

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
- REPORTS TO FOLLOW (2)

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Friday, 23rd January, 2026 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Restricted Items

- (d) City Hall Income Generation Project (Pages 1 - 4)
- (g) Communications Update - Belfast City Council use of X/Twitter (Pages 5 - 14)
- (h) Asset Management (Pages 15 - 16)
- (i) EV Charging Network on Council Sites (Pages 17 - 30)
- (j) Summer Community Diversionary Programme Delivery Update (Pages 31 - 38)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (a) Summer Community Diversionary Programme (Moved to restricted)
- (d) City Innovation programme (Pages 39 - 44)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 45 - 54)
- (b) Asset Management (Moved to restricted)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 55 - 64)

Agenda Item 3d

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

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Agenda Item 3g

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
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Agenda Item 3h

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Agenda Item 3i

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Agenda Item 3j

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Subject:	Belfast City Innovation programme update
Date:	23 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Mark McCann, City Innovation Manager

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="text"/>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime 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
1.1	To update Members on a number of urban innovation initiatives including the Belfast Region City Deal Contracts for Innovation programme, the Belfast Region AI Adoption programme and the way forward for the City Hall Immersive experience.

2.0 Recommendations	
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approve that, on behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, Belfast City Council enter into an Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board to the value of £431,250 to deliver aspects of the planned £4.4 million Contracts for Innovation programme. Approve that, on behalf of City Deal partners, Belfast City Council provide £50,000 to support an operational partnership agreement (OPA) between the Council and the Strategic Advisory Board to develop the programme business case for the £5 million AI Adoption programme. To note that Belfast City Council's engagement on any specific opportunities arising from the AI programme will be managed through the Council's own Data & Analytics Board with updates being brought to Members via this board. To consider the options for the future of the City Hall immersive experience from April 2026. To approve the commissioning of data modelling on the growth of the city region's innovation sectors to inform future City Deal and Innovation City Belfast decision-making and initiatives.
3.0 Main report	
3.1	<p>Belfast City Region Contracts for Innovation programme</p> <p>On behalf of Belfast City Region Deal (BRCD) Partners, Belfast City Council's City Innovation Office is currently designing the £4.4 million 'Contract for Innovation' programme. This three-year programme will use a modified version of the 'Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) methodology to allow the six local councils of the city region to procure Research & Development expertise to address large-scale challenges.</p>
3.2	<p>The new programme builds on the learning from the recent Augment the City project, which provided £610,000 R&D funding to Belfast Stories to develop prototypes that will help shape the design of their approach to storytelling.</p>
3.3	<p>Members are asked to note that to support the delivery of aspects of the new programme, City Deal partners have agreed to enter into an operational partnership agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board (SIB) which has a full-time SBRI team in place and access to other technical expertise. This OPA, which will be between Belfast City Council and SIB, will be to the value of £431,250.</p>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Region AI Adoption programme</p>

	<p>On behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, Belfast City Council are designing a £5 million AI adoption programme for the six BRCD councils. The programme, which will be subject to business case approval, will provide funding to the councils to work with AI specialist to integrate AI into aspects of council service delivery that will support organisational transformation and efficiencies.</p>
3.5	<p>Following a series of AI readiness workshops with officers from all six Belfast Region councils (alongside officers from all NI's councils who were also invited), City Deal partners now wish to develop the business case for the programme. This programme is likely to take an agile approach that would include a Discovery Phase, and then a series of alpha, beta and full deployment projects depending on the progress of each.</p>
3.6	<p>Members are asked to approve that, on behalf of City Deal partners, Belfast City Council enter into an operational partnership agreement (OPA) with the Strategic Advisory Board (SIB) which has a full-time AI team in place and access to relevant technical expertise. The business case is expected to cost £100,000 to develop.</p>
3.7	<p>SIB will contribute £50,000 for this work. Members asked to approve that Belfast City Council provide the additional £50,000.</p>
3.8	<p>The development of the programme business case and related approval process is expected to take approximately six months. Depending on the outcomes from this process, the programme is expected to go live in autumn 2026.</p>
3.9	<p>Members should note that Belfast City Council's engagement on the opportunities arising from this AI programme will be managed through the council's own Data & Analytics Board with updates being brought to Members via this board.</p>
3.10	<p>City Hall immersive experience</p> <p>The City Hall Immersive experience, in Rooms 7, 8 and 9 of City Hall, was the result of a collaborative six-month R&D project with BT Northern Ireland. The project (to which BT contributed £1 million in R&D technology and expertise) used Augmented Reality, iPads and video displays to explore elements of the speech, geography and history of the city in new and interactive ways. When the six-month R&D collaboration ended in March 2024, Members approved a one-year extension of the project until April 2026.</p>
3.11	<p>The experience received overwhelming positive feedback from visitors and staff, and has proven particularly attractive to younger visitors. Key facts from the feedback include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience was used over 50,694 times.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People stayed in the rooms 30% longer than previous. • Visiting with partner and families increased by 25% • Increase of 14.5% for city hall tour during the period. • 88.4% of users would recommend City Hall as a visitor attraction. <p>With the extension now coming to an end, there are three main options for going forward. These include:</p> <p>Option 1: Close the experience. The rooms would be returned to their previous set up. There are minimal costs associated with this.</p> <p>Option 2: Retain the 'Roadrunner' interactive game in room 9. This item has proved popular with out of state visitors and children in particular. This would cost £23,700 for one year (or £32,400 for three years) and would require no staff supervision.</p> <p>Option 3: Retain the experience as is. This option will require a number of technical changes to the system (to allow it to continue efficiently beyond its original six-month lifespan). This option would also require support from one full time member of staff. The cost for this option is estimated to be £78,000 for twelve months (including staffing costs).</p> <p>Options 2 or 3 could be procured via the Department of Finance's PSSN procurement framework.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider the options for the experience going forward. Any option will need to be confirmed and in place by 31 March 2026.</p> <p>Data modelling for the Belfast region innovation ecosystem</p> <p>Belfast Region City Deal partners, and partners from Innovation City Belfast, have been developing a shared innovation investment proposition for the city region. This seeks to maximise the opportunities of the investments made in digital, innovation and skills by City Deal partners, and their impact on those sectors of the region's knowledge economy with the most potential for growth through innovation. This work is mindful of UK Government's Modern Industrial Strategy and its commitment to supporting the eight most important sectors in the economy, which in turn will have significant implications for government's innovation funding over the next four years.</p> <p>With this in mind, Members are asked to approve the commissioning of a data modelling piece that will provide fine-grain information on key sectors and subsectors of the city region economy. This will be used to inform decision-making by City Deal partners, and by Innovation City Belfast. This is expected to cost no more than £30,000.</p>
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4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	Resources for these initiatives have been identified within the existing departmental budgets.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	None at present. Successful programmes will be subject to individual Equality screenings.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
6.1	None.

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Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	23 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

Restricted Reports	
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 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> <p>After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

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	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme along with updates on capital letters of offer and contracts awarded.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme Movements - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme—Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology in the Council Chamber - Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. ○ Sydenham Greenway - Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. ○ Staff Cycle Racks Installation - Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. • Floral Hall H&S Works– note the previous health & safety works undertaken on the Floral Hall and agree the second phase of health & safety works is now undertaken with a budget of £565,000 and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. • Belfast Stories – note the key conditions within the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy (DfE) for the project. • Procurement process for 2026/27 Non-Recurrent Programme, Fleet Programme and Externally Funded Projects - agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2026/27 including

	<p>Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Letters of Offer – to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer. • Contracts awarded in Q3 2025/26 – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded. 												
3.0	<p>Main report</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>												
3.1	<p>Physical Programme</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.</p>												
3.2	<p><u>Capital Programme - Proposed Movements</u></p> <p>As outlined above Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Overview</th> <th>Stage movement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>IT Programme—Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology</td> <td>Upgrade to digital Audio-Visual (AV) solution in the Council Chamber</td> <td>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sydenham Greenway</td> <td>To develop a feeder path through Alderman Thomas Patton Playing Fields and connect to the Sydenham Greenway.</td> <td>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Cycle Racks Installation</td> <td>Installation of new cycle racks in Cecil Ward Building, City Hall and other premises to improve provision.</td> <td>Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Overview	Stage movement	IT Programme—Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology	Upgrade to digital Audio-Visual (AV) solution in the Council Chamber	Move to Stage 3 – Committed	Sydenham Greenway	To develop a feeder path through Alderman Thomas Patton Playing Fields and connect to the Sydenham Greenway.	Move to Stage 3 – Committed	Staff Cycle Racks Installation	Installation of new cycle racks in Cecil Ward Building, City Hall and other premises to improve provision.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
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Staff Cycle Racks Installation	Installation of new cycle racks in Cecil Ward Building, City Hall and other premises to improve provision.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted											
3.3	<p>IT Programme— Digitising Audio-Visual (AV) Technology in the Council Chamber</p> <p>The current analogue AV rack-mounted controller hardware used in the Council chamber is at end of life with no direct replacement available. Transitioning to a digital AV solution is recommended, this will require replacing underfloor cabling, microphones, and associated hardware. The project aims to maintain reliable, high-quality audio-visual capabilities for council meetings and public engagement, and as such aligns with service improvement and efficiency through digital transformation and innovation. The project is part of the overall IT Programme/ Digital Strategy and a business case has been submitted. Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk, pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary</p>												

	<p>procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated. A contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.4	<p>Sydenham Greenway</p> <p>Members will recall that ‘Sydenham Greenway’ project was moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme in November 2021. This partnership project with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) aims to develop a greenway/ feeder path through Alderman Thomas Patton Playing Fields and connect to the Sydenham Greenway which will be delivered by DfI. The Greenway will run from Victoria Park along the Belfast – Bangor Railway line to Holywood Exchange. DfI have provided match funding for the project and announced that it is part of the DfI signature Active Travel schemes. As per the three-stage approval process, the outline business case has been completed. Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk, pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated. A contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.5	<p>Staff Cycle Racks Installation</p> <p>This project was added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging in October 2025. It includes the installation of new cycle racks in City Hall and Cecil Ward Building and upgrading cycle parking facilities in 9 Adelaide and Duncrue. BCC is committed to reducing transport related greenhouse gas emissions through its operations and across the city and promoting travel options that promote health and wellbeing, leading by example as an employer, an organisation delivering services, and as a civic leader. Members are asked to agree that project is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
3.6	<p>Floral Hall H&S Works - roof installation</p> <p>This project was moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme in December 2024 to deliver a series of immediate health and safety works due to the deteriorating condition of the Floral Hall building. Currently the building has been cleaned and all hazardous elements removed. However, as there is no roof covering over any part of the building, it is fully exposed to weather and natural elements which presents a very high potential for the building fabric to degrade further. In 2024, Members noted that the initial investment was mainly for Phase 1 H&S works and agreed that a further tender figure be brought back for further phases. Members are asked to note that a tender has been received for the roof works for £565,000. This will make the building watertight and allow for exploration of further opportunities for the building.</p>

	Members are asked to agree Phase 2 of the Health & Safety works at the Floral Hall , that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree to a budget £565,000 being allocated to this project.
3.7	<p>Belfast Stories</p> <p>Belfast Stories is the Council's flagship project under the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and is due to open in 2030. Positioned as a tourism anchor, Belfast Stories is set to deliver significant economic and social impact for Belfast and beyond, helping to regenerate the city centre and connect the tourism offer to the neighbourhoods. In December 2025, Members will recall that they were advised that the Contract for Funding (CFF) had been received from Department for Economy (DfE) for £65m and was under review across a number of council departments prior to acceptance. Overall, it is noted that the CFF is a standard City Deal document and what Council would expect having been involved in City Deal documents over a period of time. Members are asked to note several key conditions within the Contract for Funding including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period of assistance started on 13 January 2026 and runs until 31 May 2032. Any costs not processed by this end date will be ineligible for reimbursement. • The Council must bear any budget overruns as the Accountable Body/ Lead Partner. • The funding can only be used for the approved purposes to achieve the agreed outputs and key performance indicators. Any changes must be agreed with DfE. • The Council must ensure robust project governance structures including compliance to project monitoring and evaluation, and reporting arrangements. • Council must underwrite ongoing operating costs.
3.8	<p>Approval to Procure 2026/27</p> <p>Members are asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2026/27 including the Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.9	<p>Capital Letters of Offer</p> <p>Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q3 2025/26 at Appendix 1.</p>
3.10	<p>Contracts Awarded</p> <p>Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q3 2025/26 at Appendix 2.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>

	<p><i>Financial Implications –</i></p> <p>Floral Hall H&S Works –£565,000 for Phase 2 of the works. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications –</i> Officer time to deliver.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The legislation requirements have been met including screening.</p> <p>All physical projects are designed for people and are inherently inclusive and accessible.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Capital Letters of Offer in Q3 2025/26 – October to December 2025</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Contracts Awarded in Q3 2025/26 – October to December 2025</p>

Appendix 1

Capital Letters of Offer 01 October – 31 December 2025

Project	Funder	Amount
Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Hub	DfC	£50,000
BMSSP Boys & Girls NI Club	DoJ	£20,000
Westland Community Centre	TEO	£1,019,172
Belfast's Historic Cemeteries	DfC	£10,000
<i>Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Hub (Amendment)</i>	<i>DfC</i>	<i>£74,000</i>
Greater Village Regeneration Trust - BCC TREECO Design & Plans	DfC	£40,000
Ardoyne Youth Enterprises Community Youth Hub	TEO	£3,013,607
Sydenham Greenway - Detailed Design & Construction	DfI	£157,590
Belfast Stories	DfE	£65,000,000

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Appendix 2

Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation (October – December 2025)

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
L2BCC01 - Integrated Consultant Team for Sailortown / Titanic Quarter Bridge	Ove Arup & Partners Limited	01/10/2025
MTC for Installation of soft flooring at all Belfast City Council properties and locations	H&J Martin Ltd	02/10/2025
PEACEPLUS Integrated Consultant Team for LGBTQIA+ Hub	WDR & RT Taggart	03/10/2025
PEACEPLUS Integrated Consultant Team for Access to the Hills	Collins Rolston Architects	03/10/2025
Main Contractor for Cathedral Gardens (& Blitz Memorial)	John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd	07/10/2025
Contractor for Roof Mounted PV Installation at Donegal Pass Community Centre	Solmatrix Ltd	13/10/2025
PEACEPLUS Integrated Consultant Team for Distillery Street Open Space	Collins Rolston Architects	13/10/2025
PEACEPLUS Integrated Consultant Team for Annadale Embankment Open Space	Collins Rolston Architects	13/10/2025
PEACEPLUS Integrated Consultant Team for Sanctuary Theatre Refurbishment	Collins Rolston Architects	13/10/2025
UV_Coffee Culture Main Contractor - RERUN	Mullinsallagh Ltd T/A OB Construction	14/10/2025
ICT for Condition Survey Works and Cost Estimates for Historic Cemeteries and Graveyards at Friars Bush and Balmoral	Alastair Coey Architects	17/10/2025
L4BCC02 - Woodvale Sensory Garden	Park Hood Ltd	27/10/2025
BIF_Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Hub Main Contractor	CivCo Ltd	28/10/2025

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
UV_Integrated Consultant Team for Westland Community Centre	Collins Rolston Architects	10/11/2025
MTC Electrical Services repairs arising from insurance report	Irwin M&E Ltd	14/11/2025
Artificial Christmas Tree for Belfast City Hall	AJCG Ltd	14/11/2025
L4BCC01 - Blythefield Park Redevelopment	AECOM	20/11/2025
L4BCC03 - Basketball Courts and Court Improvements	Park Hood Ltd	25/11/2025
L1BCC11 - Dargan Waste Transfer Station Feasibility Study	Doran Consulting	11/12/2025
Tender for City Hall Health Service Stained Glass Window	Alpha Stained Glass Ltd	18/12/2025



Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	23 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Restricted Reports	
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 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> <p>After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
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<p>Call-in</p> <p>Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STAs) over £30,000 <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) and non-procurement expenditure • Note the update regarding STA and Contracts <£30k Reporting set out in Section 5.
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) • Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2) • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3)
3.0	Competitive Tenders
	<p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender.</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1).</p>
4.0	Single Tender Actions (STAs)
	<p>The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under</p>

	<p>the Procurement Act 2023 'the Act' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the Act setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1).</p> <p>To support Officers understanding and to build capability, CPS offer support training and guidance on the STA process.</p> <p>In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to approve the award of the STAs in Appendix 1 (Table 2).</p>								
5.0	Modification to Contract								
	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a as set out in Appendix 1 (Table 3).</p>								
6.0	<p>STA and Contracts <£30k Reporting</p> <p>At SP&R in October 23 the Committee agreed that 'the quarterly finance report should, in future, include information on expenditure on Single Tender Actions and on the number and value of contracts under £30,000'.</p> <p>Information on expenditure broken down by individual STA contract records is not readily available from the Council's current financial system.</p> <p>However, CPS centrally record the number and maximum total value of STA contract records. Quarter 3 2025/26 is provided below:</p> <p>STAs awarded FY 25/26 Qtr 3</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="255 1574 816 1686"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="255 1574 509 1641">Number of STA contracts</th><th data-bbox="509 1574 816 1641">Total value of STA contracts</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 1641 509 1686">24</td><td data-bbox="509 1641 816 1686">£333,269</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Records for contracts (including title; supplier name; value; duration etc) valued below £30,000 are not centrally held by CPS and are maintained on departmental registers. Below is a quarterly return by all departments on contracts awarded valued below £30,000 during FY 25/26 Qtr 3.</p> <p>Contracts <£30k awarded FY 25/26 Qtr 3</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="255 2023 816 2147"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="255 2023 509 2091">Number of <£30k contracts</th><th data-bbox="509 2023 816 2091">Total value of <£30k contracts</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="255 2091 509 2147">47</td><td data-bbox="509 2091 816 2147">£736,120</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of STA contracts	Total value of STA contracts	24	£333,269	Number of <£30k contracts	Total value of <£30k contracts	47	£736,120
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6.0	Tender pipeline
	<p>To support transparency and assist supplier planning, Members should note that Future Tendering Opportunities are published bi-annually on the Councils website. The current update Tendering opportunities covers future tendering opportunities up to 31st March 2027.</p> <p>Note: CPS consult with Departments to help populate this procurement pipeline and are reliant on Departments sharing their available procurement plans.</p>
7.0	Financial & Resource Implications
	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.
8.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
	None
9.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 - Competitive Tenders • Table 2 - Single Tender Actions • Table 3 - Modification to Contract

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Medical Services to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.	Up to 2 years	£700,000	K Forster	<p>Reported at Oct 2025 SP&R meeting with duration and potential value now confirmed. Tenders currently being evaluated.</p> <p>Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, taking place 2-9 August 2026 (active bid for 2027), is expected to attract 750,000+ additional visitors over and above the existing civic population and normal tourist numbers expected at that time of year. The Council is therefore seeking suitably qualified and experienced supplier(s), to provide medical and first aid services at this event.</p>	N	N	N
Upgrade the existing audio-visual solution in the Belfast City Hall Council chamber.	Up to 3 years	£235,050	S McNicholl	<p>The current AV solution and associated hardware used for these meetings is end-of-life and we are recommending replacing the current analogue solution with a modern digital one.</p> <p>£225,000 Capital + £10,050 Revenue</p>	N	N	N
Campsite(s) for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.	Up to 2 years	Income based contract	K Forster	<p>As part of the Fleadh programme campsite(s) are required to accommodate the number of visitors.</p> <p>The Council is therefore seeking suitably qualified and experienced supplier(s), to set</p>	N	N	N

Appendix 1

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				<p>up and manage campsites. Planning applications underway for the identified sites.</p> <p>Costs will be required (£value TBC) for site set up and management; however, aim is to recover majority of costs through charging to customers.</p>			
Page 8 Supply of standardised audio-visual equipment for meeting and conference rooms	One off Purchase	£200,000	P Gribben	The majority of the equipment is over 10 years old and struggles to meet the audio and visual requirements of modern remote and hybrid meetings. The adoption of a consistent approach to the management of AV equipment is a strategic move to enhance the council's hybrid meeting capabilities and standardise audiovisual solutions across all meeting spaces	N	N	N

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

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

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification required	SRO	Description	Supplier
Up to 6 years & £91k	Additional 12 months and £15,804	K Forster	Extension to existing contract in line with contract with Oxford Innovation for Innovation Factory which finishes in March 2027. The value of the work will be dependent on our requirement throughout the duration of the OI contract and any issues that may arise which we require support with.	KPMG
Up to 5 years & £650k	Additional 12 months and £100,000	S Toland	The project is subject to annual funding from the PHA, BCC and the PCSP. The PHA have advised the Council that they wish to review the current model for the delivery of the service. The current contract is due to expire in October 2026, however, we need to wait for the PHA review before awarding a new contract. The review is expected to be completed during FY26/27 and a replacement tender will be considered in light of any proposed changes to the existing delivery model.	Bryson Energy

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

STA/ Direct Award Reasons

STA Number	Full description
1. Switching to a Direct Award	Switching to a Direct Award: No response or no suitable response following advertised procurement exercise.
2. Single Supplier for Art or Artistic Performance	Single Supplier for Art or Artistic Performance: the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance
3. Single Supplier Absence of Competition for Technical Reasons	Single Supplier Absence of Competition for Technical Reasons: only a particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required and there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works
4. Single Supplier Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	Single Supplier Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): only particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required due to that particular supplier having IPR or other exclusive rights and there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works.
5. Urgency	Urgency: Where the goods, services or works to be supplied under the public contract are strictly necessary for reasons of extreme and unavoidable urgency which is not attributable to any act or omission of and could not have been foreseen by the council, and as a result the public contract cannot be awarded on the basis of a competitive tendering procedure using the reduced 10 day period for 'urgent procurements'

Appendix 1

STA Number	Full description
6. Prototypes and Development	Prototypes and Development: the production of a prototype, or supply of other novel goods or services (i.e. goods or services designed or developed at the request of BCC), for the purpose of testing the suitability of the goods or services, researching the viability of producing or supplying the goods or services at scale and developing them for that purpose, or other research, experiment, study or development.
7. Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works	Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works: Extension or Partial Replacement concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier (includes supplier that the council no longer has a contract with) which are intended as an extension to, or partial replacement of, existing goods, services or works in circumstances where a change in supplier would result in the council receiving goods, services or works that are different from, or incompatible with, the existing goods, services or works, and the difference or incompatibility would result in disproportionate technical difficulties in operation or maintenance.
8. Commodity	Commodity: Supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market
9. Advantageous time-limited	Advantageous time-limited: Supplies or services on particularly time-limited advantageous terms e.g. supplier winding up its business activities
10. Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works	Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works: Similar to Existing Goods Services or Works, concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier (includes supplier that the councils no longer has a contract with) that are similar to existing goods, services or works where the existing goods, services or works were supplied under a public contract that was awarded following a competitive procedure within the period of five years ending with the day on which the transparency notice is published, and the tender notice or any tender document in respect of the earlier contract set out the Council's intention to carry out a subsequent procurement of similar goods, services or works in reliance on this direct award justification, and any other information specified in Section 95.
11. Other	Other: Reason not in line with Procurement Act 2023
12. To Protect Life	To Protect Life: where a Minister of the Crown has by Regulations provided that specified contracts may be awarded to protect human animal or plant life or health or protect public order or safety
13. Schedule 2– Exempted Contract	Schedule 2– Exempted Contract: Requirement not considered procurement spend but use of STA process to document and approve spend. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/54/schedule/2

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