

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

8th January, 2024

**MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid meeting in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 9th January, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

**AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Presentations**

- (a) Presentation from A Playful City on its initiative Playful Streets

3. **Restricted**

- (a) Correspondence from Belfast Advice Group (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Crescent Park Gates (Pages 9 - 78)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Community Support Plan and Review of Funding (Pages 79 - 82)

- (b) Schools Air Quality Monitoring (Pages 83 - 88)
- (c) Unadopted Alleyways Workshop (Pages 89 - 92)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Article 4 and 5 of Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order (Pages 93 - 98)
- (b) Request for Community Garden at Lower Botanic (Pages 99 - 104)
- (c) Hubbub Recycling on the Go pilot update (Pages 105 - 110)
- (d) Bird Strike Management at George Best Belfast City Airport (Pages 111 - 116)
- (e) Health and Safety Executive Partnership Liaison Role (Pages 117 - 120)
- (f) Dual Language Street Signage (Pages 121 - 126)
- (g) Proposal for naming new streets (Pages 127 - 130)

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

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**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Community Support Plan and Review of Grants

<b>Subject:</b>	Community Support Plan and Review of Grants
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
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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

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No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek approval for officers to produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/28) and commission external support to complete this.</li> <li>• To seek approval for a review of the current community development large grants schemes and commission external support to complete this.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve that officers produce a Council Community Support Plan (25/28) and commission necessary external support to complete this.</li> <li>• Approve that officers undertake a review of current community development large grants schemes and commission necessary external support to complete this.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background information</b>  <u>Community Support Plan</u></p> <p>Members will recall that Council provides a range of community development grants and funding to support the community/voluntary sector across the city. This funding comes directly from Council and Department for Communities (DfC) via the Community Support Programme (CSP) which is provided to all council areas. This year, the CSP is contributing over £2.2m towards Advice Funding, Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Buildings, Social Supermarket and Summer Scheme funding programmes.</p>
3.2	<p>The CSP Letter of Offer includes a requirement for Council to provide DfC with a 3-Year Community Support Plan. This plan sets out how we promote community development and support service provision within communities. The plan must be aligned with the CSP outcomes and our Community Plan, the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.3	<p>Council's last Community Support Plan was completed in 2014. Since the introduction of community planning, Council has used the Belfast Agenda to articulate its priorities and commitments in terms of community support and this approach has been followed by most other council areas. However, there are a number of factors which provide the rationale for developing a current Community Support Plan which further articulates detail on Council's priorities in terms of community support.</p>
3.4	<p>These factors include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of refreshed Belfast Agenda which contains a number of high level commitments in relation Community &amp; Neighbourhood Regeneration, Health Inequalities, Children &amp; Young People and Older People.</li> <li>• Impacts of both Covid and Cost of Living pressures which need to be considered and reflected in a detailed Community Support Plan.</li> <li>• Need to review and articulate Council's position in terms of its community support priorities as these will inform resources required, including funding priorities and approaches.</li> <li>• Ongoing DfC reviews of People and Place (Neighbourhood Renewal), Support for Community/Voluntary sector and Advice Services which are scheduled for</li> </ul>



	<p>implementation in 2025. It is likely that these will have a significant impact on the funding environment within Belfast and Council needs to consider its priorities in advance, so that it can respond to these changes and any requests for support that may emerge.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Review of Capacity Building and Revenue Grants</b></p> <p>Council provides funding to support the development of the community/voluntary sector in Belfast. The two large multi annual grants which support this activity are capacity and revenue (for community buildings). The objectives/outcomes and operation of these grants have not been reviewed since 2012 but recent analysis of grant applications shows a change in the types of organisations and activity which are seeking support. For example, applications would historically have come from neighbourhood/area-based community organisations but in 2023, more applications were received from organisations supporting specific 'communities of interest' and there was an increase in the level of support requested for running costs within capacity applications. In addition, as outlined in 3.4, DfC are undertaking a number of reviews on relevant funding programmes that will have an impact for the VCSE sector in Belfast. It is therefore timely that council undertake a review of our programmes to ensure that we are funding activity that meets priorities and outcomes that we want to support.</p>
3.6	<p>The current large grant programmes are supporting activity from April 23 – March 26. Council provided a significant increase in funding for these programmes in 2023. The total level of funding for both grants is £3,230,609 per annum, with £734,357 coming from the CSP and £2,496,252 from Council. A review would enable council to consider the outcomes which Council want to achieve through the level of investment it makes .</p>
3.7	<p>The next round of applications to the large grant programme will open in June 2025 and an extensive review needs to be completed in advance of this date to ensure adequate time is scheduled for the extensive consultation/engagement process and equality screening that will be required.</p>
3.8	<p>Officers are seeking approval to undertake both pieces of work as soon as possible so that final reports and associated actions can be agreed through Council before March 2025.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Staff and financial resource to complete this work will be taken from existing budgets. In order to ensure an objective, independent exercise is undertaken, external consultant/s will be appointed to work with council officers to produce the reports.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Given the significant impact which any changes to the large grant funding programme will have on the VCSE sector and communities across the city, an equality screening and rural impact assessment will be undertaken on any resulting change in policy/programme.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
4.1	<p>N/A</p>

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**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

<b>Subject:</b>	'School Streets' Air Quality Monitoring Report.
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alastair Curran Environmental Protection Manager Vivienne Donnelly, City Protection Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information relating to any individual.</li> <li>Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</li> <li>Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).</li> <li>Information in connection with any labour relations matter.</li> <li>Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>After Committee Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Committee will be aware that the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026 contains an action proposed by Sustrans and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in respect of 'School Streets'. A 'School Street' is a road or street outside of a school where a temporary restriction on motorised traffic is applied at am 'drop-off' and pm 'pick-up' times during the school day.
1.2	Ambient air quality monitoring in the vicinity of schools for typical road transport related pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) and particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> ) may provide health-based evidence and numerical data to help inform the identification and designation of School Streets by the Department for Infrastructure and Sustrans. Sustrans have indicated that gathering data from air quality monitors could help make the case stronger for where we need to tackle air pollution and target schools for interventions such as a School Streets pilot.
1.3	Accordingly, this report serves to provide a monitoring proposal for a range of Belfast primary schools in order to characterise local transport related ambient air pollution affecting school users. The monitoring data will be provided to DfI, Sustrans and where requested to the respective schools to help inform the identification and designation of School Streets.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is invited to note the contents of this School's Streets' Air Quality Monitoring Report and to agree that the council's ambient monitoring contribution to the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026 School Streets project be implemented in the manner proposed.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Committee will be aware that the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026 contains an action at measure 22, traffic management, proposed by Sustrans and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in respect of 'School Streets'. A School Street is a road or street outside of a school where a temporary restriction on motorised traffic is applied at am 'drop-off' and pm 'pick-up' times during the school day, resulting in a safer and environmentally improved local environment. The restriction is typically applied to both school and through traffic.
3.2	By way of example, it is noted that DfI, at the Ravenhill Road, in addition to having designated the Ravenhill Road as an urban clearway from 08:00 – 09:30 and 16:30 – 18:00 (Monday to Friday), have imposed a 20 mph signalised speed limit around a school entrance and have posted signs restricting stopping on the school's entrance markings from 08:30 – 09:15 and from 14:30 – 15:30 (Monday to Friday) in order to improve safety and the local environment.
3.3	Moreover, the Committee is advised that a 'Notice of Motion' in respect of School Streets was considered at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2023, whereupon the Committee agreed, <i>'in the first instance, that the Council would write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting it to bring forward a School Streets pilot project in Belfast, with the response to be presented to the Committee for consideration and a decision to be taken on the way forward'</i> .

3.4	<p>Furthermore, upon consideration of the minutes of the People and Communities Committee meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 concerning the Air Quality Detailed Assessment report, at the full Council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, Council agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Department for Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs (DAERA) seeking air quality monitoring stations to be erected around primary schools. A letter was sent to the DAERA Air and Environmental Quality Unit on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, and a response was received from DAERA, dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023, indicating the Department's intention to support the purchase of two small sensor air quality monitoring units via the 2023-2024 local air quality management process, to be used in a School Streets monitoring project.</p>
3.5	<p>The Committee will be aware that the four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) presently designated across the city have been declared for exceedances of the 40 <math>\mu\text{gm}^{-3}</math> nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality objective, associated principally with road transport emissions. It should be noted however that in accordance with the provisions of the Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs (Defra) local air quality management guidance (LAQM.TG(22)), annual mean objectives apply only at the building façades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, care homes etc., where members of the public are regularly exposed over a substantial period of the objective. They do not apply at kerbside or other locations where public exposure is short-term. The 200 <math>\mu\text{gm}^{-3}</math> 1-hour mean objective for nitrogen dioxide is therefore more correctly applied at kerbside locations and so it is considered that any ambient monitoring for nitrogen dioxide in the vicinity of schools should be on this basis. The Committee will be additionally aware that there is a 'drop off' in nitrogen dioxide concentrations with distance from the kerbside of a road and so the highest nitrogen dioxide concentrations are likely to be experienced by school users at kerbside locations along the most heavily trafficked nearby roads. Particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations are assessed against annual mean objectives, with PM<sub>10</sub> also assessed against a 24-hour mean objective.</p>
3.6	<p>The Committee is advised that council Air Quality Officers have liaised with Sustrans in order to identify a selection of primary schools situated throughout the city where transport related ambient air quality monitoring in their localities might be undertaken. Selection criteria applied include; • Is there much traffic congestion at the school gates? • Does the infrastructure / road layout around the school seem suitable for a future intervention such as School Streets? • Is the school keen to increase active travel among pupils? • Is the school in the Active School Travel programme? Some of the primary schools identified are already engaged with Sustrans through their Active School Travel programme.</p>
3.7	<p>Schools under consideration for ambient air quality monitoring in their locality include' St. Joseph's Primary, Holland Drive, Ballyhackamore; Rosetta Primary School, Knockbreda Road; Belvoir Park Primary School, Belvoir Drive; Holy Rosary Primary School, Sunnyside Crescent; Holy Family Primary School, Newington Avenue; Cavehill Primary School, Upper Castle Park; Holy Evangelists' Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glasvey Drive, Dunmurry and; Holy Trinity Primary School, Monagh Drive.</p>
3.8	<p>Sustrans have subsequently indicated that as a consequence of their ongoing engagement with some of the abovementioned schools, they would inform them about the Council's plans to potentially locate air quality monitors in their localities. Sustrans have advised that the responses have been positive for those schools that they have been in contact with to date.</p>

	<p>Council officers will however have full regard for any school concerns expressed regarding the proposed monitoring activities.</p>
3.9	<p>There will be no impact on school operations or pupils as a consequence of the proposed ambient air quality monitoring and officers will not need to enter any school grounds, as all ambient monitoring will be planned and undertaken to target adjacent public roads and transport routes, to and from the schools.</p>
3.10	<p>It is therefore proposed to purchase two new solar powered small sensor indicative grade ambient air quality monitors for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter and to deploy them, alongside two of the council's existing Zephyr small sensor air quality monitors, originally located to contribute additional background data for the detailed assessment project, to the School Streets project. An example of an existing Zephyr monitor installation is included in the Appendix (Section 4.0) of this report. It is further proposed that the monitors will be deployed from mid to late January 2024, subject to suitable lamppost / street furniture mounting locations in appropriate monitoring locations being identified and agreed with DfI, which owns the lampposts and street furniture. In addition, the lampposts or street furniture chosen must be able to safely support the small sensor monitors and solar panels throughout all weather conditions and so this will need to be confirmed by DfI. The monitors and solar panels will be marked as council air quality monitoring equipment and be located on lampposts or street furniture at an approximate 3m height. The monitors are virtually silent in operation and data collection and communication is via inbuilt 4G wireless data modem. It is proposed that the monitors will be installed for an approximate period of 3 months until around Easter 2024 in the locality of an initial four schools, subject to school engagement and agreement, whereupon they may be relocated to the remaining school areas. This approach will mean that ambient monitoring may continue until the conclusion of the Northern Ireland 2023-2024 school academic year on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.</p>
3.11	<p>The small sensor air quality monitors can generate indicative ambient monitoring data over typical 1-minute intervals and so provide suitable temporal data resolution for assessing compliance with annual, daily and hourly mean air quality objectives, as well as identifying and characterising daily diurnal trends such as any am or pm pollution peaks associated with school or road traffic. It is considered that a three-month monitoring duration will provide sufficient data to correctly characterise am or pm pollution peaks. Monitoring will be able to take account of school holidays, etc.</p>
3.12	<p>The transport related ambient monitoring data will be shared with Sustrans and DfI and be made available to the respective schools, upon their request. Where additionally requested, Council Air Quality Officers will engage with Sustrans, DfI and schools in order to assist in interpreting the air quality monitoring data generated, and in support of any subsequent engagement concerning the designation of School Streets.</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The purchase cost of the two small sensor air quality monitors is being provided at a 100% funding rate by DAERA through the 2023-2024 local air quality management grant process. Any additional funds required for delivery of this monitoring project will be provided from within existing Scientific Unit budget resources. The monitoring project will be delivered by council Air Quality Officers as an addition to their statutory local air quality management obligations.</p>

3.14	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment.</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	<p>Zephyr small sensor air quality monitor and solar panel installed on a lamppost at the A2 Sydenham Bypass.</p> 

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b><u>Special People &amp; Communities Committee Unadopted alleyways</u></b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director City Operations
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services (OSS Portfolio Lead)

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

☐

After Council Decision

☐

Sometime in the future

Never

☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	At it's November meeting members agreed that a special meeting of the Committee be convened in January to consider the vesting of unadopted alleyways and that representatives from DfI and relevant stakeholders be invited to attend. Officers have met with the Chair and Cllr Brooks who requested the special meeting and this paper requests members to consider changing the special meeting to a member workshop. Given the potential of stakeholders involved it was felt this might be a better approach.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to consider the report and agree to the special meeting be changed to a workshop and consider the list of attendees. The members are asked to note that the workshop will take place on the 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Following discussions between officers, the Chair and Cllr Brooks it was considered that due to the complexities associated with un-adopted alleyways a member workshop on the issue may realise better outcomes than a special meeting of the committee.
3.2	<p>A draft list of attendees at the workshop is listed below. Members are asked to consider and review this list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department for Communities</li> <li>• Department for Infrastructure</li> <li>• NIHE</li> <li>• Radius Housing</li> <li>• Choice Housing</li> <li>• Department of Justice</li> <li>• Connswater Homes</li> </ul>
3.3	If members agree a paper will be taken to February committee for approval that will outline the proposed agenda for the workshop.
3.4	<p><b>HR &amp; Financial Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



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<b>Subject:</b>	Implementation of new powers for District Councils under the Waste and Contaminated (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
<b>Date:</b>	9th January 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	<p>To make members of the People and Communities Committee aware that The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022, which came into force in January 2023, gives councils a joint responsibility with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) for certain matters under the aforementioned legislation including, but not limited to the offence of fly-tipping.</p> <p>No additional funding has been provided to councils by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to support the implementation of the new powers under Article 4 and 5 of the Waste and Contaminated (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. These powers are discretionary for councils to use in circumstances where they chose to do so.</p> <p>Council officers have been involved in discussions with officers from other councils in Northern Ireland in order to agree a consistent and proportionate approach, as these matters may involve operations and offences which extend beyond Belfast City Council area.</p> <p>The NIEA is the waste licensing authority for NI and it obtains the fees associated with legitimate waste operators. NIEA has been the sole enforcing authority under Article 4 and 5 for the previous 25 years. It is therefore unlikely that councils will seek to use their discretionary powers under Article 4 or 5 where the NIEA should be seeking to regulate the matter using its licensing powers.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report;</li> <li>• Agree the Fixed Penalty Rate for Article 4 offences to be set at £400.</li> <li>• Agree a discounted rate of £300 if an Article 4 or an Article 5 FPN is paid within 10 days.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p><b><i>New Enforcement Powers</i></b></p> <p><b>Article 4</b></p> <p>Power to enforce against the Unauthorised or Harmful Deposit, Treatment or Disposal of Waste under the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.</p> <p>Under Article 4 of the Order, <i>a person shall not (a) deposit controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be deposited in or on any land unless a waste</i></p>

*management licence authorising the deposit is in force and the deposit is in accordance with the licence; or (b) treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be treated, kept or disposed of (i) in or on any land (ii) by means of any mobile plant, except under and in accordance with a waste management licence; (c) treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to health.*

The offence under Article 4 is commonly referred to as fly-tipping. If a fly-tipping offence, under Article 4, is detected by an Authorised Officer the Officer may give to that person, Notice offering them the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice cannot be less than £100 and not more than £400.

Prior to the implementation of these new powers, NIEA previously drafted a Fly-tipping Protocol which outlined its criteria for the determination of responsibility for waste crime incidents between the NIEA and local councils in respect to the volume of waste deposited.

**Local Councils responsible for:**

- All non-hazardous waste deposits under 20m<sup>3</sup> in volume or accumulations of several small scale fly-tipping incidents.

**NIEA responsible for:**

- All waste deposits over 20m<sup>3</sup> in volume regardless of the classification of waste; and
- All hazardous waste.

**Photo of waste emptied from a bin lorry = 18.5m<sup>3</sup>**



Our officers are currently dealing with fly-tipping offences under the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 with a Fixed Penalty Rate of £80, reduced to £60, if paid within 10 days. However, the offence of fly-tipping has been described by the former Department of the Environment as

a premeditated act involving more than a single item of waste collected together and moved to a location without any regard to its final legitimate disposal. On the contrary, littering tends to involve smaller quantities of material which are dropped or disposed of shortly after the item has become of no further use to the offender.

Officers from councils in NI set up a working group to try to agree a consistent and proportionate approach to the enforcement of Article 4. **It is proposed that all councils set the Fixed Penalty Rate for this offence at £400. If an early payment discount is to be offered it is proposed that this should be a discounted amount of £300 if paid within 10 days of the date of the notice.**

### **Article 5**

*Article 5 of the Order imposes a “duty of care” on any person who imports, produces, collects, carries, treats, or disposes of controlled waste or, as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, shall take all such measures applicable to them in that capacity as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of Article 4 of the Order.*

Powers available under Article 5 are much broader and are likely to involve illicit waste operations and other commercial and industrial entities. There is an extensive list of offences included in Article 5 of the Order, which would impact the volume of work and officer involvement and will require more consideration on resources needed and operability. It is more likely if Council were to exercise these discretionary powers it would be done so in partnership with relevant bodies including NIEA.

Article 5 powers can be used to assist with enforcement matters in relation to commercial waste. Officers are aware of the impact of additional financial burdens on the business community which is already under significant financial strain following the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. It is anticipated that officers will use a graduated approach when dealing with potential offences under Article 5. However, there could still be situations where there are no other means of resolving an issue other than to use Article 5 powers. An offence under Article 5 has a set Fixed Penalty of £400. **Councils can decide to offer an early payment discount. If an early discounted rate is to be offered it is proposed that it be £300 if paid within 10 days of the date of the notice.**

It is proposed that Members would agree that Article 5 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997, should only be implemented when there is a significant possibility of significant harm to the environment or where conditions are prejudicial to health or when there are no other means of resolving an issue other than to use Article 5 powers.



We have a small team of authorised officers working in this area where the key role is detecting littering and fly tipping offences. This team already works closely with colleagues in our OSSS function. These powers came into effect on 2 January 2023 and are a useful additional regulatory tool. However we will need to continue to assess and monitor the impacts on resources and budgets. Therefore depending on the impact of application of these discretionary powers it may be necessary to bring a further report back to committee. We will avail of additional training to support implementation.

**Finance and Resource Implications**

Budget within the City Services will be utilised to train staff to enforce the new powers. NI councils hope to source this training jointly in order to reduce the costs. There will be some additional income from the service of Fixed Penalty Notices. The impacts of these new powers on budgets and resources will be monitored.

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

None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Request for agreement to use Lower Botanic Gardens by Friends of the Field
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director, City Operations
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (OSS Portfolio Lead) & Mura Quigley, Adaptation and Resilience Advisor, Climate Team, City & Organisational Strategy

## 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 is 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

☒

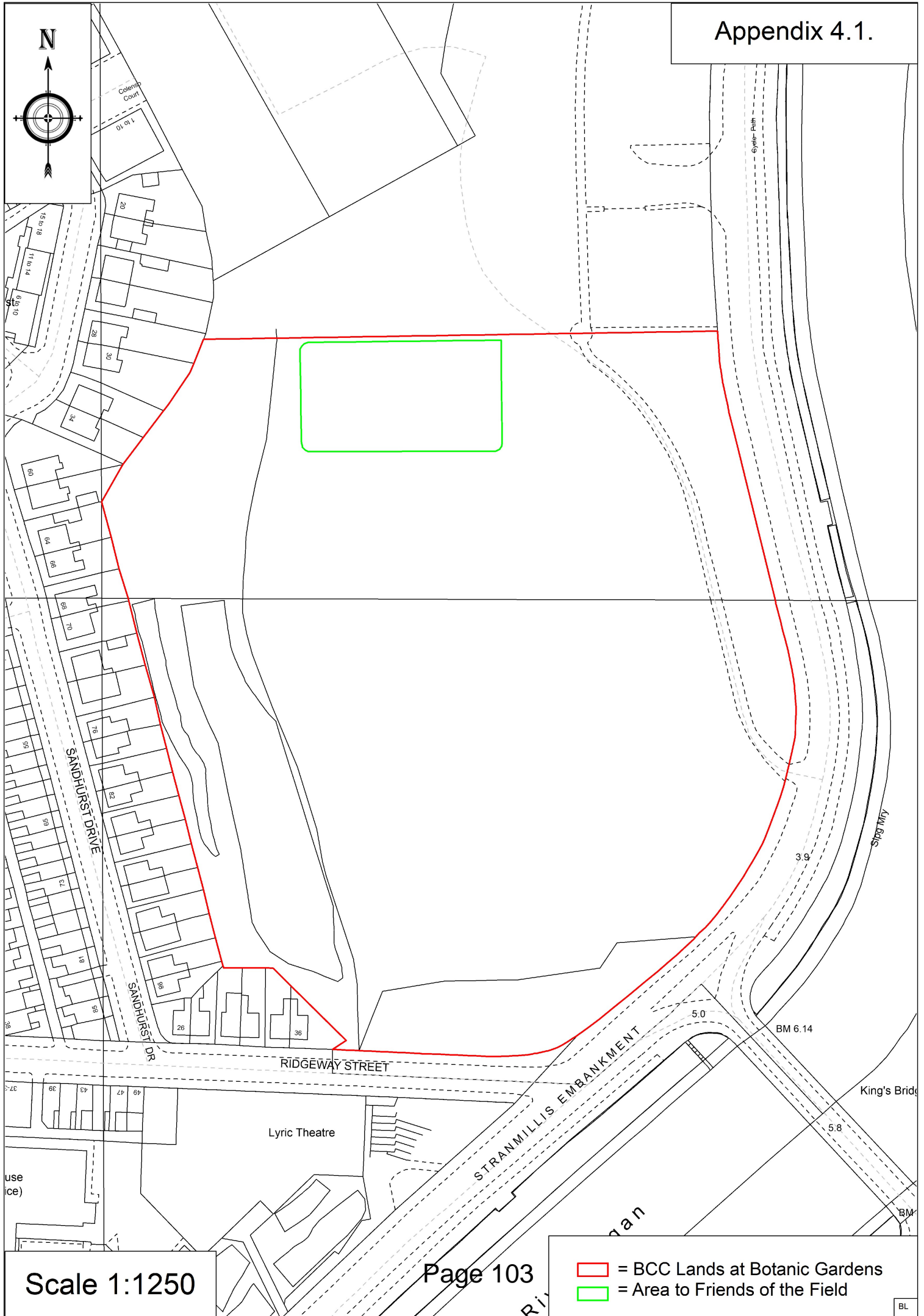
No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to seek approval from the Committee for the use of part of Lower Botanic Gardens by Friends of the Field for a new agroecology community garden as part of the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>l) Approve in principle the use of part of Lower Botanic Gardens as an agroecology community garden by Friends of the Field, in conjunction with the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project. This is subject to a further report on the terms of the agreement being brought back to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Background</b>
3.1	The UPSURGE Project is a Horizon 2020 research collaboration with Queen's University Belfast involving five cities across Europe aiming to test nature-based solutions for climate action. The aim of the project, which runs to August 2025, is to develop a climate demonstrator site at Lower Botanic Gardens to test different nature-based solutions and support learning on how adaptive practices in the use and management of green spaces can support pollution alleviation, citizen health, and climate resilience. The project helps to deliver on the Belfast Resilience Strategy which aims to transition the city to an inclusive net-zero emissions, climate resilient economy in a generation.
3.2	As part of the development of the demonstrator project, an agroecology community garden is being developed on site which will test, among other things, how community growing spaces are developed and contribute towards climate action. The Climate Team has been working with a range of stakeholders since 2022 to codesign the spaces and develop relationships with interested groups and organisations. As part of this, Friends of the Field and Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens are two groups that have been engaging with the Council and helping shape the plans on site.
3.3	A request has been received from Friends of the Field to enter into an agreement with Belfast City Council for the establishment of the community garden at Lower Botanic to act as a hub for sustainable practices, innovative garden-based learning, environmental conservation and fostering community engagement.
3.4	Friends of the Field, as part of the project, will manage a volunteer-run community garden guided by the principles of permaculture and environmental sustainability. The garden will serve as a valuable resource for the community, promoting healthy eating habits, physical activity, and environmental stewardship. In their request they

	<p>outline how the project aligns with the objectives of the EU funded UPSURGE project, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deploying community gardens using recycled materials that are bio-receptive and support plant growth;</li> <li>- Repurposing and regenerating an underutilised urban area into a vibrant community agroecology hub;</li> <li>- Fostering citizen engagement and contributing to the success of the UPSURGE project as an EU Regenerative Lighthouse.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>The community garden will serve three core purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Growing, teaching and learning</li> <li>2. Enhancing community development and climate resilience</li> <li>3. Improving the environment and biodiversity</li> </ol>
3.6	<p>The group has committed to developing the gardens and believe they have the necessary experience in project management, horticulture and fundraising to ensure the garden's operational success.</p>
3.7	<p>The area requested by Friends of the Field is an area of fenced ground to the northern end of the site, encompassing 1,626 m2 as shown in Appendix 1. The group is requesting initially that the agreement runs for one year, with the option to renew. Friends of the Field have been successful in securing funding to run community gardening activities on the site, with the main infrastructure associated with the gardens funded via existing UPSURGE budget.</p>
3.8	<p>The proposed community garden will be positioned within the area reported to the Climate and Resilience committee in March 2023.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.9	<p>None. Project funded via the Upsurge budget.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b></p>
3.10	<p>There are no equality or good relations/rural needs implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix One: Map outlining the area requested by Friends of the Field.</p>

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**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

<b>Subject:</b>	Hubbubb #Circle City 'Recycling On The Go Pilot'
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director City Operations
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services (OSS Portfolio Lead)

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

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

1.1	At its February 2023 meeting, Committee approved the request from Hubbub for Belfast to take part in a trial recycling on-the-go campaign and noted that a report would be taken back to committee following the pilot. This report provides members with an update on the pilot.
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and the planned next steps.
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Campaign Overview</b></p> <p>BCC worked with environmental charity Hubbub, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, to introduce effective recycling on-the-go in Belfast city centre. The campaign introduced 25 new dual litter and recycling bins to the city centre and to four parks in the different areas of the city Falls Park, Victoria Park, Waterworks and the Botanic Gardens. See Appendix one.</p>
3.2	Based on Hubbub's approach to recycling on-the-go the campaign focused on making the bins easier and simpler to use and collecting plastic bottles and cans as the primary target materials. The bins have just two options, one for litter and one for plastic bottles and cans. This is in contrast to the previous bins, which had four compartments (litter, plastic, paper and metal separately).
3.3	<p><b>Activities and communications</b></p> <p>The project launched on July 27<sup>th</sup> and was featured in the Belfast Telegraph, Belfast Live and Belfast Media. (See Appendix 2) On-the-ground promotion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person by the CNS Environmental Education and awareness team, who attended events during the summer to engage with the public</li> <li>• The Singing Street Sweepers' were present in the city centre and sang recycling-inspired songs</li> <li>• The BIDs and other local business stakeholders were informed of the campaign.</li> <li>• Additional vinyl stickers added to the lids of the bins to reinforce the target materials. (See Appendix 3)</li> </ul> <p>Online and print promotion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A feature in City Matters, with a question to engage residents on the specific issue that coffee cups cannot be recycled. This received over 400 entries.</li> <li>• Hubbub led a targeted, paid, social media campaign</li> <li>• An online quiz to educate the public about recycling with the opportunity to win a Belfast City gift card. The quiz was viewed 1,150 times, and completed by 252 people.</li> <li>• The council promoted the campaign through their channels, with the most popular post being the Singing Street Sweepers, with content receiving 204 likes on Instagram and Facebook.</li> <li>• In total, across the council and Hubbub activity, the social media posts reached 138,690 people, with engagement of 2064.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p><b>Campaign Impact</b></p> <p>The campaign was assessed by collecting public feedback, feedback from the street cleansing teams, and an external waste audit. The post-campaign survey is ongoing but early results have recorded that:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47.8% of people had seen the new bins</li> <li>• 63% of people agreeing that 'it's clear what can be recycled in them'</li> <li>• 78% of people agreeing they are more noticeable than the old bins.</li> <li>• 58.7% satisfied or very satisfied with recycling on street in Belfast</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>A number of people left comments expressing their interest in seeing more recycling bins in Belfast. In person surveying led by the engagement team found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People seemed to like the bins and really liked the yellow colour.</li> <li>• They also thought the messaging was really clear in terms of what can go into each side.</li> <li>• Most people say that they recycle at home but really good to see option of doing it on the street/in town.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>An external consultancy was recruited to undertake a five-day waste composition analysis of the bins from all 25 bins across Belfast. They looked at both compartments of the bins, with bags taken from the general waste side and recycling side. The recycling survey's timing coincided with a week of poor weather. This meant footfall levels were lower, and in previous Hubbub campaigns poor weather has been shown to increase levels of contamination. Whilst ideally, data would be collected over a longer period, taking into account people's behaviour at different times of the year and weather, it does offer an insight into a potential baseline, giving some sense of the performance of the bins under less-than-ideal conditions.</p>
3.7	<p>The audit showed that, an overwhelming majority of people were successfully placing the plastic bottles and cans in the recycling. Given the relative lightness of a plastic bottle and can in comparison to other items, analysing by weight, the standard measure for waste and recycling, does not always clearly demonstrate the composition accurately. For example, one small glass bottle weighs around 200 grams, in comparison to a plastic bottle or can could weigh 10-15 grams.</p>
3.8	<p>Therefore, an item count was undertaken for key categories to establish a capture rate. This is defined as how much targeted recyclable material is found in the recycling as opposed to the general waste stream.</p>
3.9	<p>From the bags sampled, the capture rate by count of the target materials was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 731 plastic bottles out of 862 (84.9%) were found in recycling, with 131 plastic bottles ending up in the general waste</li> <li>• 721 out of 885 aluminium cans (81.5%) were counted in recycling, with 164 ending up in the general waste.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>This demonstrates that target materials were ending up in the right place and across these five days 1452 items were collected for recycling. Across a year, you might expect to see around 70,000 items collected. This does not take into account the behaviour on periods of good weather when footfall is higher in the parks and city centre.</p>
3.11	<p>When the audit looked at the average composition of both the general waste and recycling side of each bin, it found that by weight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the general waste bin, 4.4% of the material collected was plastic bottles and cans</li> </ul>

3.12

Whilst the recycling, 29.8% of the material collected was plastic bottles and cans, rising to 43.8% when you include plastic bottles that still contain liquid.

The table below represents the composition, by weight, of the recycling.

Category	Detail	Percentage
Recycling-on-the-go target materials*	Plastic bottles (empty and full) and drinks cans	43.8%
Recyclable at the kerbside (excl. target)	Recyclable at the kerbside but not targeted (recyclable paper & card, drink & food cartons, other plastic packaging, plastic cups, cup lids, glass bottles & jars and other recyclables	12.4%
Not recyclable at the kerbside	Residual waste material, disposable vapes, coffee cups, soft drinks cups, compostable packaging, loose liquid, recyclable paper & card contaminated and other plastic packaging contaminated	34.5%
Loose liquid	From open containers and incoming rain	9.3%
Total		100%

\* Plastic bottles that contained liquid, which often may not be recycled as they are deemed too heavy by the automated sorting process but are commonly believed to be recyclable.

3.13

Despite the successful capturing of the correct target materials there were still some issues with contamination. One item in particular that was binned incorrectly was coffee cups. However, the capture rate for this ending up in the recycling (incorrectly) was just 17.2%, showing that in most cases people were correctly disposing of these in the general waste. In the parks, some residual waste included a pair of football boots and other non-recyclable waste.

3.14

More generally, and most importantly, the contamination levels were low enough that the recycling could be sent for further processing.

What's next

3.15

Members should note that additional monies have been identified through the climate fund to support the rollout of these bins into the four quadrants of the city. A report will be taken to the climate board at the end of January and following that plans will be made to purchase and install the bins. It is proposed the bins will retain the same branding and stickers etc. Any rollout will include a communication and awareness raising plan. This plan will also target reducing contamination in order to maximise the quality of collected recycling from these bins.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.16	<p>The costs of the pilot were met by Hubbub with no additional OSS costs incurred. Members should note there is £45,000 secured from the climate fund for the purchase and installation of the bins for the next phase. The Council's Open Space and Streetscene service is currently considering how the collection and servicing of the new bins will be carried out long-term and the cost implications of this.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.17	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>

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Subject:	Belfast City Airport Request – Rook Management at Victoria Park: Implications to Air Safety
Date:	9 January 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is for Members to consider a request from the George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) to gain access to Victoria Park to continue habitat modifications to mitigate against the risk of bird strike.
1.2	This is part of an ongoing control programme in line with their Wildlife Hazard Assessment and the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to agree to the request from George Best Belfast City Airport to grant them access under licence to Victoria Park to facilitate rook management in particular the removal of old rook nests and nest site discouragement in January 2024
2.2	Members are advised that any decision to grant this permission is subject to legal agreement that would be developed by the Councils Legal Services Department and will include a requirement to ensure that any works are permissible and that any required NIEA licence and consents are in place.

2.3	As the works need to be completed by the end of January any licence would be progressed under the Strategic Director's delegated authority, taking into consideration Members views. If agreed the licence will permit works to commence in mid-January and end on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January 2024 (subject to the terms and conditions).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members should be aware that the control of birds in the flight path to the airport is a requirement of the airport's Civil Aviation Authority licence. In line with GBBCA's national aerodrome license requirements and associated guidance material presented in CAP772: Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes, the airport is required to identify sources of risk and to reduce and maintain risk to an acceptable level in compliance with the Civil Aviation Authority licensing requirements.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Rooks</u></p> <p>Members will recall granting a similar request for rook management at the December 2022 meeting of this Committee. GBBCA report that the rook management undertaken last year saw a further reduction in nesting rooks the following spring.</p>
3.3	<p>The airport has identified the need to continue the current management to reduce and discourage rooks from re-laying in the areas used in the previous year. The proposed works to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The removal of old rook nests to take place during the Works Period;</li> <li>2. Any necessary structural pruning of preferred nesting trees and reducing shelter provided by ivy,</li> </ol>
3.4	<p>GBBCA will appoint a suitable contractor with previous experience to undertake the work. The area in question will be cordoned off and the old nests removed using a cherry picker. They suggest this will take a day to complete.</p>
3.5	<p>If members are content, officers will review the submitted risk assessment and insurance certificates in line with procedure and work with Legal Services to issue the requested licence. The licence will include relevant conditions to ensure that the airport confirm that all work is permissible and any required licences are in place to allow work to take place within the required timescales. The licence will also place an onus on the airport to ensure that health and safety measures are implemented, essential signage is assembled, one-way systems are established where necessary.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>GBBCA will be responsible for any costs associated with the request.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1: Belfast City Airport Report – Rook Management at Victoria Park: Update and Recommendations Implications to Air Safety



# **Rook Management Update and Recommendations**

## **Victoria Park 2023/2024**

Report to Belfast City Council

Re: Licence to George Best City Airport

-Temporary Use of Lands at Victoria Park –for rook nest removal Jan 2024.

KerryMackie 30/11/23

### **Background**



In the interests of air safety, Belfast City Airport under license of Belfast City Council, has been annually deterring rooks from nesting at Victoria park after this species first established a small breeding colony in 2020. By removing previous years' nests and pruning out support branches, nests have gradually been reduced from 18 in 2020 to 8 in 2023 (see Figure 2. Page 3.). Using this non-invasive technique, although reaching the desired objective, takes longer and needs to be repeated annually.

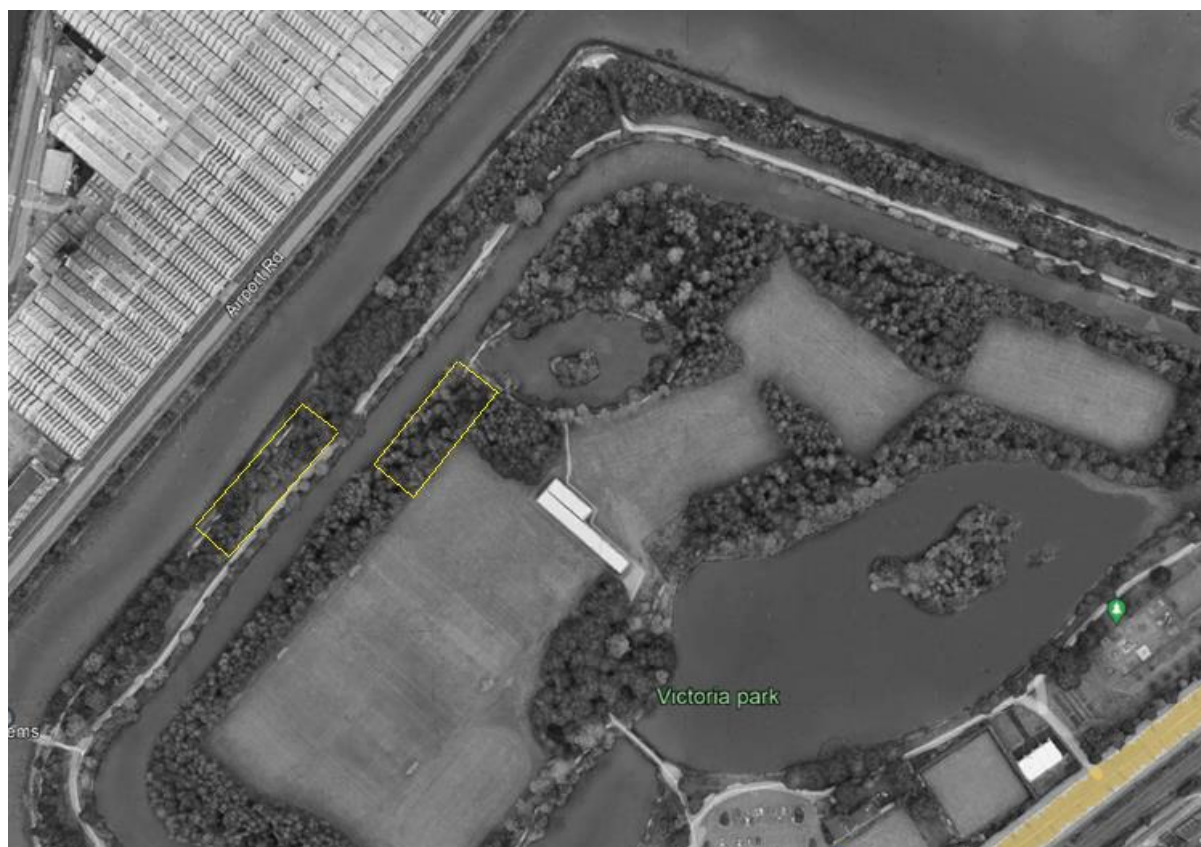
### **Licensed activities undertaken 2023**

The removal of rook nests and associated canopy pruning was undertaken on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 under a Belfast City Council license and by Glenburn Landscapes - professional arborists subcontracted directly by Belfast City Airport. After old rook nests were removed any supporting branches/unions were modified by the selective pruning.

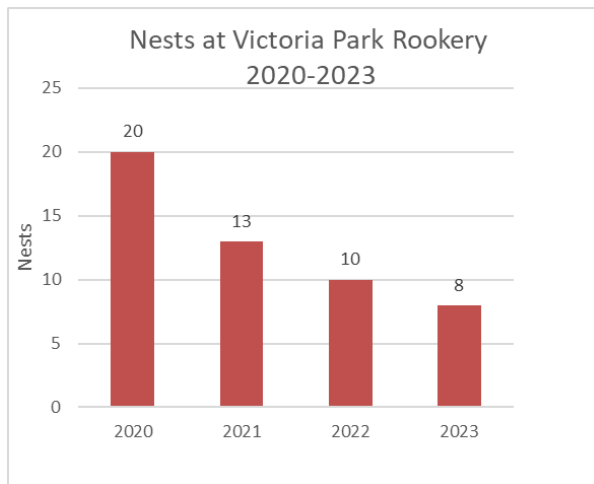
### **Results**

Rooks, similar to 2022, nested in a loose colony either side of the water way, with the first 4 nests built by mid March in a single ivy clad birch tree 50m SW of the inner pond before continuing with an additional 4 built on the north side of the water, spread across different trees (P1 & P2 & Figure 1.). The total of 8 nests marks another marginal reduction in the colony (Figure2.).

	
<p><b>P1.</b> Rook nests north side of water 2023</p>	<p><b>P2.</b> Rook nests on Island using birch 2023</p>



**Figure 1.** Victoria Park with outlined areas marking location of rook nests in 2023.



**Figure 2.** Bar chart illustrating trend in nesting rooks at Victoria Park.

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

The airport therefore needs to remove old nests and reduce the appeal of the most recently selected nesting trees (P1,P2 & Figure 1 above) by selective pruning of branch unions that supported last season's nests. Any additional shelter provided by ivy in the canopy of adjacent trees needs to be reduced by cutting ivy stems close to ground level.

Window for management : January 2024.

Time required : 1 day.

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

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<b>Subject:</b>	Collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and District Councils and continuation of funding for a joint Post
<b>Date:</b>	9 January 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

*After Committee Decision*

*After Council Decision*

*Some time in the future*

*Never*


<b>Call-in</b>
<p><b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If 'No' please see Note 2</i></p>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek continued support from Belfast City Council for a 2-year extension to the current contract for the Health and Safety Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post, until the end of the 2025/2026 financial year. The purpose of this multiagency joint funded role is to enhance collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the continued contribution to the joint partner funding for the Health and Safety Partner liaison Officer post until the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	On 8th March 2022, the People and Communities Committee agreed to a 2 year extension of support and a small funding contribution, for continuation of a Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) role.
3.2	This officer resource, is currently hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council, and was originally created in 2010 to ensure the effective partnership working relationships and operational delivery of the joint Health and Safety strategy between the local authorities across Northern Ireland and the HSENI. Please see appendix 1 for H&ES Committee minutes of 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010 providing background to necessity for PLO post.
3.3	Correspondence has been received from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council seeking support from Belfast City Council for a further 2 year extension to the current arrangements.
3.4	<p>As previously highlighted to the Committee in March 2022, the main purpose of the Partnership Liaison Officer remains as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in the continuing development and implementation of the Strategic Framework for Partnership Working by building effective working relationships and processes.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate the delivery of specific aspects of partnership arrangements such as joint planning, joint enforcement initiatives and campaigns, joint training and innovative ways of targeting resources more effectively.</li> <li>• Monitor the output of these defined areas of joint work.</li> <li>• Liaise with district councils and their representative bodies and partners on issues relating to workplace health and safety and provide a district council perspective on the Partnership Team.</li> </ul>

3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support district councils in meeting their partnership commitments, particularly when developing business plans etc.</li> <li>• Act as an effective communication channel between District Councils and HSENI.</li> <li>• Ensure that district council interests are fed into the joint planning processes.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure continuity of the post beyond March 2024, and to facilitate retention of the current postholder, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have requested that Councils confirm support for a 2 year extension.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council's contribution to the funding of this post will be approximately £6,000 per annum which is included within existing budget. There are no human resource implications as Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council will continue to be the employing authority and recover costs from the other Councils.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Link to Agenda Item 4b of HES Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 providing background to necessity for PLO post</p> <p><a href="#">Agenda for Pre April-2015 Health and Environmental Services Committee on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2010, 4.30 pm - Belfast City Council (www.internalminutes)</a></p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposal for dual language street signs</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																																		
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for seven existing streets within the city.																																		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Mount Eagles Glen, Emersons Lane, Dunblane Avenue, Floral Gardens, Cardigan Drive, Thornberry Road and Mill Valley Road																																		
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																																		
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																																		
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																		
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mount Eagles Glen, BT17</td><td>Gleann Chnocán na nIolar</td><td>Off Mount Eagles Park, BT17</td><td>185</td></tr> <tr> <td>Emersons Lane, BT14</td><td>Lána Emerson</td><td>Off Wolfhill Link, BT14</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dunblane Avenue, BT14</td><td>Ascaill Dhún Bhláthain</td><td>Off Oldpark Road, BT14</td><td>63</td></tr> <tr> <td>Floral Gardens, BT36</td><td>Na Gairdíní Bláthacha</td><td>Off Whitewell Road, BT36</td><td>63</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cardigan Drive, BT14</td><td>Céide Chairdeagain</td><td>Off Cliftonville Road, BT14</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thornberry Road, BT14</td><td>Bóthar Thornberry</td><td>Off Mill Avenue, BT14</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mill Valley Way, BT14</td><td>Bealach Ghleann an Mhuilinn</td><td>Off Mill Valley Road, BT14</td><td>124</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Mount Eagles Glen, BT17	Gleann Chnocán na nIolar	Off Mount Eagles Park, BT17	185	Emersons Lane, BT14	Lána Emerson	Off Wolfhill Link, BT14	4	Dunblane Avenue, BT14	Ascaill Dhún Bhláthain	Off Oldpark Road, BT14	63	Floral Gardens, BT36	Na Gairdíní Bláthacha	Off Whitewell Road, BT36	63	Cardigan Drive, BT14	Céide Chairdeagain	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	100	Thornberry Road, BT14	Bóthar Thornberry	Off Mill Avenue, BT14	84	Mill Valley Way, BT14	Bealach Ghleann an Mhuilinn	Off Mill Valley Road, BT14	124
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																																		

3.5	<p>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.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Mount Eagles Glen, BT17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44 occupiers (23.78%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.62%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 138 occupiers (74.59%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul> <p>One resident not in support of the dual language sign is concerned about the cost of the signage.</p> <p>Another resident not in support of the dual language sign has advised that they do not speak Irish and that there are a number of nationalities in the community.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Emersons Lane, BT17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 occupier (25%) was in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (25%%) had no preference either way.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (50%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul> <p>One resident who has no preference either way has suggested that both signs could be incorporated into one sign and perhaps use a local artist for the design.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Dunblane Avenue, BT14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 occupiers (39.68%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (3.17%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 36 occupiers (57.14%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul> <p>Members are asked to note the close proximity of the local Girl's Model school.</p> <p>An objection was received by Cllr Doran during the elected member notification process as follows – "Dunblane Avenue is a mixed and diverse community, and I have strong concerns that the proposal to add an Irish street name to Dunblane Avenue would have a strongly negative impact on community relations within the area". This was brought to Committee who agreed that a survey of occupiers should be carried out.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Floral Gardens, BT36</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 occupiers (44.44%%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 5 occupiers (7.93%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (3.17%) had no preference either way.</li> <li>• 28 occupiers (44.44%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p><b>Cardigan Drive, BT14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52 (52%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 5 occupiers (5%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 43 occupiers (43%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul>

	<p>An objection was received by Cllr Doran during the elected member notification process as follows – “Cardigan Drive has a mixed and diverse community in and around it, and I have reservations that the proposal to add an Irish street name to Cardigan Drive would have a negative impact on community relations within and surrounding the area”. This was brought to the committee who agreed that a survey of occupiers should be carried out.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Thornberry Road, BT14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 occupiers (16.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 5 occupiers (5.95%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (1.19%) had no preference either way.</li> <li>• 64 occupiers (76.19%) did not respond to the survey.</li> </ul> <p>Two residents from one household have advised that whilst they are both Irish speakers, they are opposed to a dual language nameplate and object to the low threshold for approval of the signs.</p>
3.12	<p><b>Mill Valley Way, BT14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39 occupiers (31.45%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (2.41%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 82 occupiers (66.12%) did not respond to the survey</li> </ul> <p>One resident who is supportive of the dual language street sign would prefer additional bins in the street to cater for the dog mess in the street.</p>
	<p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p>
3.13	<p>The Council’s policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.14	<p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy. However the Committee is reminded that the Council retain a residual discretion under the Policy to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis.</p>
3.15	<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"> <li>(a) the views of the Occupiers of the street;</li> <li>(b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;</li> <li>(c) consideration of the local context of the application;</li> <li>(d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and</li> <li>(e) all material considerations relating to the application.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.16	<p>There is a cost of approximately £2,900 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>3.17</p> <p>3.18</p>	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></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 identified concerns for both Dunblane Avenue and Cardigan Drive as outlined in sections 3.8 and 3.10 respectively. These were considered by Committee which agreed to the surveys being carried out.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposal for naming new streets</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual,</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual,</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained,</li> <li>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,</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.</li> </ol>									
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<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
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1.1	To consider applications for the naming of three new streets in the city.												
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>												
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of applications for naming three new streets in the city. The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant the applications for naming of new streets, or</li><li>• Refuse the applications and request that the applicants submit other names for consideration.</li></ul>												
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>												
	<u>Key Issues</u>												
3.1	The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.												
3.2	<p><b><u>Naming of new streets</u></b></p> <p>Members are asked to consider the following applications for naming new streets in the city. The applications particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council’s Streets Register and do not duplicate existing approved street names in the city.</p>												
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Gardens</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Way</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr><tr><td>Black Ridge Heights</td><td>Off Monagh By Pass, BT11</td><td>Apex Housing Association</td></tr></table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Black Ridge Gardens	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Way	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association	Black Ridge Heights	Off Monagh By Pass, BT11	Apex Housing Association
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3.4	Apex Housing Association have advised that Black Ridge Gardens, Black Ridge Way and Black Ridge Heights are derived from Divis (from Irish Dubhais, ‘black ridge’). The Divis mountain is situated north of the development.												
3.5	The second and third proposals for Black Ridge Gardens are Black Ridge Park and Black Ridge Meadows and for Black Ridge Way the second and third choice are Black Ridge Road and Black Ridge Link. The second and third choice for Black Ridge Heights is, Black Ridge Meadows and Black Ridge Green.												
3.6	These streets contain 60 residential properties and are part of the overall housing development that is known as Glenmona. The entire Glenmona site is a new mixed use urban development which will contain over 650 social and affordable homes.												



3.7	In support of their application Apex have advised that they have maintained regular communication and productive community engagement with both local councillors and the community group, Upper Springfield Development Trust. St Teresa's Primary School is located next to the southern boundary of the site and Apex worked with the school Principal and, with the assistance of a local historian, they organised a competition involving Primary 6 pupils for the street naming of the site.
3.8	The developer has also applied to erect dual language street nameplates in Irish. Some further advice from counsel has been sought in relation to how these types of applications are processed. However, the developer has advised that they require the applications for the English street names to be brought forward this month for addressing and wayfinding purposes. The dual language aspect of these applications will be brought to the February Committee meeting for consideration.
3.9	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.
3.10	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> There are no direct Equality implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None

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