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

3rd November 2025

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 4th November, 2025.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (c) **Partnership Agreements 2025/26 (Pages 1 - 4)**

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| Subject: | Partnership Agreements 25/26 LVRP |
| Date: | 4 th November 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS |
| Contact Officer: | Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, OSS |

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|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> | Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |

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| Is this report eligible for call in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to advise members of the existing partnership arrangement between Lagan Valley Regional Park Ltd. (LVRP) The partnership delivers services aligned to Open Spaces & Streetscene activity. Members are asked to approve future funding to continue this partnership agreement in 25/26. |

| 2.0 | Recommendations | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| 2.1 | <p>It is recommended that Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to continue funding to LVRP at the same level for the 25/26 financial year (£88,0000) • Note that council is currently not in a position to provide an inflationary award as there is no additional in year budget, please also note that Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited has notified the Council, pursuant to section 8 of their funding agreement, i.e. 'that the Project for whatever reason has been jeopardised as to its future continuance' and have identified the risk that the organisation may fold. They have submitted a high-level options appraisal for consideration to both partner Councils. (BCC & LCCC). | | | | |
| 3.0 | Main report | | | | |
| | <u>Background</u> | | | | |
| 3.1 | Members are aware that City & Neighbourhood Services work in partnership with a number of organisations that share common strategic objectives and that some of this work is supported through annual funding agreements to deliver against agreed outcomes. | | | | |
| 3.2 | In 2021/22, an extensive review of the Partnership Agreements was completed; the review concluded that the agreements provided strategic alignment, added value to the Council/City and were value for money. In line with these findings, council agreed that these partnership funding arrangements should continue at the same level to deliver services since that time. | | | | |
| 3.3 | At the June committee members approved a number of financial awards, however the funding to LVRP was withheld due to an ongoing piece of work by the department. | | | | |
| 3.4 | LVRP came in and presented to the September meeting of the People and Communities committee and members asked for further exploration by Council officers, in consultation with both Lagan Valley Regional Park Ltd (LVRP), as well as DEARA and Lisburn and Castlereagh counterparts. An update will be brought to a future meeting of the committee. | | | | |
| 3.5 | As this work continues to progress LVRP have asked for the original funding allocation to be released as they continue to face ongoing financial challenges. | | | | |
| 3.6 | Members are asked to approve that this award be issued at the funding level indicated below for 25/26. | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Project</th><th>Funding</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lagan Valley Regional Park</td><td>£88,000</td></tr> </table> | Project | Funding | Lagan Valley Regional Park | £88,000 |
| Project | Funding | | | | |
| Lagan Valley Regional Park | £88,000 | | | | |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial implications</u></p> <p>The current financial allocation to this funding arrangements is £88,000. This budget has been agreed as part of rate setting for 25/26.</p> | | | | |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>These agreements have been found to support delivery of Belfast Agenda outcomes and as such will have a positive impact on Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs.</p> | | | | |

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| 4.0 | Appendices |
| 4.1 | N/A |

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