

Public Document Pack

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

8 May 2026

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the report for the following item to be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 12th May, 2026.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

(b) Committee Plan 2026/27 (Pages 1 - 22)

5. **Operational Issues**

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Subject:	Draft P&C Committee Plan 2026-2027
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director City Services, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance, and Improvement 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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides a draft People & Communities Committee Plan summarising the Committee's key priorities for 2026-2027.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the draft People and Communities Committee Plan priorities for 2026-2027
3.0	Main report
3.1	The 2026-2027 draft P&C Committee Plan has been developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda and considering the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the new Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that have been agreed by the P&C Committee throughout 2026-2026 and are relevant to the Standing Orders. The draft plan sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee oversees to maximise the Council's contribution to the Belfast Agenda.
3.2	The structure of the delivery plan is themed under the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our People and Communities • Our Place • Our Planet • Compassionate City • Our Services • Our Organisation
3.3	A series of priorities fall under each theme, each with several committed deliverables for 2026-2027.
3.4	People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety, and well-being at a local level. • Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations. • Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles. • Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.

- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities.
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including Environmental Health Services; Cleansing; Waste Management; Parks and Leisure service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle), Neighbourhood and Development Services; Community Services, Community Safety and Emergency Planning.

3.5 **Summary of Committee Plan Priorities**

The draft Committee Plan identifies the following key areas of focus:

- Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges
- Increase opportunities for people to be physically active
- Enhance our open spaces and physical assets
- Heritage tourism
- Off-street car parking
- Reservoir improvement programme
- Enhancing our local environment
- Transition to low carbon
- Protect and enhance our local environment and natural eco-systems
- Promote sustainable circular economy approaches
- Build capacity within our communities
- Good Relations
- Community safety
- Ending Violence against Women and Girls
- Bereavement services
- House in multiple occupancy
- Neighbourhood services Pathway Forward
- Park warden
- Power washing programme
- Digital development

3.6 It is likely many of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver. The draft plan includes and outlines the key deliverables for 2026-2027 that we are working towards achieving.

3.7 It is proposed that Committee receive a six-monthly progress update regarding the priorities. This will be in addition to usual reports that will be brought to Committee regarding individual priorities & deliverables.

3.8 The Departmental Plan on which the committee plan is based reflects that the department is continuing to focus on the delivery of business-as-usual services while progressing the change and improvement agenda.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

3.10	<p>The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 13th February 2026, for 2025-2026 for the People and Communities Committee, of £111,192,369.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies, programmes and actions will be subject to the council's equality, good relations, and rural needs requirements.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 –Draft People and Communities Committee Plan 2026-2027



People & Communities

Committee Plan 2026-2027



Belfast
City Council

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Introduction

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

Its specific functions include:

- Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety and wellbeing at a local level
- Developing and delivering programmes, events and activities to promote health, safety and well being at a local level.
- Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.
- Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.
- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including:
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Cleansing
 - Waste Management
 - Parks and Leisure Service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle)
 - Neighbourhood and Development Services
 - Community Services,
 - Community Safety
 - Emergency Planning
 - Building Control

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Fred Cobain (Chair)
Party: DUP
Ward: Castle



Councillor Matt Garrett
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Collin



Councillor Micky Murray
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Christina Black
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Christine Bower
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting
Party: DUP
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Ruth Brooks
Party: DUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Micheal Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Jordan Doran
Party: DUP
Ward: Old Park



Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Nicola Verner
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn
Party: Green Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown
Party: SDLP
Ward: Botanic



Councillor Sonia Copeland
Party: UUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Hedley Abernethy
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Michael Collins
Party: People Before Profit
Ward: Collin

Belfast City Council Priorities

The Belfast Agenda

The Belfast Agenda is the city's community plan.

It was first published in 2017, following extensive engagement with residents and partners. It sets out a long-term vision for Belfast and shared outcomes for the city, supported by shorter-term action plans to help achieve those aims.

Managed by the Belfast Community Planning Partnership (BCPP), it guides what council and

other public agencies in the city will do, in collaboration with businesses and communities, to make Belfast better.

Last year, the BCPP began to review and update the Belfast Agenda. "Continuing the conversation" with residents, the BCCP has agreed 14 priorities for the period 2023-27. Action plans aligned to each of these priorities have been developed and will be updated on an annual basis.

Council Planning Framework

Our Corporate Plan is the main strategic plan for our organisation. It sets out how we will support the Belfast Agenda and deliver our own organisational priorities, services, and programmes. We also have several supporting strategic plans to help manage and direct specific activity.

For example, our Local Development Plan which is the spatial planning framework for the city and our medium-term financial plan which sets out the financial strategy for the council.

These strategic plans, including the Improvement Plan, are supported by annual Departmental and Committee Plans to ensure activity for the year ahead is managed.

The People & Communities Committee Plan for 2026 - 2027, which is aligned to the Corporate Plan, outlines the key areas of work that this committee will be responsible for delivering. These are set out on the following pages.



City and Neighbourhood Services

The City and Neighbourhood Services (CNS) Department was developed in 2016 -17 as part of a restructuring process designed to ensure a more customer focused approach to the delivery of front-line services. As the largest department within Council, CNS brings together around 1,400 staff with the aim of achieving effective and efficient customer facing services through modern, integrated, high-quality, and cost-effective delivery on a city-wide basis.

The department delivers a range of statutory and core services to the residents and visitors of Belfast including essential services such as emptying the bins, cleaning the streets and inspections and enforcements relating to public and environmental health.

Resources and Fleet

This comprises waste collection, waste management including strategies and policies, recycling centres, and the supply and maintenance of vehicles across council. The vision is complex and ambitious and has several elements which focus on developing a sustainable operating model which places value on the city's waste as a resource, supports the circular economy and helps to mitigate the impact of climate change on the city of Belfast.

Open Spaces and Streetscene (OSS)

Open Space and Street Scene development and management – includes all street cleansing and parks operational services as well as open spaces related functions including parks events and outreach, woodland recreation, landscape planning and development, and biodiversity. OSS is a new way to provide a consistent service across the city by integrating former parks and former street cleansing - sharing management, resources, equipment, and budgets to provide clean and well-maintained public realm, open spaces, and streets.

Community Provision (Neighbourhood Services)

This encompasses a wide a varied portfolio to deliver front line services and resources to neighbourhoods and communities across the city. Neighbourhood Services works across three portfolios which includes community support and integration, developing our community assets and programming, and community safety & good relations (including PeacePlus).

City Services

City Services cover a vast array of front line and regulatory areas, four portfolios have been developed: Business, Neighbourhood, Residential, and Bereavement & Emergency Planning. The areas of service delivery range from food hygiene and food standards, health and safety regulation in business in the city, to Port Health regulation and consumer safety. We also provide public health and housing services, environmental protection regulation ranging from air quality, contaminated land, noise control and Scientific services. Our Bereavement and administration services sit within the Emergency Planning and off streetcar parking portfolio. Finally, the Houses in Multiple Occupation Service (HMOs) is a key regulatory service coordinated and delivered by BCC on behalf of all 11 Councils and sits within the Neighbourhood portfolio alongside Pest Control, Dog Warden Service, the Enforcement Team and Animal Welfare.

Our People and Communities

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.
- Provide funding and support to community-based advice services across the city to provide dedicated and tailored support to individuals.
- Lead the multi-agency Complex Lives Initiative to provide targeted and holistic support for Belfast's most vulnerable citizens.

Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Implement the Belfast Pitches Strategy and action plan to encourage participate in sport and ensure that pitches and facilities can meet the growing needs and demands.
- Implement the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and action plan to support the targeting of opportunities to communities that will benefit most from being more active.
- Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast
- Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.
- Deliver the City of Sports programme 2026.

<p>Enhance our open spaces and physical assets</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain our Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage Award status across our parks and open spaces to ensure that our residents can access high quality open spaces. ▪ Continue to work with Property and Projects and partner organisations on delivery of capital projects to enhance and improve our open spaces. ▪ Continued delivery of inclusive design in accordance with best practice guidance for improvement works in parks and open spaces. ▪ Produce costed options and agree a methodology for delivery of the social levy fund for 3 parks, Ormeau, Boucher and Botanic to improve the parks for users. ▪ Progress the allotments improvement plan. ▪ Deliver and facilitate a range of events and community programmes within our parks and open spaces. ▪ Develop a container protocol for parks. ▪ Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to provide more inclusive, high quality play facilities across the city ▪ Delivery of the Bloomberg project by working with communities to manage and improve shared spaces, using alleyways as a testbed for a new, scalable model of service delivery. ▪ Continue to undertake grey infrastructure inspections and deliver improvements in our parks and open spaces to provide safe and improved access for users ▪ Continue to deliver our annual Pitches Programme to provide better sports pitch infrastructure and improved playability across the city ▪ Continue to work with Planning to secure developer contributions that will improve our parks and open spaces ▪ Continue to work with colleagues in Property and Projects to deliver the event space review, providing technical expertise to inform the options appraisal and support the implementation of recommendations at relevant Open Space sites.
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Our Place

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

<p>Heritage Tourism</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer:</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall.
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Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	
Off-Street Car Parking	In 2026/ 2027 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.
Reservoir Improvement Programme	In 2026/ 2027 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to manage our blue infrastructure responsibly, to ensure the continued safety and amenity value of council’s reservoirs in line with statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).
Enhancing our local environment	In 2026/ 2027 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to deliver the Belfast and Bloom programme to improve the attractiveness and vibrancy of the City Centre and the main arterial routes, including the management and delivery of Belfast in Bloom annual awards.

Our Planet

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

Transition to low carbon

In 2026/2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2016, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Contribute to the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.
- Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.
- Complete the CENEX review and implement a three-year action plan that will inform the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.

Protect and enhance our local environment and natural eco-systems.

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Continue to deliver the Belfast City Council's Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations.
- Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems and translate into effective local action.
- Delivery of the Nature Towns and Cities partnership project with Ulster Wildlife (lottery funded), to develop a blueprint/ road map for nature recovery in Belfast.

- Delivery of the Making Space for Nature project (Deara funded), to develop a landscape scale Nature Recovery Network increasing the extent, condition and connectivity of semi-natural habitat within parks and open spaces in Belfast.
- Develop a herbicide reduction protocol to outline our commitment to reduce the use and reliance on herbicides across the council estate, in line with best practice regarding weed control and land management.
- Continue to deliver a landscape planning advisory function to ensure the city's green infrastructure is protected and enhanced as part of the planning process.
- Deliver the Urban Meadows project to establish 4 new species rich grassland sites across city at Ormeau Park, Glencairn Park, Belmont Park and Brook Leisure Centre.

Promote sustainable circular economy approaches

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Deliver phase three of the kerbside glass expansion programme to enhance customer service and improve recycling rates.

Compassionate City

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

Build capacity within our communities.

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
 Director City &
 Neighbourhood Services

- Delivery of the Community Support Plan 2025-2029 to support local communities and residents across the city.

Good Relations

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
 Director City &
 Neighbourhood Services

- Implementation of the Good Relations Strategy 2026-2035 and the 3 Year Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.
- Develop an action plan for Asylum Dispersal to give support for asylum seekers within Belfast.

Community Safety

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
 Director City &
 Neighbourhood Services

- Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confident in Policing
- Continue to facilitate the five multi-agency (D) PCSP's which work to make communities safer, making sure that the voices of local people are heard.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	In 2026/ 2027 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deliver a programme to help end violence against women and girls' initiatives. (EVAWG)
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services	

Our Services

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

Bereavement Services	In 2026/ 2027 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Complete the review of Bereavement services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	
Houses in Multiple Occupancy	In 2026/ 2027 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Complete the review of HMO to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	

<p>Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the review of Neighbourhood Services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.
<p>Park Warden</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the review of Park Wardens to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.
<p>Power Washing Programme</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver an enhanced power washing service and continue to respond and remove offensive graffiti and that has been identified that is Council's responsibilities or where we have been given agreement to deliver with private property.

Our Organisation

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

Bereavement Services

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- CNS to work with Property and Projects and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.
- CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium in the grounds of Roselawn Cemetery

Digital Development

In 2026/ 2027 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Progress plans to replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core regulatory areas of City Services & community safety within Neighbourhood Services.

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Procure and implement a modern booking system for pitches

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard:
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Implement new software to support the planning, routing and visibility of our fleet of vehicle's which will improve operations, increase safety and reduce carbon emissions.
- Consider the roll out of the Report It App for Park Wardens and other OSS frontline operations subject to Digital services work programme

Key Expenditure

The expenditure for the People & Communities Committee is assigned as follows:

Service	Net Expenditure 2026 - 2027 (£)
City Services	8,373,482
Neighbourhood Services	30,886,759
Open Spaces and Street Scene	28,080,111
Resources and Fleet	35,807,671
Support Services	8,044,346
TOTAL	111,192,369

Contact us:

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