purpose for which CMC wishes to use it. Accordingly, before using the pilot Middle Trail pursuant to this MOU, CMC will carry out a full and independent survey and assessment of the pilot Middle Trail in order to determine its suitability, or otherwise. CMC will provide a copy of this independent survey report to BCC prior to any use of the pilot Middle Trail.
34. At all times CMC is to provide adequate and satisfactory (in the opinion of the Council) trail management, inspection and maintenance through an agreed schedule (to be agreed in writing prior to the signing of this MOU) of management, inspection and maintenance ("the permitted activities") with regard to the Middle Trail pilot route.
35. CMC shall ensure that adequate insurance cover in the form of public liability insurance and employer's liability insurance (with a level of cover in respect of each type of policy of at least £5M in respect of any one claim) is in place with regard to the carrying on by it of the permitted activities, before carrying out any of the permitted activities CMC shall produce satisfactory written evidence of such insurances to BCC prior to the signing of this MOU and on each anniversary of this MOU. In addition, CMC will provide a copy of this MOU to all of its insurers, before carrying out any permitted activities.

36. CMC hereby indemnifies BCC in respect of any claims, actions, demands, proceedings, injury, loss or damages arising from its permitted activities in Cave Hill Country Park.
37. At all times CMC will ensure that its members and their invitees and licencees will comply with BCC byelaws and, in particular, Byelaw 12(d) of the Bye-Laws for the Regulation of Open Parks, 1st March 1994, which states that
- “A person shall not ride any bicycle in a manner which is unsafe or likely to give reasonable cause for annoyance or alarm to other persons resorting to the Park.”*
38. CMC to undertake a minimum of 4 formal inspections per year (or more as may be required by the risk assessments referred to at clause 31). The inspection records must be kept by CMC for 6 years and be provided to BCC on a quarterly basis.
39. CMC will ensure that at all times appropriate warnings and signage are in place so as to warn other park users that CMC are using ‘The Middle’ Trail for mountain biking.
40. CMC expressly acknowledges and agrees that all of its members using ‘The Middle’ Trail do so having willingly accepted the risks in doing so, pursuant to S2(5) of the Occupiers’ Liability Act (NI) 1957. CMC will ensure that all members sign a declaration (the content of which is to be approved in advance by the Council) explicitly confirming acceptance before they are allowed to use ‘The Middle Trail’. The declaration will state that the member willingly accepts the risks in using the Middle Trail, pursuant to S2(5) of the Occupiers’ Liability Act (NI) 1957. Any breach of this clause shall be considered to be a fundamental breach of this MOU, which would permit the Council immediately to terminate this MOU by giving 2 days’ written notice to CMC.
41. CMC to develop a communication plan including up to date route information, complaints / issues recording and handling and feedback. This will include proactive engagement with mountain bikers to encourage participation on the pilot Middle Trail and to cease unauthorised trail building in other parts of Cave Hill Country Park. CMC will work with BCC and use its best endeavours to try to involve other mountain bikers, who use other trails in Cave Hill Country Park, and CMC and will encourage them to join CMC and comply with CMC code of conduct.

BCC

42. To lead on an evaluation process to assess the outcome of the pilot.
43. Create a template for facilitating risk assessment.
44. Share audience research/visitor surveys.
45. Provide additional resource to implement physical interventions required to address health & safety concerns.
46. Provide in-house design and installation of initial signage – diversions / closures will be managed via CMC temporary signage.

47. Make park users aware of the existence of the pilot Middle Trail and agreement with CMC.
48. Make stakeholders aware via existing channels e.g. elected members via North Area Working Group and wider public via relationships with Belfast Hills Partnership and Cavehill Conservation Campaign and via the BCC website and social media channels
49. Provide info on upcoming planned operations which may affect the pilot Middle Trail on a quarterly basis.
50. Advise of short notice operations which may affect the pilot Middle Trail as soon as reasonably possible.
51. Investigate accidents / incidents (including trail sabotage) that are reported to BCC, and where relevant share findings with CMC for risk assessment review.
52. BCC has responsibility for agreeing and implementing other projects affecting Cave Hill Country Park and when doing so will act reasonably and according to BCC priorities, operational requirements and use of Cave Hill Country Park by third parties and visitors.
53. BCC gives no representation or assurance as to the suitability, or otherwise, of the pilot Middle Trail for the purpose for which CMC wishes to use it.

Supplementary Issues

54. The Middle Trail maintenance by CMC is restricted to the use of hand tools and materials from the site as outlined in Trail Management Plan .
55. The pilot Middle Trail must not have constructed wooden structures.
56. Trail construction by CMC is prohibited.
57. The pilot Middle Trail can only be used for CMC organised events – each with prior approval from BCC.

Health and Safety

58. Health & Safety is paramount and both parties agree to share knowledge and experience of legislation, best practice, and lessons learned from incidents / accidents as far as legal processes permit.
59. Health and safety will be a standing item on the agenda for meetings of the contact group.
60. The discussion on health and safety should cover new developments, roles and responsibilities, and review any incidents. Examples of topics to cover include:

- Preparation and review of Risk Assessments
- Learning from and reviewing any incidents or accidents.

61. Accidents and incidents must be reported to BCC by CMC in line with BCC protocols and procedures. Serious accidents should be reported to the BCC OSS Manager (North) as soon as possible after the fact.

Press, Publicity and Communications

62. Media and promotion relating to this MOU pilot will be the responsibility of the BCC OSS Manager (North) and by a designated member of the CMC board.

63. The development and handling of communications, press and media arrangements arising from activities implemented under this MOU, will be subject to a communication plan which will be initially developed by both parties and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

64. Both parties acknowledge the freedom of the other to comment on issues out with the scope of this MOU but relating to the strategic aims of each party. CMC may express opinions on public policy matters that depart from stated BCC policy. In these instances, CMC will endeavor to inform BCC in advance where this may be the case.

Resolutions

65. In the event that the parties are in dispute regarding an issue arising out of this MOU the following procedures will apply.

66. Reconsideration in the first instance will be between the BCC Neighbourhood Services Manager (North) and the delegated representative of CMC i.e. CMC Chairperson.

67. Industry best practice will be used as the benchmark to aid resolution.

68. Every effort will be made to reach a solution. In the event that a solution is not reached, BCC's decision will be final acting reasonably.

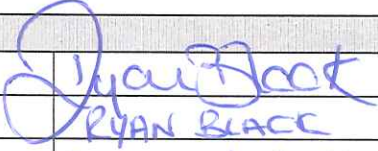
Termination


69. CMC may terminate this agreement if, in its reasonable opinion, the aims of this MOU are no longer relevant and/or the constitution of CMC is no longer relevant and/or its constitution becomes incompatible with the aims and terms of this MOU.


70. BCC may terminate this agreement if in its reasonable opinion the aims of this MOU are no longer relevant and / or its duties as a public body change to become incompatible with the aims and terms of this MOU, or if it considers that operation of the pilot with regard to the Middle Trail in its opinion has become unsatisfactory, unacceptable, or dangerous in any way.

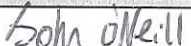
71. Any party may terminate this agreement by notice in writing to the other party if any party has committed any material breach of this agreement and that breach (if remediable) has not been remedied within 30 days' notice from an innocent party identifying the breach and requiring its remedy.

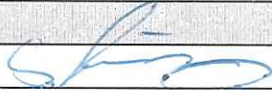
Signed:

On behalf of Belfast City Council	
Signature	
Print Name	RYAN BLACK
Position	Director of Neighbourhood Services
Date	20-12-21

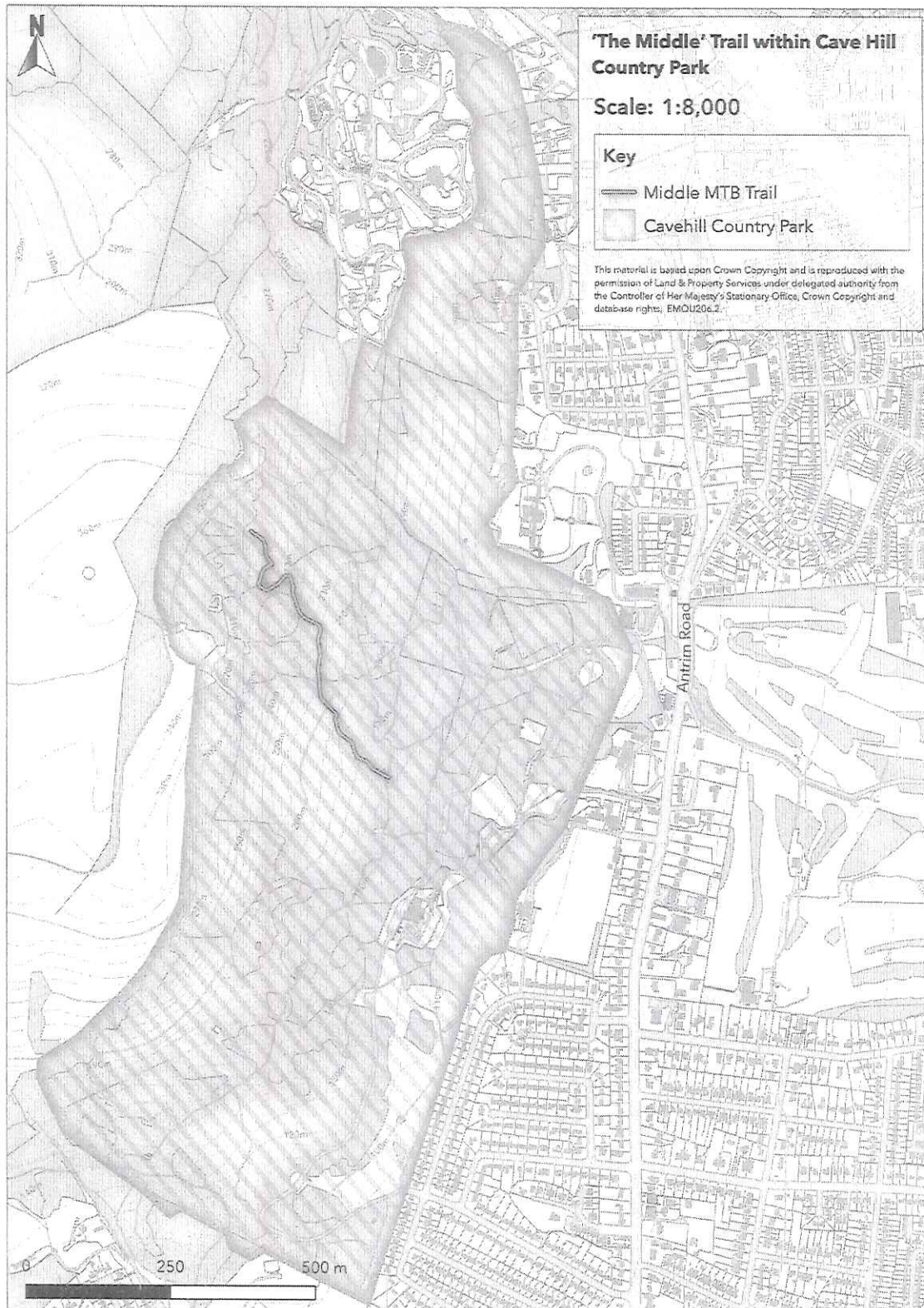
On behalf of Cavehill Mountainbikers Club	
Signature	
Print Name	SIMON JOHNSTON
Position	VICE CHAIR
Date	16/12/21

On behalf of Cavehill Mountainbikers Club	
Signature	
Print Name	BERNARD McCLURE
Position	CHAIR
Date	16/12/21

On behalf of Cavehill Mountainbikers Club	
Signature	
Print Name	JOHN O'NEILL
Position	Treasurer
Date	16/12/21

On behalf of Cavehill Mountainbikers Club	
Signature	
Print Name	STEVEN RAINEY
Position	Sect
Date	

Appendix 1 - 'The Middle'



Appendix 2 – Project Oversight Group – Terms of Reference

Project Oversight Group for Cave Hill Mountain Bike Trail Pilot

Purpose

The Project Oversight Group will provide direction and leadership on the Cave Hill Mountain Bike Trail pilot project. It will provide direction, as required, to the contractor procured by Belfast City Council to deliver the key outputs/deliverables of the project. These are:

- Physical completion of a fit for purpose mountain bike trail based on the route of the current “ridden in” trail known to local mountain bikers as “the Middle Trail.”
- Development of mutually acceptable terms for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountain Bike Club on the future management, maintenance and operation of the trail. The MOU to be formally approved by BCC via the standard committee process.
- Development and implementation of a communications plan to include engagement, communications, and signage requirements.
- Development of an evaluation framework to monitor and report on project success.
- Development of a final project evaluation report for submission to BCC through the relevant committee process.

Term

This Terms of Reference is effective from 04.02.21 and continues until the oversight group is in a position to approve a final project evaluation report which is then approved by committee/full Council. It is anticipated this will be a period of one year from the signing of this MOU.

Membership

The Project Oversight Group will comprise:

Organisation	Name	Role if applicable
BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Gilliland • Eimear McCullough • David Salters • Michael Grant/ Kevin McKee • Jacqui Stewart • Duane Fitzsimons • Orla Maguire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Co-Chair
Cavehill Conservation Group	Cormac Hamill	
Cavehill Mountain Bike Club	Bern McClure Simon Johnston	
Belfast Hills Partnership	Jim Bradley	
Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI)	Chris Scott Sarah Noble Philip Weston	Contractor

The represented organisations are permitted to provide a suitable replacement in the event a named representative (above) is unable to attend. This should be declared in advance of the relevant meeting(s).

Other internal and/or external stakeholders can be invited to attend oversight meetings, as and when required, following on from previous discussion and agreement by the group.

Roles and Responsibilities

The membership of the oversight group will commit to:

- fostering collaboration in the interest of the timely and successful delivery of the project outputs;
- attending all Oversight Group meetings;
- sharing communications and information across Steering Group members to support timely decision making;
- participating in open and honest discussions during meetings, subgroup meetings, engagement sessions.

Those participating on the oversight group can expect that members will be:

- provided with complete, relevant and accurate information in a timely manner;
- given reasonable time to make fully informed decisions taking advice from subgroups or from internal or external advisors where relevant;
- alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact on the project deliverables, as they arise.

Meetings

Meetings will be chaired by Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager (North) BCC and in instances when Kelly is not available Eimear McCullough, Neighbourhood Integration Manager (North) will take on the chairing role.

A meeting quorum will be considered to have been achieved if representatives of 4 out of the 5 constituent organisations are present.

Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice preference). If consensus is not possible the chair will propose a compromise option.

Should the Project Oversight Group come to a position where agreement cannot be reached matters can be escalated for consideration by BCC Director of Neighbourhood Services and or the CNS Departmental Management team.

Meeting invitations, agendas and action notes will be coordinated by ORNI.

Meetings will be held monthly unless key decisions are required urgently in order for work to progress. Given current Northern Ireland Executive Guidance on Covid-19 Project Oversight Group meetings will be virtual with invitations being issued by BCC using MS TEAMS.

If required subgroup meetings will be arranged outside of the normal schedule at a time convenient to subgroup members. Potential subgroups include:

- Trail design (inc H&S and biodiversity)
- Communications (inc engagement and signage requirements)
- Evaluation

Should site visits be required for subgroup members these will be carried out in line with current NI Exec Covid-19 regulations/restrictions.

Variation

These Terms of Reference may only be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by all five member organisations of the Project Oversight Group.



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	'Play Value' and Accessibility audit for council-maintained playgrounds
Date:	5 th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Officers are seeking approval to enhance our ongoing independent inspection process for Playgrounds. In addition to the annual suite of independent playground safety inspections, members are asked to approve an additional independent audit that will assess 'play value' and accessibility of all council-maintained playgrounds. It is proposed that 'Play Value' and accessibility scores arising from this additional audit will inform site selection for future Playground Inspection Programmes (PIP).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	In addition to next year's planned suite of independent safety inspections Committee is asked to agree that an independent audit of 'play value' and accessibility is undertaken at all council-maintained playgrounds.
2.2	Committee is also asked to agree that 'play value' and accessibility scores will inform site selection for future Playground Improvement Programmes, replacing 'quality' scores derived from annual playground safety inspections.
2.3	Committee is also asked to note that potential infrastructure improvements (E.G Toilet Provision), identified by the audit, will be used to inform future capital projects in our parks and open spaces.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Playground Improvement Programme</u>
3.1	Since its inception in 2012, playgrounds to be refurbished under PIP have been selected using quality scores from annual, safety inspection reports. This assessment method provided council with scores for each playground that helped rank play facilities in most need of improvement. The current inspection process focuses on the quality and compliance of existing play equipment but does not audit the types of play opportunities provided or how accessible they are.
3.2	Over the previous eleven years PIP has made a positive impact on the overall quality of the city's playgrounds. The first suite of independent, annual inspections in 2012 recorded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of all playgrounds were classified as 'poor' condition • 33% of all playgrounds were classified as 'fair' condition • 42% of all playgrounds were classified as 'good' condition
3.3	Following more than a decade of investment, exceeding £6 million across more than 50 sites, the overall quality has dramatically improved. This year's suite of annual independent safety inspections recorded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% of all playgrounds are classified as 'poor' condition

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6% of all playgrounds are classified as 'fair' condition • 93% of all playgrounds are classified as 'good' condition <p>Following delivery of PIP 2023-24, in parallel with ongoing citywide operational maintenance and repairs, we anticipate that 100% of our playgrounds to be classified as 'good' by the end of this financial year. This will be the first time, since the inception of PIP, that all playgrounds will be classified as a 'good' in terms of existing equipment. This provides an opportunity for the Council to go beyond an assessment of safety compliance and quality of existing equipment and audit the 'play value' and accessibility of our playgrounds.</p>
3.5	Officers are therefore proposing a new assessment approach that will be used to rank play facilities in terms of 'Play Value' and accessibility. 'Play value' and accessibility scores associated with the proposed audit would then be used to select playgrounds to be refurbished under future Playground Improvement Programmes (PIP).
3.6	If approved, members should note that independent annual playground safety inspections will continue each year to help identify essential repairs and ensure ongoing compliance with relevant safety standards (see Appendix 3) and ensure facilities remain in a good condition. These assessments would occur in tandem with the new assessment approach.
3.7	If approved the proposed audit will align with best practice guidance from consultants and organisations such as Playboard NI, Mae Murray Foundation, Play Services Ireland, Play England and Play Scotland. Council's Play Development Team, Landscape Planning & Development Team and OSS Operational Managers have also helped inform the approach. Officers have held discussions with Playboard NI and Mae Murray Foundation and initial feedback to the proposal has been positive. Further meetings are planned for December.
3.8	Assessing play value and accessibility will allow council to identify playgrounds that, although good in terms of the quality and safety compliance of their equipment, would benefit from an enhanced range of play opportunities and accessible elements.
3.9	In terms of a strategic fit, improving the 'play value' and accessibility of council-maintained playgrounds helps deliver a key outcome in the Belfast Agenda around providing a city that is safe, fair and inclusive for all. This approach also aligns with key principles in the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy's that aim to provide welcoming shared spaces and improve health and well-being.
3.10	<p>This proposal seeks to align the assessment of Playgrounds to a number of Notices of Motion. See Appendix 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Motion – September 2019 – Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities • Notice of Motion – June 2022 – Inclusive Play Parks
3.11	<p><u>'Play Value'</u></p> <p>'Play value' is used to describe the value an environment, object or piece of equipment brings to a child's experience of play, with high 'play value' indicating that children can play in many different ways. Through play children learn and develop their cognitive skills, problem-solving, social skills, and their fine and gross motor skills.</p>
3.12	Play is generally divided into three types:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical - rotating, sliding, rocking, swinging, climbing, balancing, bouncing, crawling and gliding Sensory - tactile, auditory, cognitive, interaction with natural features / quiet spaces Social – social / cooperative play and imaginative / themed play
3.13	Each type of play is crucial to a child's development and enjoyment of a playground. Going forward, we want to increase opportunities for all three types of play and for each type to be more accessible.
	<u>Assessing 'Play Value and accessibility'</u>
3.14	The proposed assessment template (see Appendix 3) is derived from a combination of tools used by Play Scotland, Play England and Play Services Ireland Ltd (see Appendix 4, template previously used by other councils in N. Ireland, Scotland and Dublin).
3.15	In line with key recommendations set out in the 'Let Me Play' report, produced by PlayBoard NI and Mae Murray Foundation, we have expanded the proposed assessment template to include an evaluation of how accessible our playgrounds are for children of all ages and abilities.
3.15	The assessment will allocate a 'play value' and accessibility score for each playground based on the types of play opportunities available and their accessibility.
3.16	The independent audit will also include an assessment of entrances, parking and toilet provision. Whilst the existing PIP budget will continue to be focused on new play equipment and safety surfacing, potential infrastructure improvements identified by the audit will be used to inform future capital projects in our parks and open spaces.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.17	Subject to a competitive tendering process, we envisage 'play value' and accessibility assessments to be carried out by the consultant who will be appointed to undertake ongoing, annual playground safety inspections.
3.18	The cost of the play value and accessibility audit is included within existing revenue estimates.
3.19	The cost of potential infrastructure projects e.g. changing places facilities, car parks are not included within the budget estimates.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.20	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 & 2 – Relevant Notices Of Motion

	Appendix 3 – Proposed BCC Play Value & Accessibility Assessment Template Appendix 4 – Typical Playground Annual Safety Inspection Report or Example Play Value & Accessibility Report (Play Services Ireland Ltd.)
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Subject:	Motion – Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities
Date:	10th September, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention the Motion in respect of Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities which was referred to the Committee by the Council on 2nd September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council, at its meeting on 2nd September, considered the following Motion which had been moved by Alderman McCoubrey and seconded by Councillor Smyth:</p>

	<p><i>“This Council recognises the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities, and undertakes to engage with those in the sector who can best advise on making play facilities more accessible.</i></p> <p><i>An audit should be undertaken of current facilities across the city and opportunities for disability improvements identified, work to be completed through the course of the current council term.”</i></p>
3.2	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the People and Communities Committee.
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Notice of Motion: Belfast City Council Inclusive Play Parks
Date:	7th June, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	As agreed that the May People and Communities Committee, representatives from both PlayBoard NI and the Mae Murray Foundation are in attendance in connection with the motion in relation to Belfast City Council Inclusive Play Parks, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th May.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to consider the motion and, if the proposal is agreed, to agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th May, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor McKeown, was referred to the Committee for consideration:

3.2	<p>"This council believes every child has the right to play but recognises not every child in Belfast has realised this right.</p> <p>It notes the findings and recommendations of the ‘Let Me Play: Inclusive play park study 2022’ report undertaken by Play Board NI and the Mae Murray Foundation and the recent statement (and Appendix) from UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum – which has endorsed the ‘Let Me Play’ report and published definitions for ‘accessible’ and ‘inclusive’.</p> <p>The report found compelling evidence that children and families are facing exclusion from play park environments in Northern Ireland from experience across the following areas: Wider infrastructure surrounding play parks; Play Park site facilities; Access; Participation; Communication; and Attitudes.</p> <p>The UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum statement defines accessible and inclusive play spaces as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Accessible Play Space is a space which is barrier-free, allows users access to move around the space and offers participation opportunities for a range of differing abilities. Not every child of every ability will be able to actively use everything within an accessible play space. • An Inclusive Play Space provides a barrier-free environment, with supporting infrastructure, which meets the wide and varying play needs of every child. Disabled children and non-disabled children will enjoy high levels of participation opportunities, equally rich in play value. <p>This council will adopt the full findings from both the ‘Let Me Play’ report and the UK Play Safety Forum and Children’s Play Policy Forum statement into its park and play park planning processes.</p> <p>In doing so it will also conduct a review of our full estate and make strategic decisions on where to plan to specifically build or upgrade to ‘inclusive’ status to deliver accessible and inclusive play parks within reasonable distances in each quarter (North/South/East/West) for all children to play together.</p> <p>As the delivery of ‘accessible and inclusive’ play parks will also require linkage with surrounding infrastructure and public transport services, we will also work with the Department for Infrastructure, Translink and other stakeholders."</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.4	<p>This Notice of Motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

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DRAFT 'Play Value' and Accessibility Assessment Template

The audit allocates a 'play value' and accessibility score for each playground based on features and play opportunities present. Each feature and play opportunity will get a score of **1** if present and **0** if not present.

Features: ____ /13 Play Opportunities: Physical ____ /36 Sensory ____ /20 Social ____ /8 **Play value & Accessibility total: ____ / 77**

Playground Name:

Date of audit:

Features	Image	Comments	Score Y=1 N=0
Pleasant /attractive play space	Attach photo		1
Informative Signage	Attach photo		1
Seating	Attach photo		1
Picnic Table(s)	Attach photo		1
Bike stands	Attach photo		1

Bin	Attach photo		1
Public toilets	Attach photo		1
Surfacing/pathways in good condition	Attach photo		1
Undulating ground/mounding	Attach photo		1
Accessible toilet / Changing Places	Attach photo		1
Accessible entrance / entrances	Attach photo		1
Accessible internal layout	Attach photo		1
Accessible parking	Attach photo		1
Features Total			13

Play Opportunities	Toddler & Pre-school age	Primary school + age	Reduced mobility	Wheelchair Accessible	Comments	
Physical Play						
Rotating	1	1	1	1		4
Sliding	1	1	1	1		4
Rocking	1	1	1	1		4
Swinging	1	1	1	1		4
Climbing / getting to height	1	1	1	1		4
Balancing	1	1	1	1		4
Bouncing	1	1	1	1		4
Crawling	1	1	1	1		4
Gliding	1	1	1	1		4
Physical Play Total						36
Sensory Play						
Tactile (sand/water/texture)	1	1	1	1		4

Auditory/sound making						4
Cognitive (puzzles, musical)						4
Interaction with natural features						4
Quiet Spaces to sit/chat /think						4
Sensory Play Total						20
Social Play						
Social /cooperative play						4
Imaginative/ themed play						4
Social Play Total						8
Play Opportunities (Combined Total)						64
Features Total						
Play Value and Accessibility Score						77

Playability Audit

This assessment aims to allocate a playability score for each play area. Based on a combination of locational, accessibility and environmental factors, as well as the play opportunities present, an overall score will be determined. Each factor will be scored on playability from 1 – 5, with 5 being the maximum score available.

Name of Play Area:

Date of Audit: __/__/____

Play Area Type (Please tick):

LAP

☐

LEAP (With additional activities*)

☐

LEAP

☐

NEAP (With additional activities*)

☐

NEAP

☐

*Skate Park/MUGA/Outdoor Gym/Trim Trail

Play Provisions (Please tick):

Playground

☐

Skate Park

☐

Cycle Track

☐

MUGA

☐

Outdoor Gym

☐

	Comments	Total available score	Actual score (1-5)
Locational Factors			
Evidence of good casual supervision		5	
Evidence of dog fouling		5	
Evidence of antisocial behaviour such as; litter/vandalism/graffiti/ broken glass etc.		5	
Proximity of roads		5	
Proximity of local housing		5	
Traffic and noise pollution level		5	
Total		30	

Accessibility Factors			
Close to public transport links (only applicable if a NEAP)		5	
Surfacing in play area & pathways in good condition		5	
Crossing points on roads		5	
Disability access		5	
Total		20	

	Comments	Total available score	Actual score (1-5)
Environmental Factors			
Variations in surface level		5	
Natural play equipment (wood construction, rocks, boulders etc.)		5	
Sensory play opportunities present		5	
Water feature/ water play present		5	
Total		20	

Physical Play Opportunities Present			
Climbing		5	
Swinging		5	
Jumping		5	
Balancing		5	
Crawling		5	
Rocking		5	
Rotating/Spinning		5	
Gliding		5	
Total		40	

Creative Play Opportunities Present			
Sand/Soil		5	
Water play		5	
Rough & Tumble		5	
Fantasy		5	
Sound making items		5	
Imaginative Play (places and/or materials)		5	
Performance/ stage area		5	
Opportunities to transform the natural environment		5	
Total		40	

Inclusive play			
Provision for those with mobility difficulties		5	
Provision for the visually impaired		5	
Total		10	

	Comments	Total available score	Actual score (1-5)
Social Play			
Quiet space to sit together/chat/think		5	
Places to hide		5	
Opportunities for children of different ages and abilities to mix through play		5	
Meets play needs of different ages		5	
Suitable areas for social interaction		5	
Total		25	

	Maximum Score Possible	Total Actual Score
	185	

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Subject:	2023 Leisure centre holiday recreation schemes report
Date:	5 th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
-----	--

1.1	To provide members with an overview of the leisure centre holiday recreation schemes delivered by GLL throughout 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to note the information provided below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Within the annual centre programming strategy, GLL delivers a range of holiday schemes designed to maximise use of the leisure centres by providing physical activities and social engagement for young people in safe and fun environments. Schemes are designed and delivered to be both inclusive and cross community.</p> <p>During school holiday periods the day time user profiles within our centres change to reflect the availability of young people and the need for much needed options for parents who may face challenges in home caring for their children.</p> <p>Schemes are organised throughout the year ranging in duration from a few days, at for example Halloween, to six plus weeks during the longer summer break. Details are set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Schemes are site specific and tailored subject to variations in centre facilities and local demand, rather than being standardised across the city. In addition to general activity schemes, sports specific coaching camps are included in the programme as described in Appendix 1.</p> <p>2023 has been the first full year of holiday schemes delivered by GLL since centres returned to normal operating conditions following Covid-19 restrictions.</p>
3.2	The holiday schemes have developed throughout 2023 and participation has grown steadily. It is anticipated that 2024 schemes will be further expanded and that participant numbers will continue to grow.
3.3	BCC officers remain actively involved with GLL in ongoing developments around the scale and content of the holiday scheme programme.
3.4	Appendix 1 is provided to give Members an overview of the range of activities provided along with the participant numbers at each centre.

3.5	Members are requested to note the information provided above.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> <u>None</u>
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> <u>None</u>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Holiday Recreation Schemes report

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GLL Belfast Easter Scheme

Background

GLL in Belfast delivered an Easter Scheme programme for the first time since the Covid-19 Pandemic. After the success of the previous year's Summer Schemes, the demand for an Easter Scheme was growing. Due to this being the first delivery of an Easter Scheme in a number of years, there were only three centres delivering a traditional scheme with a heavier focus on sport specific schemes. This allowed us to use already existing staff members such as Tennis, Swimming and Gymnastics coaches to deliver as well as being able to outsource coaches for GAA and Basketball. Overall, this meant there was less demand on us to hire new members of staff.

As mentioned above, three centres delivered a traditional Holiday Scheme model in addition to seven centres delivering a sports specific model. Gymnastics was offered at Belvoir Activity Centre, Tennis at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex whilst swimming was offered at Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Shankill Leisure Centres. For the first time Whiterock Leisure Centre hosted a mixed GAA and Soccer scheme with help from Ulster GAA. We also partnered with Peace Players NI to deliver a basketball scheme at Shankill Leisure Centre.

Statistics

In total the GLL Halloween Schemes catered for 251 children which was 78% utilisation of the spaces offered. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 92 across their traditional scheme and swimming short courses which represented 86% utilisation, followed behind by Olympia Leisure Centre with 44 (74%) and Belvoir Activity Centre with 25 (100%).

Further information can be found in figure 1 below.

Figure2: GLL Easter Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female	Total
Grove	7	11	6	14	10	24
Lisnasharragh	12	18	10	19	21	40
Olympia	7	12	6	13	12	25
Belvoir (Gymnastics)	14	8	3	8	17	25
Ozone (Tennis)	6	14	9	15	14	29
Shankill (Basketball)	3	11	2	10	6	16
Whiterock (GAA and Soccer)	7	5	1	10	3	13
Lisnasharragh (Swimming)	32	20	0	24	28	52
Olympia (Swimming)	6	4	9	10	9	19
Shankill (Swimming)	6	2	0	4	4	8
Totals	100	105	46	127	124	251

GLL Belfast Summer Scheme

Background

GLL in Belfast were delighted to once again deliver a successful Summer Scheme programme. Recruitment commenced in April and fourteen Activity Supervisors and 56 Activity Instructors were selected to support the programme during July and August.

Twelve centres delivered a traditional Summer Scheme model in addition to six centres delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel, Brook and Whiterock Leisure Centres, gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre, tennis at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex and basketball at Shankill Leisure Centre.

The traditional Summer Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools along with Air Venture, Aqua Splash, Surf Belfast and Waterslides at specific centres.



Image 1: Participants of Avoniel and Templemore Baths joint Summer Scheme.

A variety of sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs) supported the GLL Summer Schemes in our centres that delivered a non sports specific offering.

Ulster Boxing delivered sessions for the older children that attended our traditional Summer Schemes across Belfast. They delivered 20 sessions and attended centres from all corners of the city. Patrick Gallagher (Commonwealth Gold medallist) and Brendan Irvine (Olympian and European Silver medallist) delivered the sessions tailoring their coaching to suit the age and ability of the children.

Table Tennis Ulster delivered 10 sessions for children aged 7-14 in Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre across the 5 weeks of their summer schemes. Sessions were taken by Jing Yi Gao (former Table Tennis Olympian) with the focus to get more kids involved in the sport and teach them the basic rules of the game.

Annadale Hockey Club delivered multiple sessions in Olympia Leisure Centre and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre through their coach Philip Wilson. The sessions were delivered once a week to all summer scheme participants with the main focus being on having fun whilst learning basic hockey skills.

Statistics

The traditional Summer Scheme offered an early drop off option at four of the centres. The uptake was once again low with only 109 slots being booked, a small increase of 7 from last year. Overall, the early drop off only had a 37.8% occupancy rate. In total the GLL Summer Scheme catered for 1,861 children which was 96.3% utilisation of the spaces offered. Compared to 2022, this was an increase of 407 children and 19.2% increase in utilisation of spaces.

With the early drop off included 1,970 children were involved in GLL programmes this summer, representing 88.7% utilisation of the 2,220 spaces offered. 49.7% of the spaces taken were from males and the remaining 50.3% from females. Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 319 which represented 99.7% utilisation, followed behind by Olympia Leisure Centre with 227 (97.8%) and Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex 204 (89.9%). These figures do not include early drop off.

Further information can be found in figure 2 and 3 below.

Figure2: GLL Traditional Summer Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female
Andersonstown	99	77	24	98	102
Ballysillan	19	10	3	12	21
Belvoir	12	3	1	5	11
Brook	74	38	6	69	51
Falls	85	46	17	74	74
Grove	84	80	33	96	104
Lisnasharragh	115	123	81	130	189
Olympia	107	87	23	127	100
Ozone	25	105	74	112	92
Shankill	79	55	9	94	49
Templemore	50	51	20	56	65
Whiterock	67	53	10	55	75
Totals	816 (44.2%)	728 (39.5%)	301 (16.3%)	928 (49.9%)	933 (50.1%)

Figure 3: GLL Traditional Summer Scheme Statistics – Capacity and Utilisation

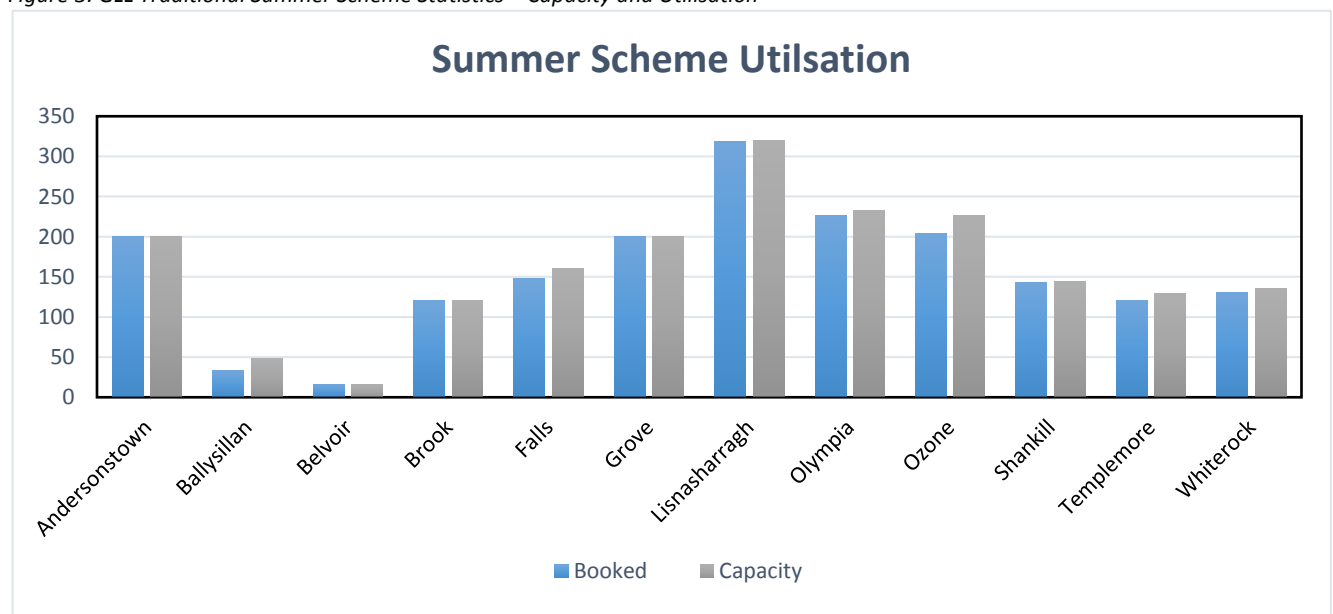




Image 2: Children learning to play football at Brook Leisure Centre.



Image 3: Children learning to box with Patrick Gallagher at Olympia Leisure Centre..

Sports Specific Summer Schemes

Belvoir Gymnastics Summer Scheme

The Belvoir Activity Centre Gymnastics Summer Scheme was delivered between 17th – 21st July, 31st July – 4th August and 7th – 11th August. The weeks involved 5 x 2 hour sessions delivered by a current GLL Level 1 gymnastics coach and supervised by a Group Activity Instructor. The children had a range of ability so the sessions were structured in such a way that participants could be introduced to new skills, play fun games and develop core skills through instruction and play.

59 participants attended the scheme which represented 92.2% utilisation. 75% of the participants were female and 25% male, this was a 7% increase on male participation from the previous year. The age range of participants was from 5 to 12 years of age.

The scheme was designed to provide a sports specific option for those either current enrolled on GLL gymnastics programmes or who would be keen to enroll in September. The gymnastics programme at Belvoir Activity Centre took a break over the summer period and resumed on Monday 4th September.

Avoniel Football Summer Scheme

Avoniel delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 14th - 18th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 13 children attended the scheme which represented 81.3% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 3 participants aged between 5 to 7 with the rest being 8 to 11. 62% of these participants were male and 38% female, a 23% increase on female participation than the previous year.

Brook Football Summer Scheme

Brook Leisure Centre also delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 31st July - 4th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 20 children attended the scheme which represented 100% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 3 participants aged between 5 to 7 with the rest being 8 to 11 and 60% of these participants were male and 40% female.

Whiterock Football Summer Scheme

Whiterock Leisure Centre also delivered a football specific Summer Scheme from 7th - 11th August. The programme ran from Monday to Friday for three hours each day. The scheme was delivered by Irish FA qualified GLL staff who used age specific drills and fun games to help participants improve their skills and techniques.

The scheme was open to 5 to 14 year olds with the participants being split into age groups. In total 26 children attended the scheme which represented 100% utilisation. The participants were split evenly between the 5 to 8, 8 to 11 and 11 to 14 age groups. There were 14 participants aged between 5 to 7, 10 were aged 8 to 11 and only two aged 11-14. 81% of these participants were male and only 19% were female.

Ozone Tennis Short Courses

The Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex delivered small group tennis lessons throughout the summer for seven weeks from 3rd July to 25th August. These lessons were for children aged 5-14 with sessions being split 5 to 7 and 8 to 14 age groups. The lessons were aimed at giving children an accelerated learning experience as

oppose to the regular one session a week, they received daily tennis lessons with the qualified tennis coaches at Ozone. In total 76 children participated in the short courses, representing 45% utilisation.

Shankill Basketball Summer Scheme

Shankill Leisure Centre in conjunction with Peace Players NI delivered a basketball camp from 14th to 18th August. This scheme was aimed at getting children involved in basketball and learning the basic skills and rules of the sport. The scheme was open to children aged 5-14 years old. In total there were 10 participants in this scheme, representing 63% utilisation. The gender split was 50% each with 2 being in the 5 to 8 age group, 4 in the 8 to 11 age group and also 4 in the 11 to 14 age group.

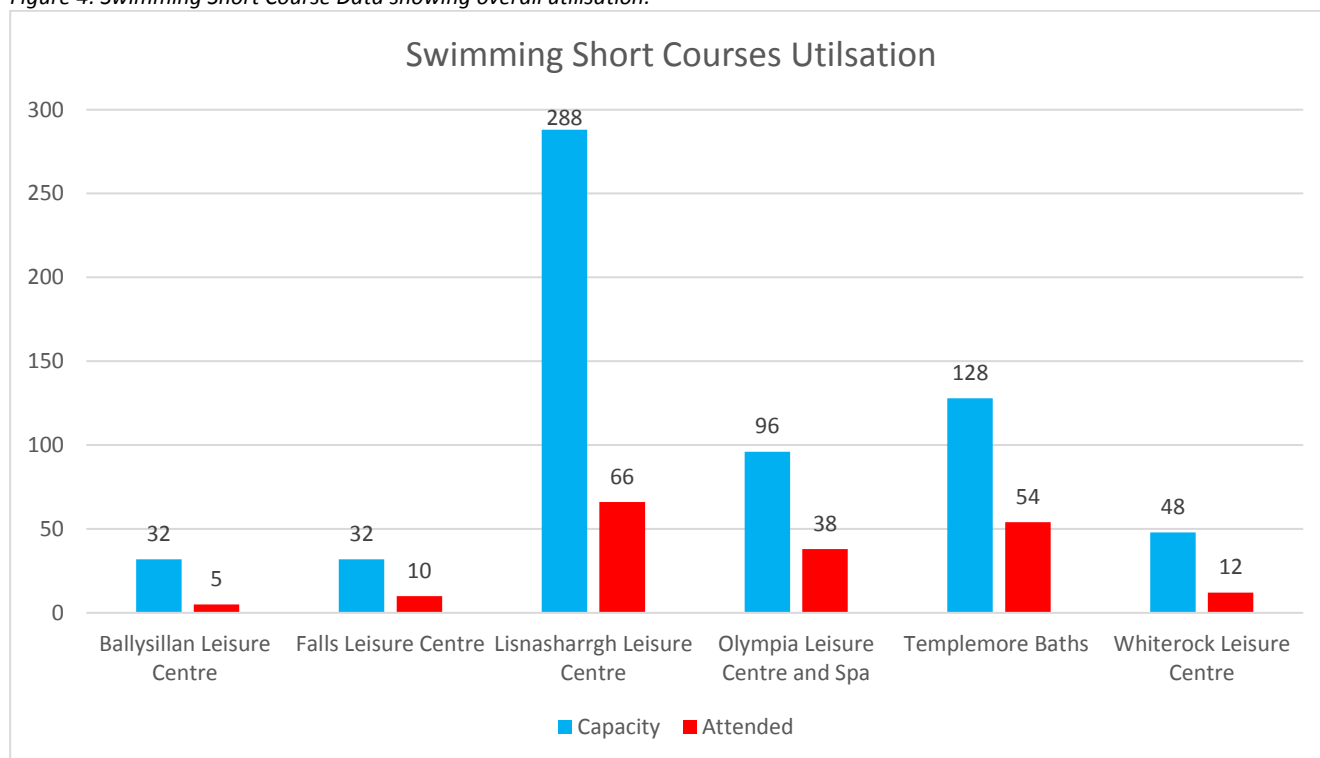
Aquatics Short Courses

During the months of July and August a selection of Swimming Short Courses were delivered in Belfast. The venues included Ballysillan Leisure Centre, Falls Leisure Centre, Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre, Olympia Leisure Centre, Templemore Baths and Whiterock Leisure Centre. The aim of these courses is to help beginners feel comfortable in the water as accelerate their learning by providing them with a lesson each day instead of the usual weekly lesson as part of our Swim School programme.

Overall 185 children attended these courses throughout the summer, representing a 30% utilisation rate. This was down by 55 participants from the previous year. Due to the increase in Swim School members and capacity, this can explain why there is a decrease in numbers. The need for complete beginners to avail of short Swimming Courses has declined as we are now in a better position to meet the demands of lessons and courses throughout the entire year in comparison to the previous year.

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre delivered to 66 children which showed an increase of 3 from the previous year and was the most of any centres this summer. However, Templemore Baths recorded the highest utilisation rate of 42% and delivered to 54 children. All the data can be viewed in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Swimming Short Course Data showing overall utilisation.



Summer Scheme Celebration Event

On Thursday 3rd August the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex was host to a Summer Scheme Celebration Day to mark the success of the Summer Scheme programme. The day welcomed over 300 children from across 9 centres. Each centre split their groups into age sections and were all given a specific centre colour Better t-shirt.



Images 4 and 5: Children showcase the sports on offer at the celebration event.

At the beginning of the day each group were sent to a sports activity station, either in the indoor tennis courts or on the 3G Multi Sports Pitch. GLL enlisted the support of a number of sporting NGBs and clubs to deliver coaching sessions throughout the day. The participants rotated stations every 20 minutes so they could experience of all the sports on offer.

The NGBs and clubs included the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Peace Players NI and NI Fencing. East Belfast GAA, Knockbreda FC and Annadale Hockey Club also supported by providing coaches for the specific sports. All other stations were delivered by qualified GLL staff including tennis, rugby, fitness, dodgeball, cricket and athletics stations.



Images 6 and 7: Children with Johnny Davis from NI Fencing and Aidan Walsh, Jacqui Pope and Councilor Ryan Murphy, Lord Mayor of Belfast with participants.

GSF Athlete and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Aidan Walsh was present to support the children, provide expertise coaching the boxing sessions and be an overall inspiration to all children. The event also welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Ryan Murphy. Speaking about the event he said, “The Summer Scheme programme is brilliant, it’s a great opportunity to bring kids together, help them make new friends and also give them a bit of an insight into the different sports and try to promote an active healthy

lifestyle. It's fantastic to be able to bring people together from all across the city to celebrate the success of the Summer Schemes."

The celebration event was a wonderful way to celebrate the summer of activity to a close and showcase the good work that had been delivered across the city in July and August. The Community Sports team in Belfast will review all aspects of delivery and consider feedback from participants, staff and partners as they formulate their summer plans for 2024.

The remainder of this report will highlight some of the other projects that were delivered across Belfast during June, July and August that formed part of our wider community engagement this summer.



Images 8 to 11: Images of children and coaches at the Summer Scheme Celebration at Ozone.

Local Community Group Summer Programmes

GLL have supported numerous organisations and community groups throughout the summer in all of our centres to deliver community events and sports programmes. Below are just some of the most significant events that took place in some of our centres.

Andersonstown Leisure Centre

On 27th June, Andersonstown hosted a Performance Analysis and Talent Identification workshop which was delivered by Terence O'Hara. Terence currently works for Ajax FC and has previously worked with Leicester FC AND Nottingham Forest FC. This event was open to all local football coaches who wanted an insight into how professional clubs operate within this department. Over 50 people registered their interest in this event with 29 actually attending the event. The attendees' ages ranged from 21-56 with both senior and junior coaches in attendance. The coaches were a mix of male and female and came from all corners of the city.

On 22nd August, a Health and Fitness Fair was organised and hosted by the team at Andersonstown. The aim of the fair was to promote awareness around the benefits of physical activity for your mental wellbeing and physical health. As well as how a well-balanced diet can help you improve your health for the better. This included Cooper's Pharmacy, Avonmore, Marie Shaw (dietician), Olympia Spa team, Better Healthwise team and Anthony Nolan charity all having dedicated stalls and information points throughout the centre. This was open to anyone and attracted many non-members into the centre for the first time whilst also helping current members discover more on how to improve their wellbeing.



Images 12 and 13: Local coaches take part in a Performance Analysis and Talent Identification workshop at Andersonstown and Olympia Spa Experience team at the Health and Fitness Fair hosted by Andersonstown.

Avoniel

Galactico Soccer hosted their Primary School tournaments at Avoniel on Friday 2nd and 9th June. The first day was an all-girls tournament whilst the boys competed the week after. With over 300 children in attendance both days and 22 schools, it was a very successful event.

On June 16th seen the return of the Annual Men's Health event in collaboration with Community Sport Network. It kicked off the morning, beginning with an 8 team Danderball tournament. Clubs from across Northern Ireland were invited to represent their team and compete. Avoniel won the tournament themselves however it was a great day for everyone involved.

Alongside this there was a Men's Health Fair in the studio space which allowed men to gain more information on health related topics. This included 15 stalls and information points including our own Healthwise team, Prostrate Cancer and Men's Shed along with many others. Both events drew over 300 men to Avoniel on the day.

Avoniel again hosted Elmgrove Primary School's end of year Sports Day on 16th June. With 600 pupils in attendance and having a fantastic day, this is now a staple venue for the school due to the standard of the facilities.

Clonduff Football Club hosted their end of season awards and fun day at Avoniel. This included over 200 children in attendance to celebrate their season past.

Avoniel hosted an Ethnic Minority 11 a-side football completion in collaboration with EMSONI Foreign nationalities, whom reside in Northern Ireland each represented their countries to battle it out to find out the overall champion. Teams from Nigeria, Sudan, Northern Ireland, Senegal, Romina, Poland, Portugal, Ghana, Benin, South African and Syria all took part.

Every Monday and Wednesday in August Women in Sport and Physical Activity held a Boot Camp style class at Avoniel. The sessions were delivered by fully qualified female instructors who specialise in a range of exercising methods such as Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, Circuits and Chair based aerobics.

Avoniel hosted multiple sports camps during the summer including the Irish Football Association, Clonduff FC, TW Sports Group, Eastside Partnership and Healthy Kidz.



Images 14 and 15: Danderball participants and the Men's Health Fair at Avoniel.

Brook Leisure Centre

Brook Leisure Centre hosted a community fun day on 8th August. This event had been run by the Feile festival in 2022 as a diversionary day to help detract from the anti-social behaviour associated with the festival. Funding cuts in 2023 meant they couldn't deliver this event themselves, however, the centre delivered a community fun day allowing for all activities to be discounted to £1.

Kelly's Roller Disco repeated their successful event from 2022 once again on 4th August this year with around 150 people in attendance.

Local school's held end of term fun days at Brook with a combined pool party and air venture session with Scoil Na Fuisseoige and St Colm's both choosing to celebrate their end of school year at Brook Leisure Centre.

Football clubs also chose to hold fun days at Brook Leisure Centre during the summer with the aim of tackling anti-social behaviour. The sessions hosted over 250 children.

Better Gym Connswater

On 4th June, Connswater hosted a member walk in which they trekked up Cavehill. At the top they enjoyed some buns along with tea and coffee. In total, they had 7 members join them on this walk and plan to continue hosting walks in the future.

Girdwood Community Hub

Girdwood hosted multiple summer schemes delivered by outside organisations, these included; Our Club Our Community; TAMHI; Belfast Trust; Cliftonville Community Regeneration; St Malachy's Youth FC; New Lodge Arts; and Open Arts.

They also facilitated Fun Days during the summer for Cruse Bereavement and Pathways Project on 26th July and 25th August respectively. Both events were well attended and received by well by all involved.

The NHS hosted a Wheelchair Skill Event at Girdwood on Tuesday 1st August. This was aimed at young people and was attended by people from all over Belfast.

Lower Old Park Community Association held their roller skating event at Girdwood in the main hall on 5th August to conclude their fun day.

Belfast City Council also facilitated an end of summer disco for young children. This was attended by 60 young people on 18th August. They also held a bird box making event in centre on 21st August to support mindfulness and senior activities

The Aston Centre ran a health and wellbeing day on 8th August. This was supported by TAMHI and a colour run also took place around the centre to conclude the event.

TAMHI also delivered a programme called Girdwood 4 All summer intervention which was delivered every Monday to Thursday from 6pm to 10pm between 31st July to 25th August.

On 22nd August Girdwood hosted a cultural heritage event which was attended by 200 people to enjoy a range of African music and cuisines.

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre

Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre hosted Aqua Splash sessions on 9th and 30th July and 13th and 27th August. This is an increase on the usual timetable in order to cater for the school holidays. Several hundred children and adults attended the wet inflatable sessions.

Whiterock Leisure Centre

Springfield Trust organised their annual Fun Day at Whiterock Leisure Centre. As part of this fun day they booked the main hall, multi sports pitch and front car park. They had bouncy castles set up along with free taster sessions on electrical go-karts and offered free treatments and massages. Sainsbury's food bags were also given out and a barbecue was set up for people to enjoy some burgers and hot dogs in the community garden.

GLL Halloween Programme

Background

GLL in Belfast were delighted to deliver a successful Halloween Scheme programme for the first time. After the success of the Easter and Summer Schemes, the demand for a Halloween Scheme was growing. Due to this being the first delivery of a Halloween Scheme, there were only 30 Children's Activity Instructors and Supervisors hired. This was also due to the Halloween holidays not being as long in duration or in line with regular University holiday times, therefore the pool of potential workers was decreased.

Six centres delivered a traditional Holiday Scheme model in addition to three centres delivering a sports specific model. Football was offered at Avoniel and Brook Leisure Centre as well as gymnastics at Belvoir Activity Centre. The traditional Schemes offered arts and crafts, football, dodgeball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, board games, bouncy castles and swimming for those centres with pools along with many other fun activities.

Statistics

In total the GLL Halloween Scheme catered for 156 children which was 75% utilisation of the spaces offered. Shankill Leisure Centre recorded the highest attendance figures with 31 which represented 96.9% utilisation, followed behind by Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre with 30 (75%) and Andersonstown Leisure Centre with 22 (91.7%).

Further information can be found in figure 5 below.

Figure5: GLL Halloween Scheme Statistics – Age and Gender Breakdown

Centre	5-7 Years	8-10 Years	11-14 Years	Male	Female	Total
Andersonstown	12	8	0	10	12	22
Falls	12	7	0	9	10	19
Grove	5	7	3	9	7	16
Lisnasharragh	15	9	5	16	14	30
Shankill	13	12	4	18	13	31
Whiterock	4	1	0	0	5	5
Avoniel (Football)	2	1	1	2	2	4
Belvoir (Gymnastics)	10	5	0	4	11	15
Brook (Football)	8	5	1	9	5	14
Totals	81	55	14	77	79	156

Holiday Scheme Performance

The total participant numbers, gender split and age split of the combined programmes can be viewed in figures 6 to 8 below.

Figure 6: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Total Participation Numbers

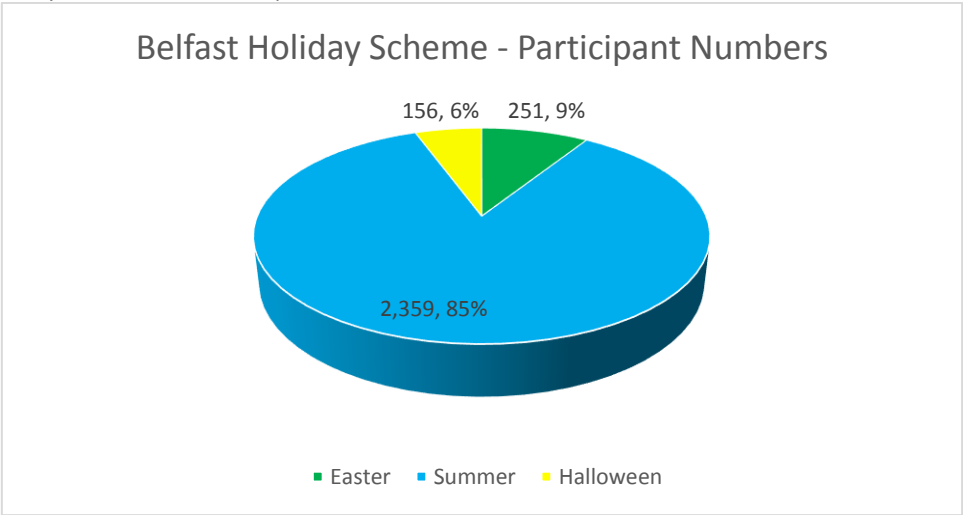


Figure 7: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Gender Spilt

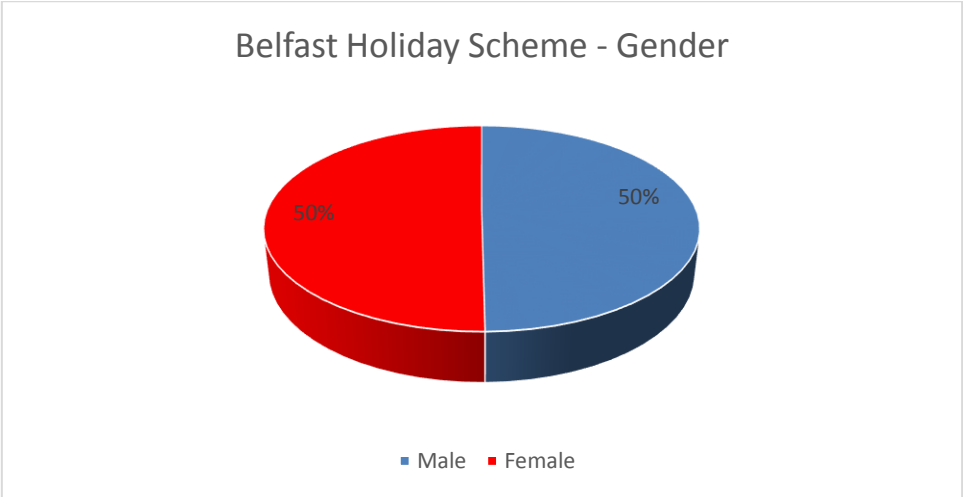
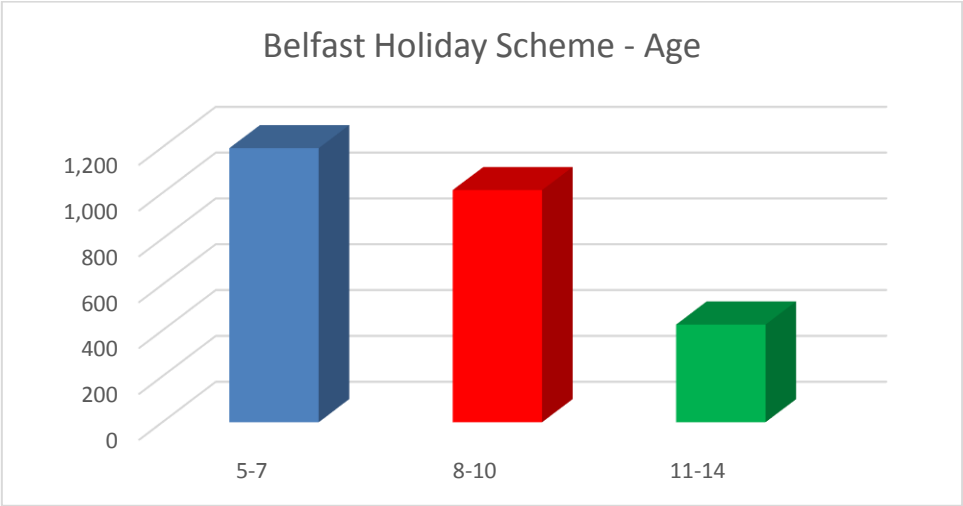


Figure 8: Belfast Holiday Scheme - Age Spilt



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Subject:	Pre-loved Toys scheme Christmas 2023
Date:	5 December 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Matthews, Director Resources and Fleet, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet), City and Neighbourhood Services Department Brendan Murray (Waste Manager)

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number ☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the 2023 pre-loved toys scheme operated at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in the run up to Christmas. The aim of the initiative is to ease the burden on families during the current cost of living crisis, increase reuse and reduce waste going to landfill during this period.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that in November 2022, delegated authority was granted to the Director of Resources & Fleet to operate a pre-loved toys scheme at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres in the run-up to Christmas. This followed a member's motion previously raised on this matter.
3.2	The scheme was a clear example of a circular economy project, seeking to reduce waste while at the same time delivering social benefits to the local community. The 2022 scheme was extremely popular with around seven tonnes of waste diverted from landfill and an estimated 700 families benefitting from the initiative. At the committee meeting of April 2023, Members agreed to run the scheme again this year.
3.3	The Council has teamed up with East Belfast Missions (EBM) as the lead re-use logistics partner and EBM will liaise with other charities to distribute the toys back into the community via a network of charity operators. The collection points are located at the Council's four recycling centres and donations will be received up until Monday 11 December 2023.
3.4	In line with last year's scheme, some items will be resold at affordable prices through charity shops, but it is envisaged that the vast majority will be gifted free of charge to households in need. Should Members be aware of any charity or community organisation which would like to be considered as a beneficiary of this initiative they can signpost the organisation to complete the contact form on the EBM web site East Belfast Mission - Contact Us (ebm.org.uk)
3.5	Further details can be found via; Pre-loved Toy Appeal (belfastcity.gov.uk)
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	There are no significant financial resources associated with this event.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	There are no Good Relations or Equality implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached

4.1	None
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Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs
Date:	5 th December, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for seven existing streets within the city.																																
2.0	Recommendation																																
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Dermott Hill Parade, Sunnyhill Park, Knock Eden Park, Fruithill Court, Tullymore Gardens, Pineview Road and Hawthorn View.																																
3.0	Main Report																																
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																																
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																
3.3	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr><tr><td>Dermott Hill Parade, BT12</td><td>Paráid Chnoc Dhiarmada</td><td>Off Dermott Hill Road, BT12</td><td>49</td></tr><tr><td>Sunnyhill Park, BT17</td><td>Páirc Chnoc na Gréine</td><td>Off Dunmurry Lane, BT17</td><td>116</td></tr><tr><td>Knock Eden Park, BT6</td><td>Páirc Chnoc Éadain</td><td>Off Knockbreda Road, BT6</td><td>193</td></tr><tr><td>Fruithill Court, BT11</td><td>Cúirt Chnoc na dTorthaí</td><td>Off Fruithill Park, BT11</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Tullymore Gardens, BT11</td><td>Gairdíní na Tulaí Móire</td><td>Off Glassmullan Gardens, BT11</td><td>175</td></tr><tr><td>Pineview Road, BT36</td><td>Bóthar Radharc na Giúise</td><td>Off Whitewell Road, BT36</td><td>56</td></tr><tr><td>Hawthorn View, BT17</td><td>Radharc na Sceiche</td><td>Off Hawthorn Glen, BT17</td><td>187</td></tr></table>	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Dermott Hill Parade, BT12	Paráid Chnoc Dhiarmada	Off Dermott Hill Road, BT12	49	Sunnyhill Park, BT17	Páirc Chnoc na Gréine	Off Dunmurry Lane, BT17	116	Knock Eden Park, BT6	Páirc Chnoc Éadain	Off Knockbreda Road, BT6	193	Fruithill Court, BT11	Cúirt Chnoc na dTorthaí	Off Fruithill Park, BT11	15	Tullymore Gardens, BT11	Gairdíní na Tulaí Móire	Off Glassmullan Gardens, BT11	175	Pineview Road, BT36	Bóthar Radharc na Giúise	Off Whitewell Road, BT36	56	Hawthorn View, BT17	Radharc na Sceiche	Off Hawthorn Glen, BT17	187
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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	Dermott Hill Parade, BT12																																

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 occupiers (38.78%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 30 occupiers (61.22%) did not respond to the survey.
3.7	<p>Sunnyhill Park, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 occupiers (31.03%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 6 occupiers (5.17%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 74 occupiers (63.79%) did not respond to the survey.
3.8	<p>Knock Eden Park, BT6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 occupiers (28.50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 46 occupiers (23.83%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 11 occupiers (5.70%) had no preference either way. • 81 occupiers (41.97%) did not respond to the survey. <p>Two residents who are not in support of the dual language street sign at Knock Eden Park have raised concerns about the cost of the signs.</p> <p>Another resident not in support of the signs has advised that they would wish to keep the existing cast iron heritage sign.</p> <p>Another resident not in support of the dual language sign at Knock Eden Park was concerned at the low threshold of 15% for the application to be considered and that the applicant remains anonymous.</p>
3.9	<p>Fruithill Court, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 occupiers (33.33%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 10 occupiers (66.67%) did not respond to the survey.
3.10	<p>Tullymore Gardens, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 occupiers (40%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (1.14%) had no preference either way. • 103 occupiers (58.86%) did not respond to the survey.
3.11	<p>Pineview Road, BT36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 occupiers (37.5%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 9 occupiers (16.07%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 26 occupiers (46.43%) did not respond to the survey.
3.12	<p>Hawthorn View, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 occupiers (34.22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 4 occupiers (2.14%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (1.07%) had no preference either way. • 117 occupiers (62.57%) did not respond to the survey.

<p>3.13</p> <p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p>	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> <p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy. 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> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £1,740 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the seven 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>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	DFI/PSNI Street Access pilot update
Date:	5th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Matthews Director (Resources and Fleet)
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide an update to members on the interagency exercise to improve access for BCC collection vehicles for identified problem streets across Belfast.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the update report.
3.0	Main report
	Key Issues
3.1	Background
3.2	As outlined within the Resources and Fleet Waste Update presented at the September meeting of the People and Communities Committee, members may be aware of the ongoing work to look at addressing the issues around access to certain streets for our collection vehicles.
	Members will be aware that following the single item Committee meeting in March 2023 to discuss access issues, officers have engaged with officers from the PSNI and DFI to look at what measures might be available within their remit to assist collection crews.
3.3	By September, BCC officers had identified the most affected streets, based on crew reporting and residents' calls. In parallel to a separate piece of work on the viability of smaller vehicles to increase success rates of collections, these streets had been prioritised by difficulty and sorted by post code.
	Update
3.4	As a next step the streets were assessed internally by Waste Collection to identify which streets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • currently had parking restrictions in place • might benefit from additional parking restrictions
3.5	BCC Officers have continued to engage with DFI in the first instance to move the project forward. This however was delayed due to staff within the Department moving to new roles. Once new contacts were established with DFI officials in late October 2023, a virtual meeting took place between BCC Officers and DFI Officers on 10 th November.
3.6	At that meeting BCC officers put forward a proposal which included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a proposal to focus on 10 blocks of identified streets based on the criteria outlined above (2 blocks per working day). These blocks of streets were aligned to bin collection days and were spread across the city. • Baselining measures and success rates to be measured by BCC • DFI to identify and measure key deliverables eg penalty notices issued etc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSNI Neighbourhood Teams to be asked to have a presence in the area at the same time alongside DFI enforcement teams. • After an agreed period of time a review of the effectiveness of any interventions to be carried out
3.7	Initial feedback from DFI officials indicated that due to their own resource restrictions and other commitments that the size and timescales of the proposal might be difficult to support.
3.8	It was agreed that BCC officers would look at the scale of the proposal. Waste Collections Management teams have carried out further refinement and prioritisation based on their local knowledge and continued difficulty in accessing areas.
3.9	We are currently engaging with DFI Officers to arrange further meetings before the end of the calendar year. This engagement will focus on what can specifically be achieved given the Department's resource limitations, and to establish an action plan around introducing additional measures around enforcement as soon as is reasonably practicable.
3.10	Officers will continue to update the Committee on a regular basis with progress and proposals on this issue.
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p>
3.12	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Applications for dual language street signs for
Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Park
North

Subject:	Applications for dual language street signs for Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Park North
Date:	5 th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Roisin Adams, Business Co-ordinator ext 2454

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
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6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To consider if a street survey of occupiers will be carried out for three applications for the erection of dual language street signs for a street within the city where potential adverse impacts have been identified and objections have been received from elected members.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to consider the report and objections raised in relation to the applications for dual language street signs received for Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Park North and either:</p> <p>a) Agree that surveys of occupiers of these streets be carried out.</p> <p>or</p> <p>b) Agree that no surveys will be carried out on the grounds of the potential adverse impacts identified and these three applications are closed.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>
3.2	The Dual Language Street Sign policy states that “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.”
3.3	The initial assessments were carried out and potential adverse impacts were identified. Draft equality screenings were therefore carried out, assessing the request for dual language street signs in Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Park North for equality and good relations issues.
3.4	<p>The screenings have identified that the carrying out of surveys and the erection of Irish language street signs in these areas could cause community tension, as outlined in the equality and good relation section below.</p> <p>Objections to the applications were also raised by Elected Members.</p>
3.5	Ballysillan Road - Oldpark DEA member Cllr Jordan Doran raised an objection stating “Ballysillan is an over-whelming Unionist community, and I have strong concerns that the proposal to add an Irish street name to Ballysillan Road would have a strongly negative impact on community relations within the area.”
3.6	Ebor Street – Botanic DEA Cllr Tracy Kelly raised an objection stating “We must not forget that this is a strong unionist community, and this will not be welcomed at all. My fear is that it will greatly impact community relations and cause upset when it is not necessary.”
3.7	Sunningdale Park North – An objection was raised to this application by Court DEA member Cllr Ron McDowell stating “The area has been settled for a few years now after some tensions around parading and flags etc. The flags having been curtailed and the parade passing quietly and peacefully again for the first time in a few years. This is a predominantly Unionist area and I do fear a tinderbox effect if these signs are to be erected where they are not wanted.”

3.8	While Cllr McDowell is not a DEA member for Castle in which this street falls, this objection has been included for consideration by committee.
3.9	These applications are therefore being brought to Committee to determine if surveys of residents of these streets will take place, considering this information.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.10	If it is decided to carry out surveys, the resulting tasks are included within the normal resources for the process.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	An EQIA was carried out on the main Dual Language Street Signs policy in 2021-22. This confirmed the initial assessment process to be carried out, which may indicate the requirement for equality screening.
3.12	The request for dual language street signs (in the Irish language) for Ballysillan Road, Ebor Street and Sunningdale Avenue were assessed for equality of opportunity and good relations issues and the applications for the streets were presented to Elected Members through the notification process. On this occasion objections were raised stating that due to the fact that these are Unionist communities the proposals may lead to a negative impact on community relations within these areas.
3.13	The applications were subjected to an initial Section 75 assessment to determine what impact the potential erection of dual language signs might have in the areas surrounding these streets. A full screening process was carried out to address the issues associated with carrying out a survey and the placing of street signs in these streets.
3.14	The draft screenings have identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these areas could cause community tension, as could the erection of the street sign and therefore has the potential to cause an adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It is acknowledged; however, the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.
3.15	Cllrs Doran, Kelly and McDowell have raised potential for adverse impacts on good relations grounds through objections received during the Elected Member notification procedure as outlined above.
3.16	The council retains 'residual discretion' in relation to these applications. In effect this gives Elected Members the option to not proceed to survey and/ or halt the erection of an Irish language street sign in this street where, in the view of Elected Members taking into account the agreed criteria, that this action would be considered inappropriate.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None

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