

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



**Belfast
City Council**

11 May

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 12th May, 2026 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. **Restricted**

- (a) Market Development Association - Request (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Dog Fouling Programme and Mechanical Sweeper - Update (Pages 9 - 102)
- (c) Benview Community Centre (Pages 103 - 106)

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

- (a) Notice of Motion - Public Acts of Remembrance (Pages 107 - 108)

4. **Committee and Strategic Issues**

- (a) Committee Plan 2025/26 - Year-end Update (Pages 109 - 144)
- (b) Committee Plan 2026/27 (Pages 145 - 166)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Dual Language Street Signs - Monthly Report (Pages 167 - 170)
- (b) Review of Data Collection Process - Dual Language Street Surveys (Pages 171 - 176)
- (c) Dual Language Street Signs - University Street (Pages 177 - 182)
- (d) Proposals for the Naming of a New Street and Continuation of an Existing Street (Pages 183 - 186)
- (e) Belfast Tree Strategy/Community Orchards Motion - Update (Pages 187 - 196)
- (f) Playground Improvement Programme 2026/27 (Pages 197 - 208)
- (g) Playground Accessibility - Update (Pages 209 - 214)
- (h) Requests for the Use of Parks (Pages 215 - 218)
- (i) Summer Programmes (Pages 219 - 222)
- (j) European City of Sport 2026 Programme (Pages 223 - 228)
- (k) Consultations - Construction Products Reform White Paper (Pages 229 - 254)
- (l) Responses to Consumer Product Safety Public Consultations (Pages 255 - 292)
- (m) Request from Belfast Healthy Cities re: Annual Business Meeting (Pages 293 - 298)
- (n) Pitch Partner and Facilities Management Agreements - Update (Pages 299 - 302)

6. **Issues Raised in Advance**

- (a) Reuse of Parks Plants - Councillor McKeown to raise
- (b) Playpark at Short Strand - Councillor RM Donnelly to raise

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Public Acts of Remembrance
Date:	12th May, 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Restricted Report	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee’s attention a motion relating to ‘Public Acts of Remembrance’ which the Standards and Business Committee referred to the Committee at its meeting on 28th April.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Set out below is the motion, which was proposed by Councillor Bower and seconded by Councillor Maghie:
3.2	<p><u>Public Acts of Remembrance</u></p> <p>“This Council recognises the profound importance of public acts of remembrance for people grieving for friends and family members across Belfast. This Council wishes to support those who have experienced loss and encourage safe and environmentally friendly acts of public remembrance within its spaces. This Council resolves to bring back a report that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore implementing designated memorial spaces in all of our parks; • consider environmentally friendly ways for remembrance events, including 'ascent' style events, such as permanent or bookable bubble, stations, kite festivals, and native butterfly releases; and

3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map out how to enhance the support council gives to grieving families, for example, by developing a downloadable remembrance guide to include ideas of eco-friendly ways to mark their loss personally or publicly.”
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
	Documents Attached
	None

People & Communities

Committee Plan 2025- 2026

Year End Update Report



Belfast
City Council

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

Our People and Communities

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Build capacity within our communities.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
1. Implement the recommendations of the review of the Belfast City Council Funded advice services	September 2026	Partially Achieved	Advice partners undertook to facilitate Area coordination meetings from January 2026; Council is putting in place additional staff resources to support this area of work
2. Develop a new Community Support Plan for the period 2025-29 which set out the basis for how we provide support to local communities and residents across the city. This will include support to the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors.	October 2025	Achieved	Community Support large grants awards were agreed at Feb council, notifications are being issued to all applicants. Other streams of CSP delivery will be programmed on a priority basis.
Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
3. Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.	March 2026	Achieved	Assessment process for delivery 26-28 has been completed. On the 20th of Feb 2026 SP&R committee agreed to fund 19 Social Supermarket projects, Q1 funding provided. A decision will be made in May regarding further funding.
Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
4. Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast.	March 2026	Achieved	SP&R Committee agreed to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and funding for delivery of the related work programme from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2027. This will allow time to finalise the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy.
5. Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	March 2026	Achieved	Project ended 31 March 2026. Consultant appointed to carry out final review of the programme.
6. Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	Achieved	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-month contract compliance and performance report, covering quarters 1 and 2 2025/26 was presented to the People and Communities Committee in November 2025. The next six-month report, covering quarter 3 and 4 for 2025/26 will be presented to the People and Communities Committee in May 2026.
Senior responsible officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
7. Scope the recommended options from the review and agree an action plan for allotments	March 2026	Achieved	Action plan has been agreed, and implementation is in process.
8. Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to ensure that we	Ongoing	Achieved	White Rise, and Ohio Street Playgrounds complete. Work at Finroy Street commenced, work at Rodden Crescent to commence on site in Q1 2026/27.

can continue to provide high quality playground facilities and equipment across the city.			
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Our Place

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Heritage Tourism Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
9. 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.	TBC	Partially Achieved	Procurement exercise to be completed to appoint operator. Currently with Legal and the City Solicitor.
Off-street Car Parking Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
10. Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.	January 2026	Partially Achieved	Correspondence received from DfI Minister in Q3 regarding council readiness for relocation of legislation. BCC ready to consult on draft order. A report was taken to members in January 2026. Consultation on Belfast off-street parking order currently live
Open Spaces Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
11. Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.	Ongoing	Achieved	Continuing to work in partnership with Planning to secure and deliver Section 76 development contributions for open spaces.
Reservoir Improvement Programme			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
12. Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	Achieved	A new three-year professional services contract is now in place for monthly and annual reservoir safety inspection & reports.

Our Planet	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Transition to low carbon			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
13. Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.	June 2026	Achieved	Monitoring and associated work continue this year’s local air quality management programme as we enter the final year of the current Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026. The final Progress Report associated with the current Action Plan will be prepared and presented to the People and Communities Committee, prior to its submission to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in August 2026.

			<p>The council’s 2025 Progress Report has been assessed and accepted by DAERA’s independent Technical Appraisers. The 2025 report and historical air quality reports may be accessed via the DAERA NI Air website via the following weblink: https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/reports/district-council-reports-1</p> <p>The 2025 Progress Report includes details of recent ambient air quality monitoring data for Belfast, an analysis of monitoring trends, an assessment of compliance with relevant ambient air quality objectives and standards, and an assessment of progress with actions detailed within the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026. This includes any recent ambient air quality conclusions and proposed actions.</p> <p>Findings of the School Streets Air Quality monitoring project were provided to the November 2025 meeting of the People and Communities Committee. A meeting is now to be convened with Elected Representatives and stakeholders in order to plan the next steps.</p> <p>Upon consideration of ratified ambient air quality monitoring data for 2025, an assessment of compliance with relevant air quality objectives and standards, the outworkings and conclusions of the 2026 Progress Report, the council will engage with DAERA, competent authorities and city partner organisations concerning the development of a new 5-year Air Quality Action Plan for Belfast City.</p>
<p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services</p>			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
<p>14. Develop the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Partially Achieved</p>	<p>In year activities progressing, and officers are engaging with an external consultant as a strategic review is required for the fleet transition from fossil fuels to an alternative power source. The AECOM report produced in July 2021 is being refreshed to reflect changes in cost and available technology. It is anticipated that the review and refresh of this document will be completed by the end of April 2026. BCC is currently engaging with WEEV and have made an application for funding to provide several charging points in 5 depots across our estate. The grant funding would cover 75% of the installation of EV charging facilities at five BCC sites. This work will complement the Aecom review and future discussions in relation to the Duncrue Masterplan.</p>

15. Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.	TBC	Partially Achieved	All new vehicles purchased as part of the fleet replacement programme, will be powered by low emission Euro 6, or equivalent standard, engines. Also, fleet will continue to utilise low emission HVO fuel as an alternative to diesel fuel. 85% of the Council fleet fuel consumption is HVO. The review of the AECOM report by CENEX will provide a 3-year action plan that will move this forward.
16. Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery.	September 2025	Achieved	OSS work is complete, business case for Beechvale Farm which includes Tree Nursery sitting with Estates. Work will continue with Estates.
17. 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.	October 2033	Achieved	Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In March 2025 (second year in a row), we were awarded Tree Cities of the World status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold this status. A new application has been submitted for 2026/27 for TCOTW accreditation and awaiting the outcome - We have changed our health in condition tree inspection cycle from once every seven years to every three years this will improve the health and safety of our trees.
Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
18. Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	October 2025	Achieved	Implementation plan agreed and the approval for phase 2 and 3.
19. Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	DAERA Waste Strategy suggests the 'consistency in collections' guidance will be produced by March 2027, BCC awaiting regulator to provide documents needed.

20. Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	January 2026	Achieved	A Single Use Plastic Policy was developed and the approved at P&C. Implementation is with City and Organisational Strategy.
21. Complete a review of litter bin provision to ensure adequate resourcing and arrangements for waste disposal across the city.	December 2025	Achieved	Review of litter bins completed and has moved into implementation stage through business as usual.
Climate Resilience			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
22. Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems.	January 2027	Partially Achieved	<p>Members approved funding last financial year to support the development of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Belfast. Development is statutory responsibility of Council and will provide a mechanism for local delivery on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the city. It will set out local priorities for action, along with targets for priority habitats, species, and locally important wildlife sites.</p> <p>ARUP Consulting were successfully appointed in January to lead on the project. Our newly appointed Biodiversity Officer is working closely with their project team on the development of the draft plan, including an ongoing biodiversity data audit and assessment and associated stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>At this point it is envisaged that a further update on the LBAP and the planned consultation will be presented to Committee in June. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft plan, hosted on the Your Say platform, will run for 14 weeks between July and September and will include drop-in events, with the final plan expected to be in place later in the Autumn.</p>
23. Develop a Herbicide use policy for the Council	March 2026	Partially Achieved	Work nearing completion on developing an internal Herbicide Reduction protocol. In the final stages of completion this internal document will outline our commitment to reduce the use and reliance on herbicides across the council estate, in line with best

			practice. Final trialling of alternative weed control methods and engagement with operational managers is ongoing.
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<h1>Compassionate City</h1>	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Good Relations Action Plan Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
24. Continue to implement the Good Relations Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.	Ongoing	Achieved	Letter of Offer has been received and returned, and action plan is in full operational progression. Q1-4 48 grants have been approved and interface open call completed. Refugee integration week, Day of Reflection and the Beacons programme are being rolled out. 5 projects allocated support Under Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme, 5 Projects Supported under the Interface Programme. 2 Projects for Good Relations Week, Shared Education Programme developed, and 6 Strategic Connections Programmes supported. Project commencing with Social Change Initiative. Beacons Tender has been advertised and closes at the End of March. Work for 2026 Beacons Programme has commenced and currently 17 EOIs from the Community. Further to this Council are to receive a further £180,000 from TEO which will be used to offset Beacon's overspend and Salary Costs.
Community Safety Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
25. Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	Achieved	The PCSP action plan was developed, and delivery was achieved.

26. 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.	Ongoing	Achieved	Meetings of the PCSP continued to be held up to 31st March 2026.
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
27. Delivery of the ending violent against women and girls' initiative	Ongoing	Achieved	Delivery of Local Change Fund, Regional Change Fund and Momentum programme underway and on target. Additional funding committed by TEO in Year which has extended the delivery of some elements of the overall programme into Q1 of 2026/2027. Awaiting confirmation of funding and Letter of Offer for delivery of a similar EVAWG Programme for 2026-2028.

Improving Our Services	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
28. 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.	December 2025	Partially Achieved	Work to be completed to deliver and implement service review of structural element. Various internal stakeholders working to resolve including CI, Legal and CHR.
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
29. Complete the review of Port health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	March 2027	Partially Achieved	Uncertainties remain while direction from UK Government and the outcome of negotiations on a proposed SPS agreement with EU are awaited and the funding model remains temporary. However, a service baselining exercise has been completed, with short-term development actions progressed. A review of the challenges posed by temporary posts and shift working arrangements has also been completed and a report with recommendations is due to be brought to CMT for consideration in Q1 of 2026/27.
Houses in Multiple Occupancy			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
30. 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.	June 2026	Partially Achieved	Review is expected to be completed by June 2026.
Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
31. Complete 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.	March 2027	Partially Achieved	Project Plans approved by Neighbourhood Services DMT for the Cohesive Departmental Plan with Outcomes Framework; Funding Approaches; Data Management and Staff Learning & Development projects. Project Teams have been established, and project delivery is underway.
Park Warden			
Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update

32. Complete the review of Park Warden to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	April 2026	Partially Achieved	Parks Warden review ongoing, with a growth proposal being considered. Once decisions have been made the operating model will be finalised.
Park Events and Outreach			
Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
33. Complete the review of Park Events and Outreach to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	December 2026	Achieved	Report was taken to CMT and approved.

Organisational Priorities

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
34. CNS to work with Physical Programmes and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.	TBC	Not Achieved	Burial provision board in place with representation from P&P, Corporate Finance and CNS as client. The objective of this board is to track progress, manage risks and ensure good governance.

		Not Achieved	
35. CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building.	January 2026	Not Achieved	A review of the 2016 financial business case (FBC) for the new crematorium has been completed. This was presented to a member’s workshop in September 2025. Update on member queries presented to the working group in February 2026. Decision made by SP&R in February 2026 to proceed with the new two chapel development at Roselawn. Tabled at full council in March, decision subject to call in.
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
36. Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council’s legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	In 2025/56 City Services advocated for a long-term funding model for delivery of responsibilities under the Windsor framework, engaging at senior levels with Food Standards Agency and DAERA. FSA and DAERA secured multiyear funding for Windsor Framework with HM Treasury to 2029/30 from which Councils can draw down funds to meet resourcing requirements on an annual basis. New uncertainty arising from UK Government / EU negotiations on a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement has potential to change the operational requirements at Ports in the future. Engagement with partners will remain active to understand the resourcing implications of any forthcoming changes in 2027 or 2028.
Digital Development			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
37. 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.	January 2030	Partially Achieved	Following the recent supplier sense check and careful consideration, the Board agreed to defer the procurement process for at least 18 months. This will allow additional time to complete further organisational readiness activities. A plan has already been drafted and implementation has commenced. Cleansing: Batch deletions are paused pending the recruitment of resources. Legislative Changes/Updates: All new legislative requirements are on track, with the final FSDM patch scheduled for delivery in the coming months.

Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
38. Procure and implement a modern booking system for parks and community facilities subject to digital services work programme.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	This is a project within the Neighbourhood Services Pathway forward Initiative. Agreement that the booking system will support corporate bookings. The project is now part of digital services work plan and an IT project manager to be appointed.
Asset Management			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
39. Develop a container policy for parks.	December 2025	Partially Achieved	It has been agreed that it will be an internal container in parks protocol rather than a policy. The draft internal process has been developed; however, health and safety aspects still need to be included and finalised.

Contact us:

City and Neighbourhood Services
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8DP

 staffnews@belfastcity.gov.uk

 028 9032 0202

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk



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People & Communities

Committee Plan 2025- 2026

Year End Update Report



Belfast
City Council

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

Our People and Communities

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Build capacity within our communities.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
1. Implement the recommendations of the review of the Belfast City Council Funded advice services	September 2026	Partially Achieved	Advice partners undertook to facilitate Area coordination meetings from January 2026; Council is putting in place additional staff resources to support this area of work
2. Develop a new Community Support Plan for the period 2025-29 which set out the basis for how we provide support to local communities and residents across the city. This will include support to the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors.	October 2025	Achieved	Community Support large grants awards were agreed at Feb council, notifications are being issued to all applicants. Other streams of CSP delivery will be programmed on a priority basis.
Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
3. Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.	March 2026	Achieved	Assessment process for delivery 26-28 has been completed. On the 20th of Feb 2026 SP&R committee agreed to fund 19 Social Supermarket projects, Q1 funding provided. A decision will be made in May regarding further funding.
Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
4. Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast.	March 2026	Achieved	SP&R Committee agreed to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and funding for delivery of the related work programme from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2027. This will allow time to finalise the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy.
5. Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	March 2026	Achieved	Project ended 31 March 2026. Consultant appointed to carry out final review of the programme.
6. Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	Achieved	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-month contract compliance and performance report, covering quarters 1 and 2 2025/26 was presented to the People and Communities Committee in November 2025. The next six-month report, covering quarter 3 and 4 for 2025/26 will be presented to the People and Communities Committee in May 2026.
Senior responsible officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
7. Scope the recommended options from the review and agree an action plan for allotments	March 2026	Achieved	Action plan has been agreed, and implementation is in process. Monthly meetings taking place to progress the action plan.
8. Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to ensure that we	Ongoing	Achieved	White Rise, and Ohio Street Playgrounds complete. Work at Finroy Street commenced, work at Rodden Crescent to commence on site in Q1 2026/27.

can continue to provide high quality playground facilities and equipment across the city.			
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Our Place

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Heritage Tourism Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
9. 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.	TBC	Partially Achieved	Procurement exercise to be completed to appoint operator. Currently with Legal and the City Solicitor.
Off-street Car Parking Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
10. Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.	January 2026	Partially Achieved	Correspondence received from DfI Minister in Q3 regarding council readiness for relocation of legislation. BCC ready to consult on draft order. A report was taken to members in January 2026. Consultation on Belfast off-street parking order currently live
Open Spaces Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
11. Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.	Ongoing	Achieved	Continuing to work in partnership with Planning to secure and deliver Section 76 development contributions for open spaces.
Reservoir Improvement Programme			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
12. Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	Achieved	A new three-year professional services contract is now in place for monthly and annual reservoir safety inspection & reports.

Our Planet	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Transition to low carbon			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
13. Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.	June 2026	Achieved	Monitoring and associated work continue this year’s local air quality management programme as we enter the final year of the current Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026. The final Progress Report associated with the current Action Plan will be prepared and presented to the People and Communities Committee, prior to its submission to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in August 2026.

			<p>The council’s 2025 Progress Report has been assessed and accepted by DAERA’s independent Technical Appraisers. The 2025 report and historical air quality reports may be accessed via the DAERA NI Air website via the following weblink: https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/reports/district-council-reports-1</p> <p>The 2025 Progress Report includes details of recent ambient air quality monitoring data for Belfast, an analysis of monitoring trends, an assessment of compliance with relevant ambient air quality objectives and standards, and an assessment of progress with actions detailed within the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026. This includes any recent ambient air quality conclusions and proposed actions.</p> <p>Findings of the School Streets Air Quality monitoring project were provided to the November 2025 meeting of the People and Communities Committee. A meeting is now to be convened with Elected Representatives and stakeholders in order to plan the next steps.</p> <p>Upon consideration of ratified ambient air quality monitoring data for 2025, an assessment of compliance with relevant air quality objectives and standards, the outworkings and conclusions of the 2026 Progress Report, the council will engage with DAERA, competent authorities and city partner organisations concerning the development of a new 5-year Air Quality Action Plan for Belfast City.</p>
<p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services</p>			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
<p>14. Develop the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Partially Achieved</p>	<p>In year activities progressing, and officers are engaging with an external consultant as a strategic review is required for the fleet transition from fossil fuels to an alternative power source. The AECOM report produced in July 2021 is being refreshed to reflect changes in cost and available technology. It is anticipated that the review and refresh of this document will be completed by the end of April 2026. BCC is currently engaging with WEEV and have made an application for funding to provide several charging points in 5 depots across our estate. The grant funding would cover 75% of the installation of EV charging facilities at five BCC sites. This work will complement the Aecom review and future discussions in relation to the Duncrue Masterplan.</p>

15. Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.	TBC	Partially Achieved	All new vehicles purchased as part of the fleet replacement programme, will be powered by low emission Euro 6, or equivalent standard, engines. Also, fleet will continue to utilise low emission HVO fuel as an alternative to diesel fuel. 85% of the Council fleet fuel consumption is HVO. The review of the AECOM report by CENEX will provide a 3-year action plan that will move this forward.
16. Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery.	September 2025	Achieved	OSS work is complete, business case for Beechvale Farm which includes Tree Nursery sitting with Estates. Work will continue with Estates.
17. 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.	October 2033	Achieved	Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: - In March 2025 (second year in a row), we were awarded Tree Cities of the World status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold this status. A new application has been submitted for 2026/27 for TCOTW accreditation and awaiting the outcome - We have changed our health in condition tree inspection cycle from once every seven years to every three years this will improve the health and safety of our trees.
Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
18. Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	October 2025	Achieved	Implementation plan agreed and the approval for phase 2 and 3.
19. Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	DAERA Waste Strategy suggests the 'consistency in collections' guidance will be produced by March 2027, BCC awaiting regulator to provide documents needed.

20. Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	January 2026	Achieved	A Single Use Plastic Policy was developed and the approved at P&C. Implementation is with City and Organisational Strategy.
21. Complete a review of litter bin provision to ensure adequate resourcing and arrangements for waste disposal across the city.	December 2025	Achieved	Review of litter bins completed and has moved into implementation stage through business as usual.
Climate Resilience			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
22. Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems.	September 2026	Partially Achieved	<p>Members approved funding last financial year to support the development of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Belfast. Development is statutory responsibility of Council and will provide a mechanism for local delivery on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the city. It will set out local priorities for action, along with targets for priority habitats, species, and locally important wildlife sites.</p> <p>ARUP Consulting were successfully appointed in January to lead on the project. Our newly appointed Biodiversity Officer is working closely with their project team on the development of the draft plan, including an ongoing biodiversity data audit and assessment and associated stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>At this point it is envisaged that a further update on the LBAP and the planned consultation will be presented to Committee in June. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft plan, hosted on the Your Say platform, will run for 14 weeks between July and September and will include drop-in events, with the final plan expected to be in place later in the Autumn.</p>
23. Develop a Herbicide use policy for the Council	March 2026	Partially Achieved	Work nearing completion on developing an internal Herbicide Reduction protocol. In the final stages of completion this internal document will outline our commitment to reduce the use and reliance on herbicides across the council estate, in line with best

			practice. Final trialling of alternative weed control methods and engagement with operational managers is ongoing.
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<h1>Compassionate City</h1>	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Good Relations Action Plan			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
24. Continue to implement the Good Relations Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.	Ongoing	Achieved	Letter of Offer has been received and returned, and action plan is in full operational progression. Q1-4 48 grants have been approved and interface open call completed. Refugee integration week, Day of Reflection and the Beacons programme are being rolled out. 5 projects allocated support Under Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme, 5 Projects Supported under the Interface Programme. 2 Projects for Good Relations Week, Shared Education Programme developed, and 6 Strategic Connections Programmes supported. Project commencing with Social Change Initiative. Beacons Tender has been advertised and closes at the End of March. Work for 2026 Beacons Programme has commenced and currently 17 EOIs from the Community. Further to this Council are to receive a further £180,000 from TEO which will be used to offset Beacon's overspend and Salary Costs.
Community Safety			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
25. Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	Achieved	The PCSP action plan was developed, and delivery was achieved.

26. 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.	Ongoing	Achieved	Meetings of the PCSP continued to be held up to 31st March 2026.
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
27. Delivery of the ending violent against women and girls' initiative	Ongoing	Achieved	Delivery of Local Change Fund, Regional Change Fund and Momentum programme underway and on target. Additional funding committed by TEO in Year which has extended the delivery of some elements of the overall programme into Q1 of 2026/2027. Awaiting confirmation of funding and Letter of Offer for delivery of a similar EVAWG Programme for 2026-2028.

Improving Our Services	End of Year RAG Status	
	Green	Achieved
	Amber	Partially Achieved
	Red	Not Achieved

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
28. 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.	December 2025	Partially Achieved	Work to be completed to deliver and implement service review of structural element. Various internal stakeholders working to resolve including CI, Legal and CHR.
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
29. Complete the review of Port health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	March 2027	Partially Achieved	Uncertainties remain while direction from UK Government and the outcome of negotiations on a proposed SPS agreement with EU are awaited and the funding model remains temporary. However, a service baselining exercise has been completed, with short-term development actions progressed. A review of the challenges posed by temporary posts and shift working arrangements has also been completed and a report with recommendations is due to be brought to CMT for consideration in Q1 of 2026/27.
Houses in Multiple Occupancy			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
30. 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.	June 2026	Partially Achieved	Review is expected to be completed by June 2026.
Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
31. Complete 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.	March 2027	Partially Achieved	Project Plans approved by Neighbourhood Services DMT for the Cohesive Departmental Plan with Outcomes Framework; Funding Approaches; Data Management and Staff Learning & Development projects. Project Teams have been established, and project delivery is underway.
Park Warden			
Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update

32. Complete the review of Park Warden to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	April 2026	Partially Achieved	Parks Warden review ongoing, with a growth proposal being considered. Once decisions have been made the operating model will be finalised.
Park Events and Outreach			
Senior Responsible Officers: Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
33. Complete the review of Park Events and Outreach to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services are realised through the programme benefits with support from CI, CHR and Departmental HR.	December 2026	Achieved	Report was taken to CMT and approved.

Organisational Priorities

End of Year RAG Status	
Green	Achieved
Amber	Partially Achieved
Red	Not Achieved

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
34. CNS to work with Physical Programmes and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.	TBC	Not Achieved	Burial provision board in place with representation from P&P, Corporate Finance and CNS as client. The objective of this board is to track progress, manage risks and ensure good governance.


		Not Achieved	
35. CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building.	January 2026	Not Achieved	A review of the 2016 financial business case (FBC) for the new crematorium has been completed. This was presented to a member’s workshop in September 2025. Update on member queries presented to the working group in February 2026. Decision made by SP&R in February 2026 to proceed with the new two chapel development at Roselawn. Tabled at full council in March, decision subject to call in.
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
36. Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council’s legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	In 2025/56 City Services advocated for a long-term funding model for delivery of responsibilities under the Windsor framework, engaging at senior levels with Food Standards Agency and DAERA. FSA and DAERA secured multiyear funding for Windsor Framework with HM Treasury to 2029/30 from which Councils can draw down funds to meet resourcing requirements on an annual basis. New uncertainty arising from UK Government / EU negotiations on a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement has potential to change the operational requirements at Ports in the future. Engagement with partners will remain active to understand the resourcing implications of any forthcoming changes in 2027 or 2028.
Digital Development			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
37. 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.	January 2030	Partially Achieved	Following the recent supplier sense check and careful consideration, the Board agreed to defer the procurement process for at least 18 months. This will allow additional time to complete further organisational readiness activities. A plan has already been drafted and implementation has commenced. Cleansing: Batch deletions are paused pending the recruitment of resources. Legislative Changes/Updates: All new legislative requirements are on track, with the final FSDM patch scheduled for delivery in the coming months.

Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
38. Procure and implement a modern booking system for parks and community facilities subject to digital services work programme.	March 2026	Partially Achieved	This is a project within the Neighbourhood Services Pathway forward Initiative. Agreement that the booking system will support corporate bookings. The project is now part of digital services work plan and an IT project manager to be appointed.
Asset Management			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	RAG status	End of Year Progress Update
39. Develop a container policy for parks.	December 2025	Partially Achieved	It has been agreed that it will be an internal container in parks protocol rather than a policy. The draft internal process has been developed; however, health and safety aspects still need to be included and finalised.

Contact us:

City and Neighbourhood Services
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8DP

 staffnews@belfastcity.gov.uk

 028 9032 0202

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk



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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"/>								
<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: 30px; height: 20px;" 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%; border: none;"> <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"/>								

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.

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

What we will deliver in 2026/ 2027

<p>Bereavement Services</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer:</p> <p>Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <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.
<p>Houses in Multiple Occupancy</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer:</p> <p>Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2026/ 2027 we will:</p> <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.

<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:

City and Neighbourhood Services
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8DP

 staffnews@belfastcity.gov.uk

 028 9032 0202

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk



Belfast
City Council

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

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?					
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																																						
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for eight existing streets within the city.																																						
2.0	Recommendation																																						
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Caffrey Drive, River Close, Summerhill Walk, Lagmore View Manor, Ludlow Square, Serpentine Gardens, Glencolin Park & Blacks Court.																																						
3.0	Main Report																																						
3.1	<p><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.</p>																																						
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates 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>Caffrey Drive</td> <td>Céide Mhic Gafraidh</td> <td>Off Caffrey Avenue, BT11</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>River Close</td> <td>Clós na hAbhann</td> <td>Off Brook Drive, BT11</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summerhill Walk</td> <td>Siúlán Chnoc an tSamhraidh</td> <td>Off Summerhill Drive, BT17</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lagmore View Manor</td> <td>Mainéar Radharc an Laig Mhóir</td> <td>Off Lagmore View Road, BT17</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ludlow Square</td> <td>Cearnóg Ludlow</td> <td>Off New Lodge Road, BT15</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serpentine Gardens</td> <td>Gairdíní na Lúb</td> <td>Off Voltaire Gardens, BT36</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glencolin Park</td> <td>Páirc Ghleann Chollainn</td> <td>Off Glencolin Drive, BT11</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blacks Court</td> <td>Cúirt Mhic Giolla Dhuibh</td> <td>Off Blacks Road, BT11</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Caffrey Drive	Céide Mhic Gafraidh	Off Caffrey Avenue, BT11	21	River Close	Clós na hAbhann	Off Brook Drive, BT11	31	Summerhill Walk	Siúlán Chnoc an tSamhraidh	Off Summerhill Drive, BT17	40	Lagmore View Manor	Mainéar Radharc an Laig Mhóir	Off Lagmore View Road, BT17	48	Ludlow Square	Cearnóg Ludlow	Off New Lodge Road, BT15	28	Serpentine Gardens	Gairdíní na Lúb	Off Voltaire Gardens, BT36	60	Glencolin Park	Páirc Ghleann Chollainn	Off Glencolin Drive, BT11	48	Blacks Court	Cúirt Mhic Giolla Dhuibh	Off Blacks Road, BT11	18
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																																						
3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.																																						
3.6	<p>Caffrey Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 occupiers (42.86%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (4.76%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 																																						

3.7	<p>River Close, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 occupiers (29.03%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.8	<p>Summerhill Walk, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 occupiers (32.5%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.9	<p>Lagmore View Manor, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 occupiers (39.58%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.10	<p>Ludlow Square, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 occupiers (17.86%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.11	<p>Serpentine Gardens, BT36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 occupiers (30%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.12	<p>Glencolin Park, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupiers (2.08%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.13	<p>Blacks Court, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 occupiers (38.89%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.14	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>The Council’s policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> <p>All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>

3.15	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £2500 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>
3.16	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Review of the current data collection process for surveys for dual language street sign applications.
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Alan Mayrs, Principal Building Control Surveyor ext. 2428

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	At the SP&R meeting on 20 th March 2026 officers were asked to provide a report to review the data collection process for conducting surveys associated with dual language street sign applications and to consider alternatives to increase inclusiveness.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider the process for data collection for conducting surveys in relation to dual language street sign applications and to agree that the current process for domestic properties utilising the electoral list is continued.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members are advised of the request by the SP&R Committee in March for a report to review how data relating to dual language street sign surveys is collected and to consider options to make the process more inclusive. Concerns were raised regarding occupants, not on the electoral roll, being unable to participate in street surveys, and individuals receiving two surveys for their household.
	<u>Purpose of Street Survey</u>
3.2	Both the legislation and policy regarding dual language street signage requires Council to have regard to the views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.
3.3	The legislation states: <i>“In deciding whether and, if so, how to exercise its powers [to erect a nameplate expressing the name of the street in a language other than English] in relation to any street, a council shall have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.”</i>
3.4	Specifically in relation to the policy it states, <i>“Where fifteen percent or more of the Occupiers of that street have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, then such a sign may be erected, subject to the residual discretion of the Council”</i> . The policy further provides the following areas that may be taken into account when making this decision.
3.5	(a) the views of the Occupiers of the street; (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs; (c) consideration of the local context of the application; (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and (e) all material considerations relating to the application
	<u>Current Survey Process</u>
3.6	The dual language street signs policy requires officers to canvass “Occupiers” of a street to seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language.
3.7	In line with the policy “Occupiers” are any person whose name appears in the current Electoral Register (over the age of 18) plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises.
3.8	In addition, the policy requires that each survey should have a unique identifying number and that each survey response received by the Council for that application should be cross-referenced against that unique identifier. The policy indicates that Council may choose to audit certain responses to surveys.

3.9	<p>For each survey, officers will visit the electoral office to obtain information on the numbers of occupants residing in each domestic property for a specific street. Using this information surveys will be prepared, giving each survey a unique reference number. This process allows officers to record the surveys being issued to a property and then to correlate that data with those being returned. Residents must provide a name and address on the returned survey to be a valid response as this allows checking of the address and return against the unique identifier. Names are not currently collected from the electoral register for this process. The full register is published annually and the most up to date register is used to collect survey data.</p>
3.10	<p>Surveys have been conducted using the electoral list since 1998 when the first Belfast City Council policy was developed and adopted. However, the use of a unique identifier was introduced in the 2022 policy to make the process more robust. At least 7 of the other councils in Northern Ireland with a Dual Language Street Signs Policy use electoral register data for surveying domestic residents and the one council issues one survey per property.</p>
3.11	<p>Using the electoral register information as the basis for surveys is considered to be the most robust way of identifying the numbers of residents who reside on the street and linking those numbers to individual properties for survey purposes. It also allows all individuals (not just households) to be surveyed by providing robust information on how many adults live within each housing unit.</p>
3.12	<p>Domestic properties without residents on the electoral list will not receive any survey under the current process.</p>
3.13	<p>As there is no electoral register equivalent for Non-Domestic properties, they are provided with one survey per address/business. The Land and Property Services (LPS) 'Pointer' data set is currently used in to establish numbers and addresses for such surveys supplemented by on site checks if required.</p>
<p><u>Alternative Survey Options</u></p>	
<p>One survey per dwelling</p>	
3.14	<p>There are no alternative sources of data, officers have identified, that would allow occupant numbers within residential properties to be quantified and/or associated with a particular street.</p>
3.15	<p>The 'Pointer' address database contains the common standard address for every property in Northern Ireland. LPS maintains the database with help from local councils and Royal Mail and Belfast City Council have access to this data through the NIMA agreement.</p>
3.16	<p>A position could be taken whereby every domestic address on the 'Pointer' database is sent a single survey. This would be an alternative to using the electoral list but would mean that one survey is issued per property and residents as a collective within each property would get a single vote. This may cause discontent within such properties with differing views of occupants who would all be entitled to vote under the current process if registered on the electoral list.</p>
3.17	<p>As an example of how this change could impact survey numbers for a specific street, the following real case scenario is provided. A street recently surveyed which had 41 domestic property addresses on the 'Pointer' dataset would result in 41 surveys being issued under the proposal as opposed to the actual 83 surveys issued to 39 properties based on the electoral list. (Two properties had no residents on the electoral list).</p>

3.18	<p>Whilst this approach may prove to be more inclusive in relation to properties on a street receiving a survey, it risks excluding many more individuals in households where there is more than one adult. In the example provided 42 people would not be given a vote</p>
3.19	<p>Officers would also point out that whilst Pointer is the definitive address dataset for NI it will not be 100% accurate and some properties may still not get a survey if they are not on the list. This would require supplementation with onsite checks against Pointer.</p>
<p>The use of ratepayer or land registry information</p>	
3.20	<p>Councils do not currently have access to either of these datasets and for the reasons set out below consider information from both these sources would be of limited value in relation to conducting surveys.</p>
3.21	<p>Ratepayer information held by LPS relates solely to the individual who has responsibility or is nominated to pay property tax and would not be an indicator of residency or land ownership. It is understood that Council would require a data sharing agreement with LPS to access such information and a lawful basis under GDPR giving us authority to be a recipient of such data. As with the option for one survey per household above, this option limits a survey response to only one individual who may live within the property, with no guarantee that this is their primary residence.</p>
3.22	<p>In relation to land registry information LPS also hold the 'Land Registry' for Northern Ireland and this data would prove ownership but not residency or tenancy. Searches of the Land Registry have a cost associated with them and not all properties are registered requiring further searches on the Registry of Deeds. In addition, this work would be administratively burdensome with the data obtained being of limited use in the establishment of survey data relevant to street residency.</p>
<p>Supplementing Electoral Register information</p>	
3.23	<p>Officers could supplement the current process using the electoral list by offering a further single survey to any domestic dwelling where there are no residents on the electoral list. This would be in addition to sending surveys to all residents on the electoral list. For the street example above this would result in 2 additional surveys being issued, 1 each, to 2 properties being properties on the Pointer address list which had no occupants on the electoral list. There would be an additional administrative burden in the survey process if this was adopted. In addition, this approach would not provide equity as residents not on the electoral list would be treated differently, dependant on whether someone else in the same dwelling was on the list or not.</p>
<p><u>Conclusion</u></p>	
3.24	<p>The electoral list is used by at least 7 of the other Councils in NI with a Dual Language Street Signs policy, to conduct surveys of residents in relation to dual language street sign applications. It is the only mechanism by which the number of individual residing in a domestic property can be determined.</p>
3.25	<p>Moving to a process of providing one survey per property would mean a much lower number of surveys being issued. In the example provided 50% reduction from 83 to 41 and occupants within properties would have to agree a collective response.</p>
3.26	<p>Similarly, whilst moving to a process of supplementing the electoral register with an additional survey for houses with no one listed would ensure that all properties receive at least one survey, this would create further complexity in the process. It may lead to criticism from other residents not on the electoral list who would not get a survey due to the fact they reside in a property with others who are.</p>

3.27	<p>Other data sources i.e. ratepayer and land registry information are not currently readily available and are also not reliable indicator of residency. The electoral register is the only data source that can be used to verify the numbers of individuals who are resident of the street being surveyed.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.28	<p>There are no direct financial or resource implications in relation to maintaining current survey process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.29	None
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None

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Subject:	Dual language street sign application for University Street (including figures for other applications that did not meet the 15% threshold of residents in favour of a dual language street sign)
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Alan Mayrs, Principal Building Control Surveyor ext. 2428

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
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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/Summary of Main Issues																														
1.1	<p>This report is provided in response to a request from a member at the P&C Committee meeting on 14th March 26 for more detail to be provided for the dual language street sign application at University Street to review the decision taken to close the application.</p> <p>In addition, following the meeting of council on 5th May, survey figures are provided for all applications that did not meet the 15% threshold in favour of a proposal to erect dual language street signs, the list of which was provided at April P&C Committee.</p>																														
2.0	Recommendation																														
	<u>University Street</u>																														
2.1	<p>1. Members are asked to consider the information provided and the survey results for the dual language street sign application for University Street which failed to meet the 15% threshold at street survey and either: -</p> <p>(a) Agree the application should remain closed; or</p> <p>(b) Advise officers on any other course of action with regard to this application.</p>																														
2.2	<p>2. Members are also asked to note:</p> <p>(a) the results of the surveys that have been closed for all other applications failing to meet the 15% threshold of those in favour of a dual language street sign.</p> <p>(b) that applications failing to meet the 15% threshold will be included in future standard reports for information where applications are being considered by members.</p>																														
3.0	Main Report																														
	<u>University Street</u>																														
3.1	The dual language street sign application for University Street requesting a second language in Irish was received on 22 nd September 2022. The request was made by Cllr McKeown who is member for the District Electoral Area of Botanic. A further application was received for the same street on 4 th April 2025 from Cllr McKay.																														
3.2	The survey of occupiers on the street was conducted between 23 rd January 2025 and 7 th February 2025.																														
3.3	<p>The full results of the survey are detailed in the table below with additional breakdown between domestic and non-domestic surveys as this was an issue raised in the discussion at Committee: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Property Type</th> <th>Surveys Delivered</th> <th>Surveys returned</th> <th>For</th> <th>Against</th> <th>No Preference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic (Residents on the electoral list)</td> <td>90</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Domestic</td> <td>36</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>24</td> <td>18</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Percentage</td> <td></td> <td>14.28%</td> <td>2.38%</td> <td>2.38</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Property Type	Surveys Delivered	Surveys returned	For	Against	No Preference	Domestic (Residents on the electoral list)	90	14	12	2	0	Non-Domestic	36	10	6	1	3		Total	24	18	3	3		Percentage		14.28%	2.38%	2.38
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3.4	The policy on dual language street signs states as follows: -																														

“If the minimum threshold of fifteen percent is not met, the Applicant will be given two weeks to advise the Council of any special circumstances in relation to the application. If such special circumstances relate to the processing of a survey, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, in conjunction with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services will determine whether such exceptional circumstances exist to refer the matter to Committee. Where exceptional circumstances relate to matters other than the processing of a survey, the matter will be referred to Committee. If there are no special circumstances, the application will end.”

3.5 In accordance with the policy the applicant was advised by letter that the street failed to meet the 15% threshold and the applicant was given two weeks to provide details of any special circumstances pertaining to the application. This correspondence was issued on 27th February 2025 with a deadline of 14th March 2025. No correspondence detailing any special circumstances was received and the applications was closed.

3.6 Members are further advised that the current policy states

“The Council will retain a residual discretion 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. 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:

- (a) the views of the Occupiers of the street.*
- (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;*
- (c) consideration of the local context of the application;*
- (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and*
- (e) all material considerations relating to the application”*

Other applications where support for the erection of dual language nameplates was less than 15%

3.7 In the report provided to People and Communities Committee in April a list of streets was presented where the support for the erection of dual language nameplates was less than 15%. For noting, these are listed below at 3.10 and the results of the surveys carried out are provided for information.

3.8 Officers followed the policy for each of these applications, including consideration of any exceptional circumstances presented by a small number of applicants following the procedure as described in paragraph 3.4 above.

3.9 None of these were deemed to be exceptional circumstances, and as such all applications were closed.

Street	Language	Surveys Issued	For	Against	No preference
Belmont Avenue	Irish	121	10 (8.26%)	38 (31.40%)	2 (1.65%)
Belvedere Park	Irish	119	13 (10.92%)	33 (27.73%)	0
Burmah Street	Irish	70	10 (14.28%)	6 (8.57%)	0
Cherryvalley Gardens	Irish	83	6 (7.22%)	43 (51.80%)	1 (1.20%)
Clovelly Street	Irish	18	0	5 (27.77%)	0
Colinvale	Irish	246	35 (14.23%)	0	0
Cooke Mews	Irish	4	0	0	0
Eliza Street	Irish	1	0	0	0

Fortwilliam Grange	Irish	65	5 (7.69%)	10 (15.38%)	4 (6.15%)
Friendly Way	Irish	30	4 (13.33%)	0	0
Hawthornden Road	Irish	91	1 (1.09%)	46 (50.54)	7 (7.69%)
Isoline Street	Irish	78	3 (3.85%)	23 (29.49%)	0 (0%)
Kent Street	Irish	42	2 (4.76%)	1 (2.38%)	0
King Street	Irish	76	3 (3.9%)	0	0
Knightsbridge Park	Irish	95	8 (8.42%)	47 (49.47%)	3 (3.15%)
Leganoe Street	Irish	6	0	0	0
Lismain Street	Irish	53	7 (13.20%)	11 (20.75%)	0
Loopland Drive	Irish	148	17 (11.48%)	63 (42.56%)	1 (0.67%)
Magdala Street	Irish	24	1 (4.16%)	0	0
Marsden Terrace	Irish	12	1 (8.33%)	0	0
McAuley Street	Irish	101	10 (9.90%)	0	1 (0.99%)
Melrose Street	Irish	91	7 (7.69%)	3 (3.29%)	0
Mill Pond Glen	Irish	83	8 (9.63%)	0	0
Mount Merrion Avenue	Irish	362	33 (9.12%)	120 (33.15%)	4 (1.10%)
Queens Road	Irish	339	16 (4.71%)	11 (3.24%)	2 (0.58%)
Ravenhill Reach	Irish	35	2 (5.71%)	4 (11.42%)	0
Shaftesbury Avenue	Irish	90	13 (14.44%)	0	0
Skegoneill Avenue	Irish	242	29 (11.98%)	43 (17.76%)	1 (0.41%)
Stewart Street	Irish	77	6 (7.79%)	0	1 (1.29%)
Sunningdale Gardens	Irish	145	3 (2.07%)	64 (44.14%)	0
Victoria Road	Irish	173	7 (4.05%)	64 (36.99%)	1 (0.58%)
Wellesley Avenue	Irish	123	9 (7.32%)	3 (2.44%)	1 (0.81%)

3.10 It is proposed that any applications where the 15% threshold has not been met will now be included for information on an ongoing basis in future dual language street sign reports being brought to People and Communities Committees.

3.11 It should be noted that following deferral from the Committee in April 2026, a further report on how any duplicate applications for dual language street signs for the same streets that have been closed will be brought to the next committee in June.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.12 There are no financial or resource implications if the decision is taken to confirm the current closure of this application. There may be financial and resource implications on any other decision dependant on the decision taken.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.13	The application for University Street was subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs in relation to the carrying out of the survey.
3.14	The initial assessment and elected member notification carried out for the application did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the survey being carried out.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	None

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Subject:	Proposal for naming two new streets
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

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	<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 No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues						
1.1	To consider the applications for the continuation of an existing street and the naming of a new street in the city.						
2.0	Recommendation						
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a decision in respect of the applications for the naming of a new street and the continuation of an existing street in the city.</p> <p>The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant the applications, or • Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration. 						
3.0	Main Report						
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>						
3.2	<p><u>Naming of a new street and continuation of existing street</u> Members are asked to consider the following applications for naming a new street and the continuation of an existing street. The application 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 border="1" data-bbox="335 1205 1401 1377"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="335 1205 699 1303">Proposed New Street</th> <th data-bbox="699 1205 1062 1303">Location</th> <th data-bbox="1062 1205 1401 1303">Applicant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="335 1303 699 1377">Kavanagh Court</td> <td data-bbox="699 1303 1062 1377">Off Ardoyne Avenue, BT14</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1303 1401 1377">Clanmill Housing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed New Street	Location	Applicant	Kavanagh Court	Off Ardoyne Avenue, BT14	Clanmill Housing
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Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant					
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3.5	<p>Clanmill Housing have proposed Kavanagh Court, as their first choice for a new street which is located on lands at and surrounding the former Flax Centre at Ardoyne Avenue. The new development will consist of 45 new dwellings (27 houses and 18 apartments).</p>						
3.6	<p>This name choice follows a community consultation with local community groups and residents whereby there was a request to name the street in honour of the late Fr. Myles Kavanagh, the founding member of the Flax Trust. Under Fr. Kavanagh's leadership, the Trust served the local community creating jobs, improving housing, advancing education and training, promoting the arts and bringing people together across the divide. His vision and work have had a lasting impact on generations of local residents.</p>						
3.7							

3.8	<p>The applicant has proposed Flax Lane as the second name choice as the site location has strong historical links to the linen mills and flax production. The applicant has proposed Flax Court as the third name choice, again as the site location has strong historical links to the linen mills and flax production.</p>
4.0	<p>Alskea Ltd have proposed Haddo Place for the continuation of an existing street that is being extended to accommodate the development of 33 new dwellings.</p>
4.1	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p>
4.1	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct Equality implications.</p>
5.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	Belfast Tree Strategy Update/Notice of Motion – Community Orchards
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director, Resources Fleet, Open Spaces & Streetscene
Contact Officer:	Alan McHaffie, Senior Woodland and Recreation officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding progress on several key actions associated with the Belfast Tree Strategy and the successful launch of the Community Orchards Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are requested to note the great progress made with the Belfast Tree Strategy since its launch in October 2023 and an update on Notice of Motion – Community Orchards.
3.0	Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Belfast Tree Strategy was produced with the aim of managing and improving the city's tree-scape over a ten year period, up to October 2033, focussing on protecting, enhancing and expanding the Council's woodlands, trees and hedges, connecting people to nature, and ensuring that they continue to be a major asset to everyone who lives in, works in and visits Belfast.

3.2 The Belfast Tree Strategy objectives are broken into three main categories:

- **Trees and Urban Forest Structure**
- **Community Framework**
- **Sustainable Resource Management Approach** (see appendix 1)

3.2 **Community Framework' - International Reputation**

Belfast City Council has for the third year in succession been awarded 'Tree Cities of the World' status, strengthening its position as a leading urban forestry champion.

3.3 Currently, Belfast is the only city in Northern Ireland to achieve this accreditation and stands alongside Rio de Janeiro, Auckland, Washington and Toronto – 283 other cities across 24 countries that have met the programme's rigorous standards.

The initiative, co-founded in 2019 by the Arbour Day Foundation and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, celebrates cities that show exemplary commitment to nurturing their urban tree canopy.

3.4 In earning 'Tree Cities of the World' accreditation, Belfast City Council has consistently met the five internationally recognised core standards of urban forestry management:

1. Clear responsibility for tree care through dedicated city leadership and governance.
2. Establish tree management objectives that guide long-term planning and tree protection.
3. A continually updated inventory of local tree resources to inform strategic decision-making.
4. A dedicated budget for planting, maintaining and protecting trees.
5. An annual tree celebration, strengthening public engagement and environmental stewardship.

3.5	<p>Trees and Urban Forest Structure / Community Framework (New Tree/hedge planting 2025/26)</p> <p>The Council continues to work in partnership with organisations such as the Woodland Trust, Belfast Hills and the National Trust in the delivery of new tree planting across the city, with the objective of increasing tree canopy cover, addressing tree equity and supporting the One Million Tree initiative which runs to 2035.</p>
3.6	<p>Since the establishment of the One Million Tree initiative in 2020 the Council and its partners have planted a total of 293,516 new trees and 4,232 linear metres of hedging, what is more the Council remains committed to achieving 30% canopy cover by 2050.</p> <p>It should be noted the National Trust were a major contributor to the 2025/26 tree planting figures, which came about from their successful application for funding from the Forest Service, as part of the Afforestation Project in the Glencairn and Ballygomartin area.</p>
3.7	<p>The Council continues to collaborate with existing partners and is similarly striving to establish new partnerships, all of which is essential if the Council is to increase tree canopy cover across the city, however Members are reminded that whilst the Council is committed to increasing tree canopy cover, it should be stressed the One Million Tree initiative is a city wide project, which will necessitate increased engagement with other land owners to ensure the Council achieves its objectives, as set out within the Belfast Tree Strategy.</p>
3.8	<p>Notice of Motion – Community Orchards</p> <p>Following a NOM moved by Councillor Bower and seconded by the High Sheriff, Councillor McAteer, the Council launched its first Community Orchard project on the 3rd March 2026 with members of the Malone Tornadoes who planted fourteen fruit trees and were assisted by several Elected Members (see appendix 2)</p>
3.9	<p>Since the launch of the Community Orchard project the Council has delivered several small community orchards in Ardoyne, one in the grounds of a local day nursery and another in the neighbouring community centre. The Council has also planted a small community orchard with the L'arche organisation in the east of the city, a group which work directly with a network of communities of people with and without learning difficulties.</p>

3.10	The Council will continue its work on the establishment of small community orchards across the city at the beginning of the next tree planting season which runs from November to March each year.
3.11	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None
3.12	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u>
3.13	None
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Belfast Tree Strategy, 37-point Action Plan Appendix 2 – Photograph of the Community Orchard launch

Appendix 1 – Belfast Tree Strategy, 37-point Action Plan

Trees and Urban Forest Structure	T1 - Relative tree canopy cover
	T2 - Size (age) diversity
	T3 - Species diversity
	T4 - Species suitability
	T5 – Publicly owned trees
	T6 – Publicly owned woodlands & natural areas
	T7 – Trees on private property
	T8 – Other elements of the UF; shrubs, hedges, green walls and roofs, plants, animals and water
	T9 – Tree benefits (including biodiversity)
	T10 – Wider Environmental Considerations (including Climate Change, Air quality and Water)
Community Framework	C1 – Governance and leadership
	C2 – Belfast Council departmental cooperation
	C3 – Utilities cooperation
	C4 – Green industry cooperation
	C5– Involvement of large private and institutional landholders
	C6 – Community involvement and neighbourhood action
	C7 – General appreciation of trees as a community resource
	C8– Regional collaboration

	C9 - International Reputation
Sustainable Resource Management Approach	R1 – Tree and woodlands inventory
	R2 – Tree valuation and asset management approach
	R3 – Canopy cover assessment and goals
	R4 – Tree equity
	R5 – Reviewing and improving the Tree Strategy
	R6– Urban forestry funding
	R7 – Urban forestry program capacity and staffing
	R8 – Tree establishment planning and implementation
	R9– Growing site suitability
	R10 – Tree protection policy development and enforcement
	R11 – Maintenance of publicly owned trees
	R12 – Management of publicly owned natural areas
	R13 – Tree risk management
	R14 – Biosecurity
	R15 – Urban wood and green waste utilisation
	R16 – Native vegetation
	R17 – Research and Development

**R18 – Open Urban Forest
data and Web-map**

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Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2026 – 2027
Date:	9th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing 2025-2026 Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and seek approval for playground refurbishments under the 2026-2027 programme.
1.2	Members are asked to note that refurbishments are to be funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed for this work in this financial year.
1.3	Members should also note that scores from the independent Play Value and Accessibility Audit, carried out in 2024, have again informed this year's site selection.
2.0	Recommendations

2.1	<p>The Committee are asked to agree refurbishment works at the playgrounds below as part of the Playground Improvement Programme 2026-2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Eagles Playground • Lemberg Street Playground • Willowbank Playground • Browns Square Playground
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Playground Improvement Programme</u></p> <p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) continues to make a positive impact to the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds, providing new equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. Under last year's programme the following playgrounds refurbishments are either complete or currently underway (see Appendix 1 - Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2025-26 Images).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rise (complete) • Ohio Street (complete) • Finvoy Street (complete) • Roddens Crescent (underway) <p>3.2 Members will be aware that, as agreed at P&C Committee in December 2023, the Play Value and Accessibility Audit informed site selection for 2025-2026 and will inform selection for all subsequent improvement programmes. Total scores allocated for each playground relate to the types of play opportunities available and their accessibility for a range of age groups and abilities (See Appendix 2 Play Value & Accessibility Results Table).</p> <p>3.3 Members should note, we suggest Carema Allen Memorial playground, ranked 10th on the Play Value and Accessibility Results Table, is not selected for refurbishment under PIP 2026-27, as this facility may be relocated and redeveloped as part of a larger capital project (Stage 1 - Emerging Project status) in close proximity to the Braniel Community Centre.</p> <p>3.4 In light of the emerging capital project at Braniel Community Centre, and based on estimated costs to deliver improvements within the available budget of £580k, the next lowest scoring playgrounds for refurbishment this financial year would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Eagles playground • Lemberg Street playground • Willowbank playground • Browns Square playground <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 All proposed playground improvement works will be funded through the Capital Programme within an allocated budget of £580,000. CNS Landscape Planning & Development officers will continue to re-design play facilities and project manage all works associated with the delivery of PIP 2026-27</p> <p>3.6 As with previous years, CNS Operational and Outreach Managers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to elected members, local communities, and user groups.</p>

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2025-26 Images Appendix 2 – Play Value & Accessibility Results Table

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Appendix 1 - Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2025-26 Images

Ohio Street Playground

Before



After



Whiterise Playground

Before



After



Finvoy Street Playground

Before

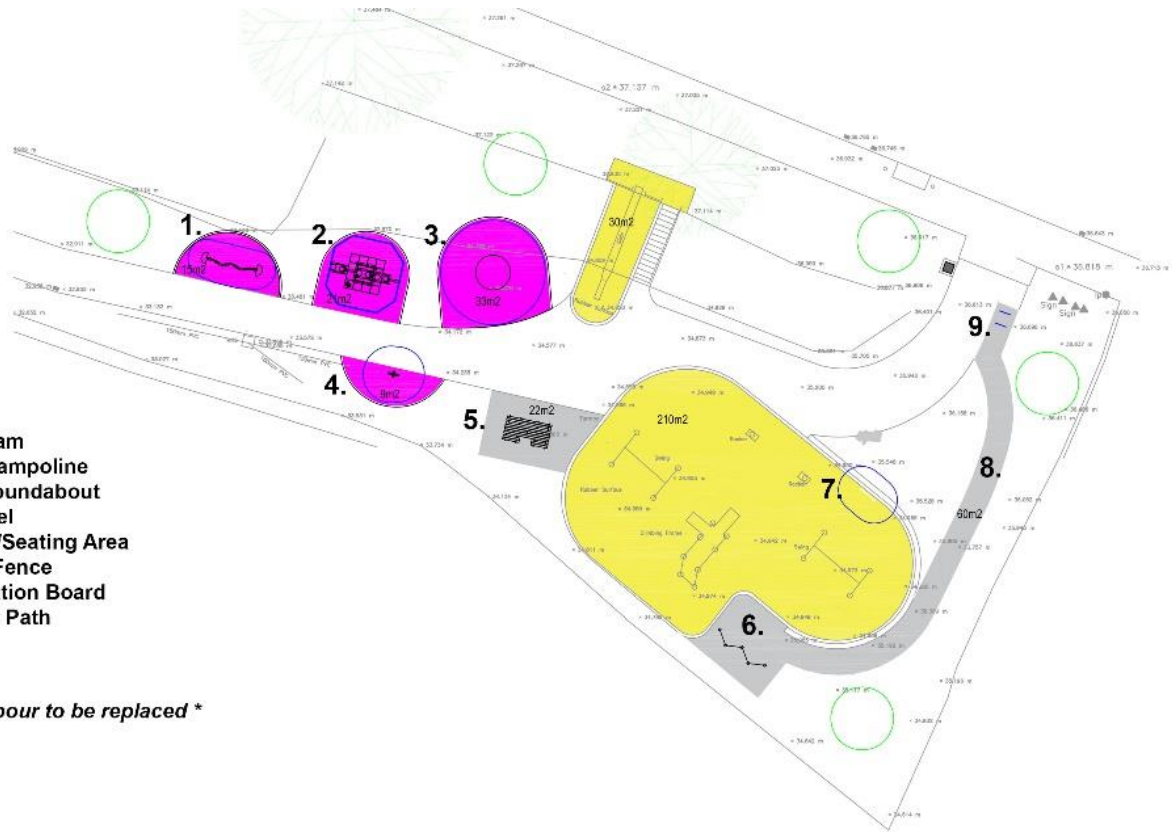


After



Roddens Crescent

Commencing May 2026



- 1. Balance Beam
- 2. Inclusive Trampoline
- 3. Inclusive Roundabout
- 4. Sound Wheel
- 5. Picnic Table/Seating Area
- 6. Play Panel Fence
- 7. Communication Board
- 8. New Bitmac Path
- 9. Bike Racks

* Existing wetpour to be replaced *



Roddens Crescent Playground - Concept Layout

April 2026



Appendix 2 - Play Value and Accessibility Results Table

		Refurbished under PIP							
		Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2026-27							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score	
1	BT4	Grampian Avenue	12	10	1	1	12	24	
2	BT15	Cathedral Gardens	15	2	8	0	10	25	
3	BT5	Bridge End	9	8	6	3	17	26	
4	BT13	Michelle Baird	17	9	1	1	11	28	
5	BT7	Balfour Avenue	12	14	2	2	18	30	
6	BT17	White Rise	12	13	3	2	18	30	
7	BT13	Ohio Street	10	9	10	2	21	31	
8	BT5	Roddens Crescent	13	13	3	3	19	32	
9	BT5	Finvoy Street	12	14	3	3	20	32	
10	BT5	Carema Allen	13	14	4	2	20	33	
11	BT17	Mount Eagles	13	16	2	2	20	33	
12	BT12	Lemberg Street	11	13	6	3	22	33	
13	BT12	Willowbank	11	15	4	3	22	33	
14	BT13	Browns Square	10	14	6	3	23	33	
15	BT12	Divis Back Path/ Páirc an Lonnáin	18	8	8	1	17	35	
16	BT15	Alexandra Park Upper	15	15	3	3	21	35	
17	BT36	Finlay	13	16	3	3	22	35	
18	BT15	Alexandra Park Lower	12	14	6	3	23	35	
19	BT4	Ballymacarrett	11	17	3	3	23	35	
20	BT13	Highfield	12	14	6	3	23	35	

		Refurbished under PIP							
		Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2026-27							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score	
21	BT15	New Lodge	11	15	6	3	24	35	
22	BT6	Cregagh Play Area	15	15	3	3	21	36	
23	BT15	North Queen Street	14	16	3	3	22	36	
24	BT11	Horn Drive	13	17	3	3	23	36	
25	BT12	McCorry Park	13	17	3	3	23	36	
26	BT12	Springfield Site A	11	16	6	3	25	36	
27	BT14	Ardoyne	14	17	3	3	23	37	
28	BT13	Bull Ring Senior (Shankill)	14	15	6	2	23	37	
29	BT4	Tommy Patton Park	13	18	3	3	24	37	
30	BT12	Dunville Park	18	15	3	2	20	38	
31	BT14	Alloa Street	16	16	3	3	22	38	
32	BT4	Knocknagoney	16	14	5	3	22	38	
33	BT12	Springhill	15	17	3	3	23	38	
34	BT5	Erin Thomson Memorial	14	12	10	2	24	38	
35	BT14	Ardoyne Community Centre	13	16	6	3	25	38	
36	BT9	Musgrave Sensory	13	4	18	3	25	38	
37	BT12	Nubia Street	13	16	6	3	25	38	
38	BT14	Tyndale	13	15	7	3	25	38	
39	BT17	Hannahstown	17	14	6	2	22	39	
40	BT6	Eversleigh Street	14	15	7	3	25	39	
41	BT13	Glencairn	14	17	5	3	25	39	
42	BT17	Sally Gardens	14	19	3	3	25	39	
43	BT5	Mountforde	13	17	6	3	26	39	

		Refurbished under PIP							
		Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2026-27							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score	
44	BT5	Flora Street	12	21	3	3	27	39	
45	BT4	Skippers	13	17	7	3	27	40	
46	BT17	Jubilee Park	12	14	11	3	28	40	
47	BT12	Blythefield	11	20	6	3	29	40	
48	BT5	Clara Street	16	17	3	5	25	41	
49	BT10	Geeragh	15	13	10	3	26	41	
50	BT17	Poleglass	10	17	11	3	31	41	
51	BT11	Carnamore Play Area	16	17	6	3	26	42	
52	BT6	Daddy Winkers	15	17	3	7	27	42	
53	BT8	Edenderry	15	17	3	7	27	42	
54	BT10	Wedderburn	15	18	6	3	27	42	
55	BT13	Dover Street	14	19	6	3	28	42	
56	BT3	Victoria Park	18	19	3	3	25	43	
57	BT17	Areema Drive	13	16	11	3	30	43	
58	BT12	Olympia Leisure Centre	18	17	6	3	26	44	
59	BT11	Glassmullin	17	19	5	3	27	44	
60	BT14	Ballysillan	16	19	6	3	28	44	
61	BT36	Navarra Place	16	19	6	3	28	44	
62	BT7	Stewart Street	12	18	11	3	32	44	
63	BT7	McClure Street	11	19	11	3	33	44	
64	BT14	Glenbank Park	15	16	11	3	30	45	
65	BT5	Hanwood	14	17	11	3	31	45	
66	BT9	Taughmonagh Park	14	25	3	3	31	45	

		Refurbished under PIP							
		Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2026-27							
		BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
67		BT12	Whiterock Leisure Centre	14	17	11	3	31	45
68		BT12	Grosvenor Community	13	18	11	3	32	45
69		BT15	Queen Mary's Waterworks	23	17	3	3	23	46
70		BT6	Cherryvale	21	19	3	3	25	46
71		BT4	Belmont Park	18	19	6	3	28	46
72		BT17	Fullerton Park	17	15	11	3	29	46
73		BT5	Tullycarnet Park	16	16	11	3	30	46
74		BT15	Castleton	14	18	11	3	32	46
75		BT15	Duncairn Gardens	14	22	7	3	32	46
76		BT8	Belvoir Drive	13	19	7	7	33	46
77		BT5	Clarawood	13	19	11	3	33	46
78		BT13	Woodvale Park	18	17	9	3	29	47
79		BT7	Rev Robert Bradford	15	18	11	3	32	47
80		BT13	Hammer	14	19	11	3	33	47
81		BT12	Vere Foster	14	19	11	3	33	47
82		BT15	The Grove	18	18	8	4	30	48
83		BT13	Blackmountain	15	19	11	3	33	48
84	S	BT9	Drumglass	18	19	6	6	31	49
85		BT12	Falls Park	16	19	11	3	33	49
86		BT14	Glenbryne Park	13	22	11	3	36	49
87		BT17	Lady Dickson	21	14	11	4	29	50
88		BT15	Cavehill	16	20	10	4	34	50
89		BT9	Barnett Demesne	14	23	10	3	36	50

		Refurbished under PIP							
		Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2026-27							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score	
90	BT7	Botanic Gardens	18	19	11	3	33	51	
91	BT10	Old Golf Course Road	18	19	11	3	33	51	
92	BT14	Tir Na Nog	18	19	11	3	33	51	
93	BT17	Brook activity centre	19	19	11	3	33	52	
94	BT6	Lower Ormeau	18	20	11	3	34	52	
95	BT14	Westlands	17	21	11	3	35	52	
96	BT11	Northlink	15	24	11	3	38	53	
97	BT14	Marrowbone Junior	21	19	11	3	33	54	
98	BT4	Dr Pitt Park	18	18	11	7	36	54	
99	BT5	Orange Field	16	22	11	7	40	56	
100	BT6	Clonduff	14	23	11	8	42	56	
101	BT11	Pairc Nua Chollan	18	20	11	8	39	57	
102	BT7	Ormeau Park (Park Road)	20	23	12	4	39	59	
103	BT15	Loughside	20	27	12	4	43	63	
104	BT36	Belfast Zoo	20	18	19	7	44	64	
105	BT10	Blacks Road (combined)	18	18	20	8	46	64	

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Subject:	Playground Accessibility Update
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on issues relating to accessibility in playgrounds. Members are reminded that, as a result of a Issue raised at the People and Communities Committee meeting on 5th August 2025, it was agreed a report should be submitted outlining current standards of accessibility in playgrounds and what steps have been taken to date, an overview of engagement and research that has been undertaken with children directly, together with the potential of mapping the accessibility of play parks across the city for users.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	To note the work that has been delivered to date, or is currently underway, to improve accessibility in council-maintained playgrounds
2.2	To note the engagement and research that has been undertaken with children directly.
2.3	To explore the development of an online map showing accessibility of council-maintained playgrounds.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Current standard of accessibility in playgrounds</u>
3.1	In April 2024 council commissioned an external consultant to carry out an audit of play value and accessibility at all council-maintained playgrounds. The scores allocated for each playground relate to existing features, types of play opportunities available and their accessibility for a range of age groups and abilities. Site reports, produced as part of the audit, now provide a detailed breakdown of current standards of accessibility in all 105 council- maintained playgrounds (see Appendix 1 - Example Play Value & Accessibility Audit Report). Scores are now used to identify playgrounds most in need of refurbishment under our annual Playground Improvement Programme.
	<u>Steps to improve Accessibility within our Playgrounds Taken to Date</u>
3.2	Since 2012 we have refurbished over fifty of our existing playgrounds across the city, investing over £8 million under our annual Playground Improvement Programme, providing more inclusive places for children of all abilities to enjoy.
3.3	The Play Value & Accessibility Audit (2024) now informs sites selection under PIP and is used as a design guide to help deliver more accessible playgrounds going forward.
3.4	Council's Play Equipment Supply Contract (2021-2026) allows us to procure equipment for use in playground improvement works. The supply contract will be retendered in the coming months and will include an additional five items of accessible equipment e.g. wheelchair accessible, swing, see-saw and trampolines, providing a wider palette of equipment to improve accessibility in playgrounds.

3.5	Communication Boards, displaying symbols to help children with limited language skills express themselves, are currently being installed in all council-maintained playgrounds, work is expected to be complete by the November 2026.
3.6	In 2020 council installed special needs swing-seats in all playgrounds with suitable swing frames. There are now support swing-seats in more than 50 council-maintained playgrounds across the city. Installation of support swing-seats will continue to be delivered under PIP.
3.7	An Accessible Signage Working Group, comprised of council officers, consultants and representatives from Council's Disability Advisory Panel was set up in January 2026 to design a fully accessible entrance sign for use in the Reconnected Belfast project (Waterworks and Alexandra Park). It is hoped this sign could be used as a template in other parks and open spaces.
3.8	Capital funding has been secured to develop a new accessible, sensory play facility at Woodvale Park on the site of the disused bowling green. It is envisaged that this project can be used as a pilot for other projects moving forward.
3.9	Changing Places facilities have been agreed for Waterworks and Alexandra Park as part of the Reconnected Belfast project; a feasibility study is currently underway for another Changing Places facility in proximity to the Woodvale Park Sensory Garden site.
3.10	Capital funding has been secured to improve accessibility at Musgrave Park Therapy Garden. Improvements include installation of wheelchair accessible equipment and a sensory trail; completion is due in June 2026.
3.11	Officers participated in Council's International Day for People with Disabilities 2025, giving a presentation on accessible play equipment and receiving feedback from attendees, including requests for an online resource that could help parents / carers to locate suitable play facilities that cater for a range of needs.
3.12	Council Officers continue to attend quarterly meetings of the Regional Play Forum with other councils to share knowledge and guidance on improving accessible play provision.

3.13	<p><u>Overview of engagement and research that had been undertaken with children</u></p> <p>In 2024 Council commissioned Playboard NI to produce a Play Assessment Report, establishing a baseline of existing play provision across the city. As part of the process PlayBoard NI undertook consultation with children and received 142 online responses.</p>
3.14	<p>Consultation with children has been undertaken for all major capital schemes through local schools and youth groups e.g. Reconnected Belfast (Waterworks & Alexandra Park), this work is led by colleagues in Property & Projects Department.</p>
3.15	<p>Where feasible engagement with local users, including children, is undertaken for PIP, examples include drop-in information sharing sessions, on-site discussions and one to one meetings.</p>
3.16	<p>Consultation was carried out with representatives from Michell House School and Glenveagh School in 2025 regarding the design of council's communication boards for use in playgrounds.</p>
3.17	<p><u>Mapping accessibility of playgrounds</u></p> <p>The council website currently lists all council-maintained playgrounds, giving their location and opening times however there is currently no information on how accessible the playgrounds are. There is potential to create an online resource showing playground accessibility, however a detailed audit of all accessible equipment and its location would be required before developing a format to present the information online with guidance from colleagues in Corporate Communications and Digital Services.</p>
3.18	<p>Members should note Playboard NI are keen to develop an online, regional map that includes inclusive play provision, Council would have an opportunity to feed into this work and help create a central database for play across N. Ireland.</p>
3.19	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Development of a BCC online map for playground accessibility would require additional resource, to audit existing provision and create an online resource to inform potential users / visitors.</p>
3.20	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>

	None
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None

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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Open Spaces, Resources, Fleet and Transport.

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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" 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 					
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?					
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast Parks and cemeteries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Friars Bush – Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard • Cairde na Cille CIC – Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard • EID Festival – Botanic Gardens
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
2.2	<p>Where appropriate a fee will be negotiated which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.</p>
2.3	<p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for ‘Events’, which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.2	<p><u>‘Friends of Friars Bush’ - Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard</u></p> <p>Belfast Council has received a request from ‘Friends of Friars Bush’, who are an informal group of independent professional tour guides. ‘Friends of Friar’s Bush’ are proposing to host a series of tours at Friar’s Bush Graveyard from May 2026 to April 2027.</p>
3.3	<p>The group consists of local guides with extensive knowledge of Friar’s Bush and has been carrying out tours at the site for several years.</p>
3.4	<p>A standard tour will last 1.15 hours and is scripted, agreed and shared between all guides. The context of the tour is an impartial factual tour, suitable for all audiences and uses primary historical sources as much as possible.</p>
3.5	<p>Following a review by Bereavement Services, Committee approval is sought for these ongoing tours subject to compliance with requirements of use set out by Council. This</p>

	approval is annual and is subject to change depending on operational requirements. If approved the 'Friends of Friar's Bush' will have access on the dates below.
3.6	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Main Event – Each Saturday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a period of 1 year, times to be agreed in advance with Bereavement Services.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Cairde na Cille CIC – Guided Tours of Friars Bush Graveyard</u> Council has received a request from Cairde na Cille CIC to host regular tours in Friar's Bush Graveyard. The purpose of the tours is to promote community relations, share heritage and to animate built and open spaces in Belfast.</p>
3.8	Cairde na Cille CIC consists of local guides with extensive knowledge of Friar's Bush. The group provide some free events for economically deprived communities and has been carrying out tours at the site for several years.
3.9	Following a recent review by Bereavement Services, Committee approval is sought for these ongoing tours subject to compliance with requirements of use set out by Council. This approval is annual and is subject to change depending on operational requirements. If approved the 'Cairde na Cille CIC' will have access on dates below.
3.10	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Main Event – Each Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for a period of 1 year, times to be agreed in advance by Bereavement Services.</p>
3.11	<p><u>EID Festival – Botanic Gardens Saturday 20 June 2026</u> Belfast City Council has received a request from Wasif Naeem to host the EID Festival in Botanic Gardens on Saturday 20 June 2026. The event is aimed at celebrating the Muslim Community in Northern Ireland but is open to the wider public to promote diversity and integration.</p>
3.12	The event will have number of food stalls providing hot and cold options with an ethnic flavour attached. There will be no charge for the event, and it will be free to attend. All children's rides will be free to use. The event is designed to help and support families who cannot afford days out with the events Motto being "How We Gather, Is How We Live"!
3.13	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set Up – Saturday 20 June 2026, 9am Main Event – Saturday 20 June 2026, 11am to 5pm De-Rig – Saturday 20 June 2026 6pm</p>
3.14	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	Summer Programmes
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

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="checkbox"/></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%;"><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"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																						
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on activity that is being delivered for children and young people this summer. It contains information on services directly delivered by Neighbourhood Services or activity that is funded through Neighbourhood Services budgets.																						
2.0	Recommendation																						
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.																						
3.0	Main Report																						
	Background information																						
3.1	Council does not have a dedicated team delivering services for Children and Young People. However, as part of our ongoing delivery, Neighbourhood Services offers the following provision.																						
	<u>Summer Schemes</u>																						
3.2	Two week summer scheme programmes are offered at 33 locations across the city over July and August. (6 – Play Service, 27 – Community Centres). Summer schemes aim to provide a balanced, enriching programme for children in P1-P7 that supports social, emotional, and physical development. Participation is free of charge, helping to ensure equality of access for all families within the community. All activities are delivered by experienced staff within a safe and inclusive environment. In addition to centre based sessions, there may be an out of centre programme.																						
3.3	Registration for all schemes opens on Monday 11th May at 10am and closes at 5pm on Friday 15th May. Members agreed in 2024 that given the limited availability for these summer schemes information would be provided locally through community centres in order to manage expectation and demand. Parents and guardians can get information about specific summer schemes by contacting a community centre directly.																						
3.4	The table below indicates delivery by council schemes in 25/26. Members may wish to note that we currently advise parents and legal guardians that our service and staff do not provide 1-2-1 support or intimate care needs. However, last year, 15% of participants were children with additional needs.																						
	Table 1. Summer Scheme 2025 summary																						
3.5	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>Play Service</th> <th>Community Service</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Summer Schemes Delivered</td> <td>6</td> <td>27</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sessions Delivered</td> <td>157</td> <td>540</td> <td>697</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participants</td> <td>212</td> <td>971</td> <td>1,183</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participants with Additional Needs</td> <td>41 (19%)</td> <td>105 (11%)</td> <td>146 (15%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Indicator	Play Service	Community Service	Total	Summer Schemes Delivered	6	27	33	Sessions Delivered	157	540	697	Participants	212	971	1,183	Participants with Additional Needs	41 (19%)	105 (11%)	146 (15%)
Indicator	Play Service	Community Service	Total																				
Summer Schemes Delivered	6	27	33																				
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Participants	212	971	1,183																				
Participants with Additional Needs	41 (19%)	105 (11%)	146 (15%)																				

3.6	<p><u>Additional schemes</u></p> <p>In addition to the standard two week summer schemes, our Play Service also provides a number of shorted schemes which use different approaches. These include an Outdoor Summer Scheme, Street/outdoor play sessions, Under-5s summer scheme, Sports and games summer sessions, Parent & Child Summer Scheme and Play & Stay sessions (where parents also attend).</p>
3.7	<p><u>Activity supported through Neighbourhood Services funding.</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that council has delivered a Summer Scheme grant programme for many years. The annual budget for the grant programme is £170,000. This year 89 community and voluntary organisations will receive financial support of up to £2,500 to run a community summer scheme for children and young people between 5 and 14 years of age, during July and August.</p> <p>The Summer Scheme for children with Additional Needs grant was first introduced in 23/24. The scheme supports local community, voluntary organisations and Special Educational Need schools to run a summer scheme for children and young people between 5 and 17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer scheme, programmes, or services during the summer months due to support needs. 19 organisations have received support to a total value of £135,431.</p>
4.0	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p>
4.1	<p>All activity outlined in this report can be delivered through existing staff and financial resources.</p>
5.0	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</p>
5.1	<p>The activity outlined in this report will have a positive impact on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices</p>
6.1	<p>N/A</p>

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Subject:	European City of Sport 2026 Programme
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ryan Haire, Leisure Development Officer

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

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**

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide members with an update on proposals to deliver two funding programmes in partnership with sports organisations that will support delivery of the City of Sport Strategy and increase participation in sport and physical activity. The Funding will also help meet the outcomes of the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of the report and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that £80,000 underspend from the Support for Sport Fund (Tranche 2) is reallocated to the City of Sport Funding pot; • Agree that the total funding pot for the City of Sport Funding Programme £220,000 which includes £140,000 already approved by members and is allocated as follows • Showcase Events - £100,000 is allocated to sporting organisations for showcase event, with who have already submitted proposals. • Members approve the funding for the showcase events already included in this report • Members approve that officers work with other sporting organisations and allocate the remaining showcase event budget following any relevant due diligence process is followed. • Grassroots Programme - £120,000 is allocated through an closed call expression of interest process with sporting bodies engaged directly to make applications up to a maximum of £10,000.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>ACES Europe have confirmed that Belfast was successful in securing the designation of European City of Sport for 2026 (Jan -Dec). ACES is a non-profit association based in Brussels and award this accolade each year, recognising the best cities, towns and regions across Europe to take part in sport. The successful bid will give the city an opportunity to showcase the excellent sports and leisure facilities provided by Belfast City Council along with the rich sporting heritage of the city.</p>
3.2	<p>Following a successful community launch weekend in late January 2026, our focus has now moved from application to delivery and officers are continuing to work with relevant internal services and strategic partners to expand the outline programme of activities and branding opportunities into a robust detailed programme.</p>
3.3	<p>Obligations to ACES as a designated European City of Sport for 2026.</p> <p>It is important to note that as a European City of Sport, Belfast must comply with the general regulations as set out by ACES for successful cities these in summary include:</p>
3.4	<p>Quarterly reporting submission of reports to ACES commencing from 1 Apr 2026 and focusing on the noted requirements. Each report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the activities carried out, • Photographic material, • Media coverage and press impact.

3.5	<p>These reports allow ACES to monitor the correct use and promotion of the title, ensure compliance with the Regulations, and coordinate actions and events in the most effective manner. Therefore, it is important that we ensure the application is followed up, with clear, tangible actions that will meet the aims of the programme which, more importantly, will have a positive outcome for our residents.</p>
3.6	<p>One of the most important aspects of the City of Sport implementation plan is working in close collaboration with our sporting partners, these are the organisations who have expertise in working with grassroots clubs and associations to provide excellent programmes and activities across all ages and abilities.</p>
3.7	<p>A report was submitted to March's SP&R Committee, members agreed to allocate a non-recurrent budget of £140,000 for programmes that will be delivered by our partners.</p>
3.8	<p>As part of yearly Sports Development Programme, Member are advised that the Sports Development team have completed this first open call for our yearly small and medium grants through our Support for Sport programme which have now allocated funding to 72 organizations. Members are advised that not all the budget was allocated and are requesting that the remaining budget of £80,000 will be aligned to the European City of Sport, this will provide an overall funding budget of £220,000.</p>
3.9	<p>Officers are recommending that this overall budget is aligned to two streams of work as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Grassroots programmes to build participation - Total Budget £120,000. 2) Events to showcase the sporting talents of Belfast – Total Budget £100,000.
3.10	<p>1) Grassroots Programme (£100,000)</p> <p>Officers are seeking approval from members to undertake an closed call expression of interest application process for Sporting Bodies to receive funding of up to £10,000. The programme will be worked up in more detail by officers, however the criteria will require that any successful applicant will have to show how their programme aligns to the outcomes included in the physical activity and sports development strategy to increase participation and showcase events. Due to the challenging timelines, we are seeking approval to award funding on completion of the assessment process and report back to members to update on progress of successful projects.</p>
3.11	<p>2) Showcase Events (£120,000)</p> <p>Current Requests for Funding - As part of our work to making a successful application to be awarded City of Sport status, officers have been working with partners on potential showcasing</p>

events that will form part of our implementation plan. A summary of four potential events are outlined below, members are asked to consider funding request from the named organisations who will showcase events align with the European City of Sport outcomes required from ACES.

3.12 Cricket Ireland (seeking a contribution) will be hosting three international events within Belfast over the next 3 months; these Key fixtures include:

Ireland vs New Zealand Test Match (27–30 May 2026)

- The second Test match ever held in Northern Ireland
- Featuring the top-ranked Test team in the world

Ireland vs India

- Expected to be the highest-profile cricket event ever hosted at Stormont
- Previous fixtures between Ireland and India attracted over 100 million viewers
- Presents a unique opportunity to engage Belfast's Indian and wider South Asian communities

Ireland vs Afghanistan (ODI Series)

- A five-match series, with three matches scheduled at Stormont

3.13 Boxing Ireland (seeking £50,000) will be hosting a Commonwealth games international camp in Belfast which will see over 100 competitors from across the world stay in our city to prepare for the Commonwealth games.

Boxing Ireland want to brand the camp as part of the European City of Sport and invite boxers from across the city to attend the elite sparring sessions and engage with the boxers to promote the support.

The cost of the camp will be around £300,000 and Boxing Ireland have requested **£50,000** from Belfast City Council.

3.14 Athletics Northern Ireland (seeking £8,000) have organised a celebration programme for the 50th Anniversary of the Mary Peters Track and to be part of and support the City's status as European City of Sport. The events will involve:

An International Athletics Competition to be held at the Mary Peters Track on Saturday 23rd May, which incorporates the prestigious British Milers International events, and Lagan Valley Athletics Club's supplementary events programme which is a tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Track. VIP's and athletes who competed in 1976, along with School children who were involved in the original Opening Ceremony have been invited to attend the celebrations.

	<p>In addition, organisers are hoping to hold a special Throws Events weekend as part of the 50th Celebrations, with a "Master class" and seminar attracting international Throws coaches. This will give athletes the opportunity to compete at the International on Saturday 23rd May and then participate in the Specialised Coaching and Seminars on Sunday 24th May.</p> <p>This year is very exciting for Athletics with high profile media coverage at the weekend with the World Indoor Athletics Championships. World Class athlete Kate O'Connor who regularly trains at the Mary Peters Track won a World Indoor Bronze Medal breaking the Irish National Record in the Pentathlon.</p> <p>The amount requested for these events is £8,000.</p> <p>3.15 Members are advised that as work on the City of Sport implementation progresses other sports bodies may request financial support from Belfast City Council for showcase events. We are seeking approval that officers will assess relevant applications via an expression of interest form which will capture future events, costs and outcomes and the Director of Neighbourhood Services will have delegated authority to award funding.</p> <p>3.16 <u>Financial Implications</u> If members agree to the reallocation of £80,000 from our Support for Sport Programme the City of Sport has an overall budget of £220,000. This is included in current revenue budgets</p> <p>3.17 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u> This will be considered throughout and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing scheme or new scheme will be considered in the context of any equality/Good Relations and rural needs considerations.</p>
4.0	Attachments
	N/A

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Subject:	Proposed reform of Construction Products regulation consultation responses
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officers:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager James Cunningham, Assistant City Protection 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="checkbox"/>	
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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<p><i>After Committee Decision</i></p> <p><i>After Council Decision</i></p> <p><i>Some time in the future</i></p> <p><i>Never</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are seeking views via two public consultations on a package of proposals for reform of the construction products regulatory regime.
1.2	The consultations are: i) Public Consultation on a Construction Products Reform White Paper (Closing date: 20th May 2026) ii) Public Consultation on the general safety requirement for construction products (Closing date 20th May 2026)
1.3	The regulation of products on the market of construction products is a reserved matter, for which decision-making has not been delegated by Parliament to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Such matters are dealt with by Departments at Westminster, principally the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Department of Business and Trade (Office of Product Safety and Standards).
1.4	Under the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland applies relevant European Union rules relating to the placement of a subset of construction products on the market. The Council's perspective therefore reflects that any proposed reforms to the UK wide regime should be carried out in a way that safeguards both the UK and EU markets while ensuring public safety.
1.5	Environmental Health Officers within Northern Ireland District Councils are responsible for regulation of product safety matters, including some construction products. Officers undertake activities to support businesses to raise awareness of statutory requirements and to help businesses comply. Activity can involve market surveillance of goods being placed on the market, product inspections and sampling, and action to deal with non-compliant or unsafe goods. Building Control are responsible for ensuring compliance with Building Regulations.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the draft responses, as attached in Appendices (1) and (2), to the above consultations for submission to The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Grenfell Tower tragedy in June 2017, led to a devastating loss of life and laid bare systemic failures in the mechanisms designed to safeguard homes and the built environment. The tragedy revealed a pervasive crisis in the UK construction products regulatory system. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry, alongside independent reviews revealed

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>a construction products regulatory system that demonstrably failed to safeguard public safety.</p> <p>Construction Products Reform White Paper (Consultation closing date 20th May 2026)</p> <p>The Construction Products Reform White Paper responds to a previous Green paper consultation process and outlines a programme of reforms that the UK Government states are essential for public safety, critical to unlocking investment and economic growth, reducing trade friction and boosting productivity, and to the delivery of high-quality homes, other buildings and infrastructure.</p> <p>The reforms being proposed across the construction products regulatory framework include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory requirements when placing a construction product on the market • Additional measures to enhance the regulatory framework • Enhanced product information and transparency • Digital solutions for enhanced product information • Strengthening testing and certification • Improved enforcement mechanisms • Strengthening route to redress • Sustainability and environmental considerations • Accountability and competence • Setting the path to implementation <p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared by Officers from both City Protection (Consumer Product Safety Team) and Building Control is attached in Appendix 1. The Council's draft response highlights key considerations to promote safety while also recognising the regulatory landscape in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>General Safety Requirement for Construction Products (Consultation closing date 20th May 2026)</p> <p>The Consultation on the General Safety Requirement for Construction Products seeks views on proposals to expand the current construction products regulatory regime. This will introduce a general safety requirement (GSR) for currently unregulated construction products requiring that construction products placed on the market are safe and will establish specific obligations for businesses. The regulations will also provide enforcement powers to the national regulator for construction products.</p> <p>This consultation complements the reforms to construction products regulation detailed in The Construction Products Reform White Paper and sets out the introduction of a proportionate risk-based general safety requirement (GSR) which will operate alongside UK construction products regulation and require that construction products placed on the UK market are safe. The consultation states that this will provide reassurance to consumers and residents and will give confidence to developers and the sector as a whole that the products they use are safe.</p> <p>Under a GSR, manufacturers will be required to assess safety risks connected to the intended use and the normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use of the product and take proportionate action to eliminate or control such risks. Importers and distributors (including merchants) will also be subject to obligations to support product safety.</p>
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<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p>	<p>Key proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory risk assessment • product information • labelling and traceability • record keeping • storage and transportation • obligations for importers and distributors (including merchants) • monitoring safety issues <p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared which indicates broad support for the proposals, however comments are provided in respect of product labelling to highlight potential deficiency in the proposed approach, together with suggested improvements</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None. The Councils regulatory functions in this field are current covered within existing service budgets.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Response to the consultation on the General Safety Requirements for Construction Products</p> <p>Appendix 2: Response to the Construction Products Reform White Paper</p>

Appendix 1 – Recommended Response to Construction Products Reform White Paper Questions

Chapter 6: Regulating Products

The following question is from Chapter 6 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

1. What should be included in guidance to support industry to understand their responsibilities regarding products critical to safe construction?

Guidance should clearly set out industry responsibilities for ensuring that products critical to safe construction are selected, installed, and maintained in a way that supports building safety. Key elements should include:

- **A defined list of products considered critical to safe construction**

The guidance should provide a clear and regularly updated list of product categories that fall under this designation, helping key parties understand when enhanced safety requirements apply.

- **Requirements for robust product-specific risk assessment**

Industry should be supported to undertake proportionate risk assessments that consider product safety, intended use, interaction with other building systems, and potential safety impacts if the product fails.

- **Reference to approved Codes of Practice or harmonised standards**

For products identified as critical to safety, the guidance should signpost relevant standards or approved Codes of Practice. These should include clear instructions for safe installation, integration with other systems, and performance expectations. If standards or CoPs do not already exist, they should be developed to allow manufacturers to follow them.

- **Use of third-party accreditation and verification systems**

Guidance should emphasise the importance of selecting products and suppliers that have been independently accredited. It should also outline how verification systems operate and how organisations can determine whether an accredited party is legitimate and competent.

- **Competency requirements for contractors, subcontractors and installers**

Clear expectations should be set for the competency of those installing or assessing safety-critical products. This should include reference to recognised competency schemes, training requirements, and the responsibilities of principal contractors and key parties to ensure competency is maintained throughout the supply chain.

- **Tailored advice for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**

The guidance should include practical, proportionate advice for SMEs, recognising the distinct challenges they face. This may include simplified tools for risk assessment, signposting to support programmes, and accessible explanations of standards and accreditation processes.

Chapter 8: Assurance and Oversight of Testing, Conformity Assessment and Certification

The following questions are from Chapter 8 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

2. Do you agree that the above principles should underpin the licensing regime for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)?

Yes

Please explain your answer. Please outline how you think a licensing regime for CABs could work operationally.

A licensing regime for CABs should be designed to ensure consistency, integrity and high standards across all organisations carrying out assessments for construction products. To operate effectively, the regime would require clear conditions, strong oversight, appropriate enforcement powers and adequate resourcing. The following key areas should be included:

- A defined licence period with clear renewal requirements based on ongoing compliance and audit outcomes.
- A transparent and robust framework outlining minimum requirements for competence, independence, reporting, and quality assurance.
- Regular surveillance, scheduled and unannounced audits, and strong technical oversight to ensure continued compliance.
- Standardised processes for identifying, categorising and addressing non-conformance, including corrective actions and follow-up.
- The national regulator should have the authority to impose conditions, issue sanctions, suspend operations or revoke licences where necessary.
- Licensing should be mandatory.
- The licensing regime must have sufficient long-term funding and specialist expertise to deliver effective oversight and maintain industry confidence.

NI businesses may continue to access EU-based CABs, including those in the Republic of Ireland. The licensing model should accommodate this to avoid disadvantaging NI businesses.

Councils consider that a mandatory, independent and well-resourced licensing regime has the potential to significantly raise standards across the construction sector. By establishing minimum requirements for third-party certification, ensuring consistent oversight and enabling transparent performance monitoring, such a regime can promote greater and more uniform levels of safety.

However, the success of this system relies on trust—achieved through independence, transparency, proper resourcing and competent oversight.

3. Do you agree that this national testing and research facility would lead to the highlighted benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer.

Yes, we agree that a national testing and research facility would deliver the highlighted benefits, particularly for Northern Ireland. At present, there are no accredited test houses in NI, and the nature of many construction products makes transporting them to facilities in Great Britain difficult and costly. A national facility with sufficient capacity, appropriate expertise and full accreditation would significantly reduce these barriers and provide essential support to both businesses and enforcing authorities.

Such a facility would also offer genuinely independent testing, which is important for building confidence in compliance processes. For enforcers, the availability of an impartial laboratory—willing and able to act as an expert witness in court—is a major benefit, ensuring that evidence is both robust and reliable.

To maximise value for NI, the facility would need to consider the region's unique dual-market position, including the need for testing recognised under both UK and EU frameworks. Ensuring adequate building size, specialist staff and technical capability is essential so that the full range of construction products can be tested.

Overall, a well-resourced, fully accredited and independent national testing and research facility would help reduce costs, support enforcement, improve access to testing, and enhance safety standards across the UK, with particularly strong benefits for Northern Ireland.

4. What opportunities are there for government to establish partnership models to establish new public sector testing and research capacity?

We consider it essential that the government plays an active role in supporting research and development to ensure that testing and research capacity keeps pace with technological innovation. Sustained government involvement will help maintain the UK's ability to respond effectively to emerging risks and opportunities.

UK-based bodies could collaborate with central government to develop distributed testing networks. This would provide enforcers with support on logistical and transportation challenges, contributing to a more resilient and geographically dispersed testing system. However, strong governance arrangements would be required to avoid conflicts of interest.

Government could support a wider range of UK-based organisations to become accredited test bodies. This investment could expand domestic expertise, enhance competitiveness, reduce reliance on overseas laboratories, and enable enforcers access to independent second opinions.

Opportunities for partnership models include public-private partnerships, partnerships with academic and research institutions, partnerships with established local authority testing bodies.

Chapter 9: Role and Responsibilities of Regulators

The following question is from Chapter 9 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

5. Would there be a benefit to enabling employment protections, for individuals reporting risks, bad practices and non-compliance within their own organisation, to the national regulator for construction products?

Yes

Please explain your answer.

Yes, there would be a clear benefit in enabling employment protections for individuals who report risks, bad practices or non-compliance within their organisation to the national regulator for construction products. Any such protections should be aligned with existing whistleblowing legislation to ensure consistency, fairness and legal clarity. Strong protections would give employees the confidence to raise concerns without fear of retaliation, which is essential for effective intelligence gathering.

Surveillance across the whole system is critical to identifying unsafe practices, and this relies on accurate, timely intelligence. Providing staff with a safe route to report concerns directly to the national regulator would support more proactive identification of risks and systemic issues. To be effective, there should be a clear, easy-to-use reporting mechanism—ideally a public, anonymous digital reporting platform—supported by widely publicised guidance on how to make a report. Consideration should also be given to providing an option for local enforcement bodies to be notified when relevant.

To ensure the credibility of the system, procedures must be in place to sift out malicious, vexatious or unfounded reports while still protecting those who raise genuine concerns. This balance is essential for maintaining trust among employers, employees and regulators.

Given the need for intelligence-led regulation, a central reporting mechanism for consumers, tradespeople and employees would provide valuable insight into emerging issues across all construction products. Such a system, supported by appropriate employment protections, would strengthen the national regulator's ability to act on reliable information, target high-risk areas and improve overall safety across the construction sector.

Chapter 10: Environment and Sustainability

The following question is from Chapter 10 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

6. We would like to raise awareness and encourage the use of EN 15804+A2 as the methodology for producing an Environmental Product Declaration. What other opportunities could support best practice for products not covered by a designated standard? Please explain your answer.

Promoting EN 15804+A2 as the preferred methodology for Environmental Product Declarations is beneficial, but additional opportunities can help support best practice where no designated standard exists. Environmental compliance should operate in harmony with safety requirements, ensuring neither area compromises the other and both contribute to a shared objective of safe, sustainable products.

Where specific standards are not available, the use of PAS documents, recognised Codes of Practice, and Common Specifications could provide appropriate, consistent methodologies. These frameworks can offer clear guidance, ensure alignment with safety requirements, and support manufacturers in demonstrating good environmental performance without undermining essential safety obligations.

Chapter 11: Competence and Accountability

The following question is from Chapter 11 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

7. Are there any specific roles or points where you think accountability is not clear?

Yes

If yes, please explain your answer and include who should be responsible.

Yes, we believe there are several points across the construction product lifecycle where accountability is not currently clear. The existing regime is fragmented, with inconsistent responsibilities, limited oversight and a lack of statutory clarity for key parties. There must be clear statutory obligations on all relevant parties, with legal consequences for non-compliance, rather than relying on individuals or organisations informally “assuring themselves.” A more robust and transparent framework is required.

At present, responsibility across various regulatory authorities can be unclear. Building Control, Environmental Health and Trading Standards each have partial and particular roles and legislative remits. At times there may be no clear delineation of who is responsible for ensuring that some products placed on or used for building purposes meet all the correct and relevant standards ensuring fitness for purpose and appropriately CE/UKCA marked.

Stronger linkage and co-ordination between all regulatory bodies and Construction Products Regulations is essential to protect against unsafe materials being used where current systems do not fully integrate.

Accountability gaps are also evident at the design and installation stages, where decisions are sometimes driven by cost rather than safety. Without clear, enforceable duties at these early stages, risk can be introduced long before a regulator is involved.

To address these issues, we are of the view that the National Regulator should operate transparently, with strong oversight of all parties involved in design, specification, installation and approval.

In summary, accountability is currently unclear across multiple points in the system. A single national regulator, combined with clearer statutory duties and better integration between building safety and product regulations, is essential to ensure that safety is placed at the forefront rather than cost.

Chapter 12: Implementation Plan

The following questions are from Chapter 12 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

8. Do you have views on appropriate lead times or transition periods relating to specific reforms set out in this white paper?

We agreed with the lead times and transition periods detailed in 12.4 of the consultation.

9. What should we take into account when developing the proposed tranches and sequencing?

Please explain your answer.

When developing the proposed tranches and sequencing, it is essential that the unique position of Northern Ireland is taken into account at every stage. Guidance for NI should be published in parallel with GB guidance, not after it, to avoid delays, inconsistencies and further regulatory divergence. Any new framework should actively work to integrate NI within the wider UK legislative system rather than create additional separation.

Consideration must also be given to NI's dual-market context, where businesses often need to comply with both UK and EU requirements. This reality should shape both the timing and content of tranches to ensure that NI stakeholders can implement changes effectively and without disadvantage.

In addition, the national regulator must have a visible, operational presence in all parts of the UK—including Northern Ireland—from the outset. This should include dedicated NI-based offices and officers responsible for market surveillance and all other regulatory functions. Ensuring early and embedded regulatory presence in NI will support consistent implementation, improve compliance, and provide confidence to industry and enforcement bodies.

Chapter 13: Next Steps

The following questions are from Chapter 13 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper. Please read the white paper before responding ([available here on GOV.UK](#)).

10. Do you have any views, evidence or insights regarding the impact that reforms might have regarding the costs and benefits to businesses, as well as any wider impacts?

We consider this matter to fall outside the remit of Market Surveillance Authorities, and therefore we are not in a position to provide a detailed response to this question.

11. Do you have any other useful information that you wish to share that is not covered by your previous answers?

A key consideration is the unique situation of Northern Ireland, where regulators must operate within both the UK and EU legislative frameworks. To ensure effective enforcement and consistency for businesses, construction product legislation must not become fragmented from manufacture through to end use. Alignment between construction product safety requirements and building control regulations is essential, and definitions, responsibilities and regulatory approaches must remain consistent across the UK. Any divergence—either regulatory or operational—creates unnecessary complexity and increases the risk of non-compliance.

For Northern Ireland-based regulators, consistency is especially important. The ability to apply a harmonised approach across both UK and EU requirements supports clear enforcement, reduces ambiguity for businesses operating in dual markets, and prevents the development of conflicting obligations. To maintain this consistency, the wider legislative framework must be designed to integrate NI, rather than creating further separation.

It is also important to acknowledge the significant pressures faced by existing enforcement bodies. Those currently responsible for regulating construction products work across a very wide range of product types and legislation, yet many are under-resourced and face competing priorities. Constraints around financial support, staffing levels, technical expertise and access to training all affect the ability of regulators to carry out meaningful market surveillance and enforcement activity. These capacity challenges must be addressed for any new system to function effectively.

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Appendix 2 - Recommended Response to the Construction Products Reform White Paper

Question 1: Do you agree that previously used products should be regulated in the same way as new products, unless the exemption applies?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Belfast City Council supports regulating previously used construction products in the same way as new products, except where a clear exemption applies. Re-use markets are expanding, and many high-quality products can be safely and effectively reused. However, the safety risks associated with reused products can be equal to, or greater than, those of new products, due to wear, damage, or missing safety information. It is therefore important that clear requirements are in place to protect consumers.

Consistent regulation also ensures traceability, accountability, and a level playing field for all operators. For products critical to safe construction, it is essential that they undergo a documented risk assessment and appropriate compliance checks to confirm that they continue to meet current requirements.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal set out above of an overarching safety requirement on economic operators?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

An overarching duty is essential to clarify responsibilities throughout the supply chain. It mirrors duties already present in Northern Ireland's consumer protection legislation and supports more effective enforcement. It also places responsibility on those best positioned to identify and mitigate risks before products reach the market.

The definition of ‘use’ does not include installation by professionals, leaving a gap in legislation and putting professionals and consumers at risk from unsuitable products being installed.

The definition of a construction product needs to be clear so that enforcement officers can determine whether a product falls within the scope of the regulations. The current definition is ambiguous.

The Council supports the proposal in principle, as a general safety requirement is necessary to close regulatory gaps and ensure all construction products are subject to a baseline duty of safety. However, its effectiveness will depend on:

- Clear, practical guidance on what constitutes compliance
- Proportionate obligations tailored to risk and business size
- Alignment with existing regulatory frameworks to avoid duplication
- Robust and consistent enforcement

Question 3: Do you agree that the measures described as part of the process for assessing risk are reasonable and proportionate?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The outlined measures align with existing risk-based regulatory practice and are proportionate to the potential harm associated with unsafe construction products. They reflect a risk-based approach that allows obligations to scale according to the nature and potential hazards of the product, and they are consistent with good practice among responsible economic operators. A structured assessment helps operators focus on foreseeable hazards, supporting better compliance and more efficient enforcement.

However, their proportionality will depend on clear, practical guidance on the expected scope and depth of risk assessments, particularly for SMEs.

It will also be important to ensure that these requirements do not duplicate existing obligations under other regulatory regimes, and that concepts such as foreseeable use and misuse are applied in a balanced and proportionate way.

Question 4: Do you think the above list of criteria for product information is proportionate, as well as sufficient to support decisions to select the right product? If not, what further information do you think would be helpful?

Yes
No
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

In addition to what is included in the above list of criteria for product information, we recommend including the following:

- **Clear identification of safety-critical products:** Any product identified as critical to safe construction, such as those relating to fire safety, structural integrity, or life-safety systems, as highlighted in the Construction Products Reform White Paper, should be clearly flagged to the purchaser or end user. These higher-risk products should be subject to correspondingly higher expectations on economic operators.
- **Information on prior use and condition for reused products:** For products being reused, information on previous modifications, repair history, and any known performance limitations should also be provided.

Including this information would support professional and safe decision-making by installers and end users. Clear and accessible product information is essential for both safety and traceability.

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposals on product labelling?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The Council agrees with the proposed product labelling requirements; however, we do not agree that a product's unique identifier alone is sufficient to trace a specific batch. This requirement should be expanded to explicitly include a batch or serial number. Such information could be incorporated within a digital product passport, ensuring consistency with both NI and EU requirements.

A system such as digital product passports would enable economic operators, regulators, and downstream users to link each product to its exact production batch. This would strengthen traceability, support targeted and efficient safety recalls, and improve accountability across the supply chain. It would be especially valuable for safety-critical products where even small batch-level variations can have significant implications.

Consideration should also be given to avoiding information overload. Excessive or overly technical documentation may reduce clarity rather than enhance it. Product information should remain targeted, relevant, and easy for its intended audience to understand.

Additionally, alignment with existing requirements under other regulatory frameworks will be essential to prevent duplication and ensure a coherent, streamlined system for product information.

Overall, the proposals are appropriate and proportionate, but their effectiveness will rely on clarity, usability, and the practical implementation of information requirements across the supply chain.

Question 6: Do you agree that the manufacturer should maintain records of such actions for a period of 10 years beyond the last supply of the product?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement.

Question 7: Do you agree with the proposals for the responsibilities of importers?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain. Guidance should therefore clarify what checks are required, and at what point they must be carried out, for items entering NI. Depending on the product's origin, the role may fall to either a distributor or an importer, and the guidance needs to reflect this distinction.

Importers play a critical role as the first point of entry into the UK market, including NI. The proposals correctly recognise the need for importers to verify conformity, ensure documentation is available, and maintain oversight of supply chains.

Question 8: Do you agree with the proposals to make importers label products as set out above?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain.

Clarity is needed on whether a Northern Ireland business receiving a product from Great Britain is required to relabel it to meet UK regulations.

Guidance should also address whether a manufacturer can appoint a responsible economic operator within NI or the EU, so that NI distributors are not all required to undertake relabelling themselves.

Question 9: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on importers to retain records as set out above?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of an importer must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, an importer is defined as someone bringing a product in from outside the EU, which includes goods arriving from Great Britain.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement.

Question 10: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on distributors as set out above?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Any definition of a distributor must take into account the specific position of Northern Ireland. In NI, a distributor is defined as someone placing a product from NI or the EU onto the NI market. However, if they place a product from Great Britain onto the NI market they are an importer. Guidance therefore needs to clearly reflect this NI-specific issue.

Distributors are often the last line of defence before products reach the market. Their storage and transportation responsibilities should be strengthened, as they may hold products for extended periods and are responsible for delivering them to their final destination.

Question 11: Do you think the requirement of creating records of purchase and supply and retaining such records for 10 years to allow for traceability is proportionate?

Yes
No
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

A 10-year period aligns with the existing requirements under product safety frameworks. This duration supports effective post-market monitoring and enforcement, and modern digital systems now make long-term record retention both feasible and cost-effective.

Question 12: Do you agree with the proposed requirements on fulfilment service providers as set out above?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Online marketplaces are an increasingly common supply route for construction products. Bringing fulfilment service providers into scope closes an important regulatory gap, prevents avoidance of responsibility, and ensures parity with importers and distributors.

To support safe and informed purchasing, online listings should display all the information that would be available at the point of sale in a physical shop, including:

- **Intended use** of the product.
- **Technical information** sufficient for users, specifiers, or purchasers to determine whether the product is appropriate for its intended application.
- **Safety information** covering aspects of normal or reasonably foreseeable use that fall outside intended use, including warnings, prohibited uses, and relevant testing.
- **Details of any voluntary standards or third-party certifications** the product meets, where applicable.
- **Instructions for safe use, disposal, installation, assembly, and maintenance**, including training or competency requirements for installation and information on compatibility with systems, kits, materials, or other products.
- **Instructions for safe storage and transportation.**
- **Guidance on where or how the product should not be used**, where relevant.

If a product is identified as **critical to safe construction**, this must be clearly highlighted to the purchaser or end user.

For **reused products**, information on previous modifications, repair history, and any known performance limitations should also be provided.

Presenting clear and comprehensive information in this way supports safe, professional decision-making by installers and end users

Question 13: Do you agree that we should require economic operators to make sure that the way they store, or transport, products does not cause them to become unsafe?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Improper storage or transport can compromise a product's integrity. This requirement is reasonable and aligns with existing due-diligence expectations within supply chains.

Question 14: Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for economic operators to monitor construction products that have been placed on the market?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Post-market surveillance is essential for detecting systemic issues, product failures, or emerging safety risks. A clear monitoring duty improves accountability and helps economic operators and enforcement authorities act swiftly.

Post-market surveillance is essential for identifying systemic issues, product failures, and emerging safety risks. A clear monitoring duty strengthens accountability and enables enforcement authorities to respond quickly and effectively when problems arise.

There should also be a straightforward system for economic operators and individuals to report risks, poor practices, or concerns about non-compliance—consistent with the approach outlined in Chapter 9 of the Construction Products Reform White Paper.

Similar mechanisms already exist in other sectors, such as the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme, the SUE reporting model for cosmetics, and the EU's consumer and

business safety reporting gateways, which allow users to flag safety concerns directly.

Introducing an accessible and trusted reporting process would support early detection of issues, improve transparency across the supply chain, and enhance overall product safety.

Question 15: Do you agree that economic operators should have a duty to cooperate and carry out actions when they are asked to by an enforcement authority?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Such duties are standard within product safety law and are essential for effective enforcement. Timely cooperation with Market Surveillance Authorities is critical to enable thorough investigation of unsafe products, implement protective measures, and safeguard both professionals and consumers.

Question 16: Do you agree that enforcement authorities should be able to accept an undertaking instead of taking formal enforcement action?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The Council recognises that undertakings can be a proportionate and efficient alternative to formal enforcement, and this approach is consistent with the Council's enforcement policy. We also consider it important to support businesses and contribute to economic growth.

However, authorities must retain the ability to escalate enforcement where undertakings are breached or where a serious risk exists.

Question 17: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce civil monetary penalties for non-compliance with requirements under the GSR?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction, if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 18: Do you agree with the proposal to not extend powers to issue civil monetary penalties to LATS under the GSR, recognising their reduced role in enforcing construction product regulations?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Within Northern Ireland, product safety enforcement—including the enforcement of construction products regulations—is carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) based within district councils.

Section 8.5 states that:

“Local authority trading standards (LATS) (or environmental health, in Northern Ireland) currently hold regulatory powers to carry out market surveillance and enforcement to remove non-compliant products from the UK market. However, evidence suggests that LATS do not always have the resources and skills, nor do they necessarily prioritise enforcement of construction product regulation.”

However, Environmental Health Officers are then omitted in Section 2.8, which states:

“Enforcement will be strengthened through enhanced powers for the national regulator for construction products, including market surveillance, investigatory powers, and proportionate intervention measures such as suspension, recall, and

prohibition. Local authority trading standards (LATS) will also be equipped with these powers to complement the role of the national regulator.”

They are also omitted in the definition of *Enforcement Authorities*, which refers only to:

“the national regulator for construction products and local authority trading standards.”

Given that EHOs within NI district councils currently undertake this enforcement role, clarity is required from the UK Government on how their role will be reflected within the new framework.

Question 19: Do you agree with the proposal on cost recovery notices that the enforcement authority is able to issue?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Cost recovery notices are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 20: Do you have views on whether LATS should have powers to issue cost recovery notices, as well as the national regulator for construction products?

Yes
No
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

Within Northern Ireland, product safety enforcement—including the enforcement of construction products regulations—is carried out by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) based within district councils.

Section 8.5 states that:

“Local authority trading standards (LATS) (or environmental health, in Northern Ireland) currently hold regulatory powers to carry out market surveillance and enforcement to remove non-compliant products from the UK market. However, evidence suggests that LATS do not always have the resources and skills, nor do they necessarily prioritise enforcement of construction product regulation.”

However, Environmental Health Officers are then omitted in Section 2.8, which states:

“Enforcement will be strengthened through enhanced powers for the national regulator for construction products, including market surveillance, investigatory powers, and proportionate intervention measures such as suspension, recall, and prohibition. Local authority trading standards (LATS) will also be equipped with these powers to complement the role of the national regulator.”

They are also omitted in the definition of *Enforcement Authorities*, which refers only to:

“the national regulator for construction products and local authority trading standards.”

Given that EHOs within NI district councils currently undertake this enforcement role, clarity is required from the UK Government on how their role will be reflected within the new framework.

Cost recovery notices are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

Question 21: Do you agree with the time periods that an economic operator has to lodge their appeal?

Agree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

Please explain your answer and include any changes you would make to the proposals.

The proposed timescales strike a fair balance between allowing operators sufficient time to prepare an appeal and ensuring that enforcement action is not unduly delayed. This timeframe is in line with other Environmental Health regulatory functions.

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Subject:	Responses to consumer product safety public consultations: (i) Reform of the product safety framework; (ii) The market surveillance and enforcement framework; and (iii) Fire Safety of domestic upholstered furniture.
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services
Contact Officer:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager James Cunningham, Assistant City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<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 No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) are seeking views via three public consultations on a package of proposals for reform of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The UK’s new product safety framework (closing date: 23 June 2026) 2) The UK’s new market surveillance and enforcement framework (closing date 23 June 2026); and 3) The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture (closing date 23 June 2026)
1.2	The regulation of consumer product safety is a reserved matter, for which decision-making has not been delegated by Parliament to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The responsible Department is the Office of Product Safety and Standards which sits within the Department of Business and Trade.
1.3	Under the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland applies relevant EU rules relating to the safety of consumer products being placed on the NI market. The Council’s perspective therefore reflects that any proposed reforms to the UK wide regime should be carried out in a way that safeguards both the UK and EU markets while ensuring public safety.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the draft responses to the three above consultations as attached in Appendices (1), (2) and (3), for submission to The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)
3.0	Main Report
	Consultation on the UK’s new product safety framework (Appendix 1):
3.1	The existing product safety framework is based on the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which is overlaid with specific Regulations for certain product sectors. The way consumers purchase products has evolved and there have been many instances of dangerous products being sold to UK consumers, often online, resulting in serious harm.
3.2	The need for a new core framework was identified by the UK Government’s Product Safety Review in 2023, and endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.
3.3	This consultation proposes a new, modernised and enhanced framework, giving consumers confidence that what they buy will be safe – thereby supporting growth and giving businesses incentives to invest by providing a level playing field, with clearer responsibilities and a more consistent and streamlined set of regulations.
3.4	The proposals are grouped into the following themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting the basics right 2. Accountability throughout the supply chain 3. A new approach to product information 4. Supporting enforcement activity
3.5	The new core product safety framework will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require proactive action from everyone in the supply chain to protect consumers • reflect modern products and supply chains, • capitalise on the opportunities new technology has provided for both businesses and consumers,

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support delivery of the government's Regulation Action Plan <p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared which indicates broad support for the proposals, however comments are provided in respect of products that may be used both by consumers and within the workplace and the need for clear statutory boundaries or joint guidance between OPSS, local authorities and Health & safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI).</p>
	<p>Consultation on the UK's new core product regulation, market surveillance and enforcement framework (Appendix 2):</p>
3.7	<p>There are over 150 pieces of product safety and legal metrology legislation covering a diverse range of products and technical requirements. The Product Safety Review in 2023 identified challenges presented by fragmented and overlapping enforcement powers, with multiple laws often applying to a single product. This complexity makes swift and consistent action difficult for relevant authorities and can cause delay and confusion for businesses. Concerns were also raised about an over-reliance on criminal offences for breaches and called for a more flexible, proportionate approach to enforcement.</p>
3.8	<p>The Government has committed to reforms that will consolidate enforcement powers, introduce civil monetary penalties as an alternative to criminal prosecution, and ensure the system meets the challenges of modern supply chains and emerging technologies. The goal is to create a more coherent suite of enforcement powers, together with better data sharing opportunities, to improve efficiency and use resources to the best effect.</p>
3.9	<p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared which indicates broad support for the proposals, however comments are provided in respect of civil monetary penalties and the introduction of cost recovery models along with associated resource implications.</p>
	<p>Consultation on the Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture (Appendix 3) :</p>
3.10	<p>This consultation seeks views on important reforms to how to regulate the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture. It follows the UK Government's policy paper The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture published in January 2025, in which the Government committed to move forward with reform plans and work with stakeholders to find resolutions to some of longstanding challenges in this sector.</p>
3.11	<p>The proposals reflect the policy aim to maintain a high level of fire safety while meaningfully reducing chemical flame-retardant use. The proposals reflect stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering undertaken by OPSS over a number of years. The Government will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce new furniture fire safety requirements based on a smoulder test. 2. Put in place pragmatic testing solutions to facilitate innovation. 3. Make proportionate scope adjustments.
3.12	<p>The proposed policy remains subject to review and may change as a result of the evidence and views provided by stakeholders in response to the consultation.</p>
3.13	<p>A draft response to the consultation has been prepared which indicates broad support for the proposals, however comments are provided in respect of the unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements.</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.14	<p>The Councils regulatory functions in relation to consumer product safety are covered within existing service budgets. Market surveillance work in relation to the safety of imported consumer products arriving through Belfast Port is also supported through the OPSS Ports and Borders grant funding programme, previously approved by P&C Committee in August 2023.</p>

3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices -
	<p>Appendix 1: Response to the consultation on the UK's new product safety framework</p> <p>Appendix 2: Response to the consultation on the UK's new core product regulation market surveillance and enforcement framework</p> <p>Appendix 3: Response to the consultation on the Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture</p>



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation on the UK's new product safety framework:

Response form

Summary

We are seeking views on a new, modernised and enhanced core product safety framework.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23.59 on 23 June

Introduction

The existing product safety framework needs an upgrade. It is based on the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, introduced two decades ago, and overlaid with specific regulations for certain product sectors. We live in a world vastly different from the turn of the century, and the way people buy products has evolved. There are simply too many instances of dangerous products being sold to UK consumers, often online, resulting in serious harm.

The need for a new core framework was identified by the [Product Safety Review](#) and endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025. In this consultation we propose a new, modernised and enhanced framework giving people confidence that what they buy will be safe, thereby supporting growth and giving businesses incentives to invest by providing a level playing field, with clearer responsibilities and a more consistent and streamlined set of regulations.

Our proposals are grouped into the following themes:

1. Getting the basics right
2. Accountability throughout the supply chain
3. A new approach to product information
4. Supporting enforcement activity

The new core product safety framework will:

- require proactive action from everyone in the supply chain to protect consumers;
- reflect modern products and supply chains;
- capitalise on the opportunities new technology has provided for both businesses and consumers; and
- support delivery of the government's [Regulation Action Plan](#).

This consultation should be read together with its companion consultation on the market surveillance and enforcement aspects of the new framework. The proposals and questions in this document are in the format 'A1, A2' and in the other document are in the format 'B1, B2' Please ensure your answers reference the proposal and questions numbers with the correct letter and number.

[Read and respond to the consultation on market surveillance and enforcement.](#)

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	Siobhan Toland
2. Your email address	tolands@belfastcity.gov.uk
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	X
4. Name of organisation	Belfast City Council
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	X
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	X
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions			
Getting the basics right			
Question A1: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed scope of the regulations, including the exemptions from scope?			
Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>We would highlight that products intended for business or workplace use are already subject to enforcement under existing directives for which HSENI is the competent authority, for example the Machinery Safety Directive.</p> <p>While we recognise that the framework seeks to address identified gaps in product safety enforcement, there must be clear guidance and explicit consideration of HSENI's enforcement role in relation to business products.</p> <p>Without clear statutory boundaries or joint guidance between OPSS, local authorities and HSENI, there is a risk of inconsistent enforcement and duplication, particularly for products that may be used both by consumers and within the workplace.</p>			
Question A2: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed definition of a safe product?			
Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>The extension of the scope to include maintenance requirements introduces additional variables that may affect whether the product considered safe. This will require suppliers to provide clear, reasonable instructions for maintenance supported by enforceable regulations.</p> <p>The proposed definition creates divergence with the definitions used in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation, which may create difficulties for NI businesses and District Councils operating within a dual regulatory framework. In this context, detailed and consistent guidance will be essential to support enforcement.</p> <p>The inclusion of additional risks to property, domestic animals or the environment will allow more appropriate standards in relation to these products to be applied and enforced.</p>			
Question A3: Do you agree or disagree with the new list of considerations when assessing safety?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			

Agree as it broadly mirrors the considerations for assessing safety in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation.			
Question A4: Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to revoke the Food Imitations (Safety) Regulations 1989?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
EU has repealed the equivalent EU law for food imitating products, so revoking these regulations will also ensure a consistent position across the UK.			
Question A5: Do you agree or disagree that essential safety requirements, testing or conformity assessment may be useful in the new framework?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>Agree in principle there needs to be clear guidance, and consideration should be given to mirroring the approach set out in 2023/988 GPSR to avoid divergence.</p> <p>The unique situation of NI which requires alignment with both UK and EU markets and legislative requirements, must be fully taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding any potential divergence issues.</p>			
Question A6: Do you agree or disagree with introducing the 'designation' mechanism for products covered by the framework?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
The unique position of NI requiring alignment with both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements need to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding potential divergence issues.			
Question A7: In what circumstances, if any, might it be appropriate to designate a standard from a competent standards body other than BSI, European standards bodies, or international standards bodies?			
<p>It may be appropriate to designate a standard from another competent standards body only where there is a clear, objective justification, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of suitable recognised standards • Sector-specific expertise not reflected in BS/EN/ISO standards 			

- Urgent or emerging risks
- Legal or international requirements
- Demonstrable equivalence or superiority

Such designations should be exceptional, transparent, proportionate, and avoid unnecessary barriers to compliance or competition.

Question A8: Are there any further actions you believe we should be taking to ensure lithium-ion batteries within consumer products are safe?

Overall, the aim should be to ensure lithium-ion batteries remain safe throughout their entire life cycle, not merely at the point of manufacture or sale.

This should include controls relating to replacement batteries, compatibility of chargers, and risks arising from repair, refurbishment and second-hand sales.

Accountability throughout the supply chain

Question A9: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that producers must only place safe products on the market?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made to the definitions set out in 2023/988 GPSR to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. There needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligations.

In 2023/988 GPSR the definition of "Producer" has been changed to "manufacturer" causing the roles of an economic operator to be defined differently in GPSR 2005 2023/988 GPSR thus causing divergence issues within Northern Ireland.

Question A10: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that onward suppliers should act with due care and not supply a product unless it is compliant?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made with 2023/988 GPSR definitions to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. There needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligations.

Question A11: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to act with due care to prevent, identify and remove non-compliant products from their sites?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

From previous experience, sites remove a single product on request however do not follow up with same product being sold by multiple other suppliers. We agree in principle that online marketplaces should be required to identify and remove all non-compliant product from their sites, however this needs to be supported by clear guidance and adequate enforcement powers provided to MS authorities.

From an Environmental Health and product safety enforcement perspective, we support the proposed requirement that onward suppliers must act with due care and should not supply a product unless it is compliant.

The proposal appropriately reflects that product safety is a shared responsibility across the supply chain, rather than resting solely with producers. To ensure the requirement can be implemented effectively and consistently, it will be important that:

- Clear and practical guidance is published illustrating what “due care” means for different types of onward supplier
- Guidance is aligned with enforcement practice and supported by appropriate training where necessary
- Expectations are clearly communicated to small and medium-sized enterprises

Question A12: Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a requirement that online marketplaces should practice due diligence to identify and take action against non-compliant sellers and sellers that provide non-compliant goods?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

This will help promote consistency across enforcing authorities and provide businesses with greater confidence in how to meet their obligations.

From enforcement experience, non-compliant or dangerous products are frequently encountered at the retail, wholesale or fulfilment stage, including cases where producers are based overseas or are difficult to identify or engage. Introducing a clear duty on onward suppliers to remain alert to product safety alerts, recalls and known hazards; maintain proportionate checks and internal procedures and refrain from supplying products where compliance is uncertain would enable earlier intervention before harm occurs, reduce reliance on reactive enforcement once products have reached consumers, and improve the effectiveness of corrective actions such as product withdrawals and recalls.

This approach is particularly important in the context of e commerce and fulfilment-based supply models, where onward suppliers may represent the only UK based economic operator with meaningful control over products entering the market.

As officers we do not have the tools to trace, trace and take enforcement action against rogue online sellers / carry out online forensic investigation.

The proposed requirement for online marketplaces to verify seller contact details is essential, particularly in NI where Councils are experiencing an increase in businesses registering in vacant premises or addresses with multiple businesses registered to it in an attempt to hold both UK and EU registered addresses to comply with legislative requirements.

Question A13: In which situations or for which products do you think additional verification requirements or local presence requirements would be useful?

We are of the opinion that all products require additional verification and local presence requirements. If a responsible person will not be a legal requirement for all products this causes a divergence issue for NI under a number of different regulations i.e. 2023/988 GPSR and products in scope of Article 4 of the market surveillance regulation.

To differentiate between high and low risk products would require a risk assessment for each product type and cause further confusion for consumers and business.

Question A14: Do you agree or disagree that we should give all supply chain actors a duty to participate in monitoring of products already supplied and to cooperate in corrective action?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Agree as this places an onus on businesses to notify MS authorities and take corrective action in line with 2023/988 GPSR requirements.

Question A15: Do you agree that all supply chain actors should have a duty to cooperate with relevant authorities and others in the supply chain?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Effective cooperation is fundamental to protecting consumers and other users from unsafe products. In practice, enforcement action is often delayed or undermined by difficulties obtaining timely, accurate or complete information from businesses within the supply chain. A clear, consistent duty to cooperate would help address these issues and support more effective and proportionate enforcement.

Question A16: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for online marketplaces and producers to have a single point of contact?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

This is beneficial however there needs to be an onus on businesses to update contact details, understand the responsibilities associated with this role and for MS authorities to have adequate enforcement powers.

We consider the proposal especially important for online marketplaces, given their central role in modern supply chains and the volume and speed at which products are made available to consumers. Clear and reliable contact arrangements would support more effective cooperation, particularly where rapid action is required to mitigate risk.

Overall, a requirement for a single point of contact would be a practical and proportionate measure that strengthens communication between businesses and relevant authorities and supports a more effective product safety framework.			
A new approach to product information			
Question A17: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for information that must be provided on or with the product?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>Should this progress, the information needs to be provided in a consistent format, that is easy for the consumer to read and understand. This information must also contain, in a standard consistent format, information for MS authorities to suitably assess compliance.</p> <p>The proposed information requirements reflect the core purposes of product information, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling products to be used and handled safely • Supporting traceability and accountability within the supply chain • Allowing enforcement authorities to identify responsible economic operators and take timely action where risks arise. <p>However, the acceptance of digital labelling again will cause divergence for NI businesses and MS authorities who will be required to continue with printed information.</p>			
Question A18: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed types of information that can be provided digitally?			
Agree		Neither agree nor disagree	X
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>We are of the opinion that the proposed information including safety warnings should remain present on the product or its packaging so it is clearly visible, and can easily be seen on purchase, particularly by vulnerable consumers on purchase.</p>			
Question A19: What, if any, protections would be necessary to ensure that consumers with limited digital access or low digital confidence online are not disadvantaged?			
<p>From an Environmental Health perspective, consumer protection frameworks must remain inclusive and proportionate. While digital labelling can improve efficiency and access to information, it is essential that critical product information remains accessible to all consumers.</p> <p>A combined approach is therefore necessary to ensure that no consumer is placed at increased risk due to limited digital access or low confidence.</p>			

Question A20: Are there any further actions you believe we should take beyond the existing and proposed requirements to ensure period products are safe?			
We agree with the introduction of safety standards, and as MS authorities rely on the provision of standards to inform enforcement decisions and support consistent enforcement action.			
Question A21: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed information that producers and onward suppliers selling products online should provide on an online listing?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
We agree, however, this may present practical challenges in relation to the identification of businesses, access to closed or private online platforms (including those requiring registration), and the effective enforcement of such legislative requirements.			
Question A22: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to design their interface to allow sellers to provide customer information?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
Agree however this will present difficulties in the identification of businesses, accessing closed sites and the enforcement of such legislation. The measures must be supported by robust enforcement powers and appropriate penalties to ensure compliance.			
Question A23: Should online marketplaces introduce additional steps, such as verifying certain product information or making some information mandatory, before listings are published?			
Yes	X	No	Not sure
Please explain your answer			
Online marketplaces should have a verified presence in the UK or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, essential to enable effective enforcement. Such businesses should also be able to verify key product safety information and making specified details mandatory before listings go live. Requiring information such as producer or importer details, compliance declarations, traceability information, and relevant safety warnings at the point of listing would help prevent unsafe or non-compliant products entering the market, particularly via third-party sellers and overseas suppliers.			

Building on the new foundations				
Question A24: Do any of the provisions in existing sector regulations fit these categories?				
Yes	X	No		Not sure
If you responded 'Yes', please provide details of the provisions and your reasons. If you consider that any of the additional tools in proposals A5 or A9 may be helpful for the relevant products, you may include this in your response.				
<p>We would suggest that a review of children's nightwear and children's dress up costumes should fall under the new framework with product specific standards.</p> <p>Inclusion of food packaging which might cause physical harm and is not included under the Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations – i.e. sharp bottle tops / cans which District Councils have received complaints of following injury however no specific guidance / standard exists.</p> <p>Motor vehicle tyres and the pedal bicycles regulation could be incorporated with an additional standard.</p> <p>Jewellery products are considered under REACH however additional requirements under GPSR would assist enforcement.</p>				
Question A25: Are you aware of any data or evidence on the types of AI-enabled products that are likely to be manufactured in the future?				
Yes		No	X	Not sure
If you responded 'Yes', please detail the data or evidence you are aware of.				
<p>Belfast City Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.</p>				
Question A26: What do you think are the current or potential harms associated with AI-enabled products?				
<p>Belfast City Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.</p>				

Question A27: How can we ensure that the reformed product safety framework effectively addresses the unique challenges posed by AI-enabled products and digital innovations, while supporting innovation?

When responding to the question, please consider:

- Is the framework proposed in this consultation sufficient?
- Are any additional sector-specific provisions required?
- What new approaches might be needed to safeguard consumers while supporting innovation, and how could measures such as consumer information, standards, quality assurance, data governance, documentation requirements or human oversight improve the safety of AI-enabled products?

Belfast City Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A28: Considering that the role of AI can adapt and evolve across a product's entire life cycle, how can regulation best account for this?

Regulation should be flexible, risk-based and take account of a product throughout its lifecycle subject to reasonable use, recognising that such products can evolve through updates and learning after being placed on the market.

Safety requirements should therefore include ongoing monitoring, clear responsibility across supply chains (including software providers and marketplaces), be proportionate, transparent to support enforcement and accountability.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

The UK's new core product regulation market surveillance and enforcement framework

Response form

Introduction

This consultation survey is to be read alongside the consultation document (link to [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) page) and seeks your feedback on proposed reforms to modernise and strengthen the UK's market surveillance and enforcement framework under the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.

The proposals cover:

- Consolidating and modernising enforcement powers into a single toolkit.
- Improving market surveillance across all routes to market, including online marketplaces.
- Introducing proportionate civil sanctions and enforcement undertakings.
- Strengthening information sharing powers between relevant authorities.
- Exploring whether cost recovery should be included and for what activities.

Your views will inform the final design of a coherent, fair and effective enforcement and market surveillance system that supports consumer protection, compliant businesses, and efficient regulation.

Confidentiality and data protection

Information you provide in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us, but be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

We will process your personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection laws. See our [privacy policy](#). In addition, please be aware that OPSS uses Qualtrics survey software to process online responses, this involves personal data being sent outside the European Economic Area (EEA). Any processing outside of the EEA will be subject to the safeguards specified within the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and the Data Protection Act 2018.

We will summarise all responses and publish this summary on [gov.uk](#). The summary will include a list of names or organisations that responded, but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Your Details	
1. Your name	Siobhan Toland
2. Your email address	tolands@belfastcity.gov.uk
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	X
4. Name of organisation	
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	X
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	X
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions

Proposal B1 Consolidating and Modernising Powers

B1a. Do you agree that the UK product regulation market surveillance and enforcement legislation should be reformed to establish a single, coherent set of enforcement powers available regardless of where it might be utilised within the product journey (e.g. at the border)?

Strongly agree

X

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

B1b. Please explain your answer

The current enforcement framework is disjointed, inconsistent, often confusing and difficult to navigate with multiple pieces of legislation providing varying powers dependant on the product type and point in the supply chain. One single set of powers would provide greater consistency and transparency for both enforcing authorities and businesses.

Merging the current framework to a simplified enforcement toolkit would also improve officer confidence when taking enforcement action, meaning it is more likely that officers will utilise their suite of resources. At present the need to correctly identify applicable product specific legislation, and match this to appropriate relevant enforcing legislation can act as a barrier to enforcement, and in some cases officers are discouraged from taking formal action due to the complication of interpreting available powers

Belfast City Council welcomes the proposal of one single set of enforcement regulations that apply across GB and Northern Ireland equally. A single framework would support more effective and proportionate enforcement.

B2a. Do you agree this new enforcement ‘toolkit’ should apply to product regulation more widely, beyond product safety? For example, should apply to measuring instruments and non-automatic weighing instruments (but not to other metrology legislation e.g. specified quantities)	
Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B2b. Please explain your answer	
<p>Although district councils in Northern Ireland do not enforce weights and measures legislation, extending the toolkit beyond product safety would promote consistency with other areas such as construction products. It would also help address enforcement gaps that have been identified in practice, for example during the introduction of the Single Use Vape legislation.</p>	
B3. What challenges might there be in having fewer, more flexible, consolidated, enforcement powers for product regulations?	
<p>A proposed single enforcement framework must be capable of being used equally by Northern Ireland district councils, including for the enforcement of EU Directives and Regulations that continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Without this, enforcement officers would face significant practical challenges in carrying out their regulatory functions.</p> <p>The framework should also address existing variations in enforcement powers between the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations, where the latter currently provide broader and more effective powers.</p>	
B4. What additional reforms to existing powers would improve enforcement of metrology legislation?	
District councils in Northern Ireland do not enforce metrology legislation.	

B5a. Which provisions in product regulation legislation create unnecessary administrative process? Please describe and explain any administrative burdens you are aware of.

The exercise of powers of entry, including determining when such powers are appropriate, together with the additional requirement to provide a notice of powers and rights under PACE, introduces additional complexity during enforcement visits.

A simplified approach, while still ensuring compliance with PACE requirements, would reduce the risk of enforcement action or prosecution being undermined due to delay or the incorrect application of these provisions.

B5b. Please provide what you think could be an alternative.

The use of notices similar to those available within health and safety and food functions, such as improvement notices, prohibition notices, or remedial action notices would provide an efficient and proportionate mechanism for taking immediate enforcement action.

Similarly, the availability of compliance notices under the Market Surveillance Regulation allows formal enforcement action to be taken without the need to progress directly to prosecution, mirroring the principles underpinning enforcement undertakings discussed later in the consultation. This approach supports timely compliance while reserving prosecution for the most serious or persistent breaches.

When creating a single enforcement framework, consideration must also be given to the powers available in respect of goods not yet in circulation, such as those at ports and borders, or in transit, to ensure that appropriate and equivalent enforcement options are available across all stages of the supply chain.

B6. How could we simplify enforcement provisions (including for market surveillance) across the UK to establish a coherent and consistent UK-wide framework that supports effective enforcement in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in line with the government's Windsor Framework obligations?

Enforcement regulations and officer powers need to be consistent across legislative regimes. At present, discrepancies exist for enforcement authorities in Northern Ireland depending on whether they are enforcing the Consumer Rights Act or the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations.

For example, the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations provide stronger powers to obtain products, including test purchases, for the purposes of determining non-compliance. Importantly, these powers may be exercised by officers acting under a cover identity, whereas comparable powers are not available under the current Consumer Rights Act 2015.

To assist Northern Ireland district councils, the powers contained within the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations should be replicated or consolidated into a single set of regulations that can be uniformly enforced in Northern Ireland. Where this is not possible, clear, accurate and transparent guidance on which products fall within the scope of each regulatory regime is essential to support consistent and effective enforcement.

Proposal B2 Addressing the enforcement challenges of global and online supply chains

B7. What bespoke powers are required to enforce against online and overseas supply chain actors, in addition to the broad powers outlined under Proposal B1?

A requirement for businesses to have a verifiable presence in the UK or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, is essential to enable effective enforcement.

District councils have repeatedly received referrals where the provided business address, when investigated, is found to be vacant, non-existent, or a shared mailing address with no identifiable responsible person. Such arrangements significantly hinder enforcement action and regulatory engagement.

District councils in Northern Ireland have observed an increase in these occurrences, particularly since EU Exit, highlighting the need for strengthened requirements to ensure accountability within online and overseas supply chains.

O	
B8a. To what extent do you agree with this approach of categorising offences?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	X
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B8b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>The distinction between pre-market and on-market responsibilities is generally clear for businesses to understand. However, some of the pre-market requirements listed relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this division solely on the basis of risk.</p> <p>Overall, the approach provides a strong and appropriate framework for proportionate enforcement, aligned with the regulators code, but its effectiveness will rely on consistent implementation, clear guidance and sufficient resources. Clear guidance will be required to assist enforcement authorities with this proposed approach.</p>	
B9a. Do you agree that this approach enables the application of proportionate penalties?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B9b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>As stated above, while the intention behind this division is understood, some pre-market requirements relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this distinction solely on the basis of risk. Clear and well-defined categories will therefore be required to support consistent and effective enforcement.</p> <p>Consideration must also be given to the fact that each council operates under its own enforcement policy, and any proposed approach must be sufficiently flexible to operate effectively within these existing frameworks.</p>	
B10a. Should enforcement undertakings be available across all product regulations	
Yes	X
No	
Don't know	
B10b. if no, what products, regulatory obligations or types of non-compliance should be excluded and why.	
B11a. Should we consider whether to accept undertakings that seek to benefit those affected by the non-compliance?	
Yes	
No	X
Don't know	
B11b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>It is unclear from the consultation document what is meant by the term "benefit those affected by the non-compliance".</p>	

Compensation is outside the scope of product safety legislation, and its inclusion may encourage the use of enforcement undertakings in circumstances where they are not the most appropriate or proportionate enforcement response.

The provision of compensatory or other benefits could place officers in a position where they feel obliged, due to moral considerations or consumer pressure, to accept an enforcement undertaking, even where further formal enforcement action or prosecution would be more appropriate.

Councils recognise that undertakings can be a proportionate and efficient alternative to formal enforcement, and this approach is consistent with Belfast City Council's enforcement policy. Councils also consider it important to support businesses and contribute to economic growth.

However, authorities must retain the ability to escalate enforcement where undertakings are breached or where a serious risk exists.

Proposal B4 Civil monetary penalties

B12. Which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider fixed monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Whilst Councils in Northern Ireland have experience of use of Fixed Penalty notices for a range of relatively low level offences across the environmental health regulatory field, civil monetary penalties are not currently used, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

This would be most appropriate for simple, clear-cut offences where non-compliance is easily evidenced and the burden of proof is straightforward, allowing proportionate

B13. For which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider variable monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Penalties and fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.

However, there may be scope to consider whether fees could appropriately reflect the size and turnover of a business, in order to maintain proportionality.

B14. In which circumstances would you consider an escalating monetary penalty system a useful, proportionate and effective response?	
Penalties and fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.	
B15. To what extent do you agree / disagree that monetary penalties should be escalated by a pre-set amount, or by a percentage of the original penalty?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B15b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.</p> <p>Detailed guidance would be required to ensure this is implemented fairly and proportionately.</p>	
B16. Please list any other form of civil sanction that may be appropriate for either product safety, or broader product regulations.	
<p>Fixed penalty notices may be beneficial for clear cut or absolute offences. Fixed Penalty Notices could be an effective civil sanction for low-level, clear-cut breaches of product safety or wider product regulations where there is minimal risk and no evidence of deliberate or persistent non-compliance. FPNs provide a swift, proportionate and resource-efficient enforcement option, encouraging early compliance without the need for more formal or punitive action.</p>	

Proposal B5 Cost recovery framework	
B17a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that cost recovery would be an appropriate or beneficial feature within the UK product regulation enforcement regime?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B17b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Should cost recovery be introduced, its application would need to be carefully considered by individual district councils. However, we would welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool for securing compliance. Where a statutory service is being provided, councils may be unable to recover costs unless this is expressly enabled within the legislative framework.</p> <p>While cost recovery may not be appropriate for the routine delivery of statutory functions, there may be merit in permitting cost recovery where non-compliance is identified, during the investigation of non-compliance, or for disposal of non-compliant goods. Models such as the Health and Safety Executive’s “fee for intervention” approach demonstrate how cost recovery can assist in recouping enforcement costs and incentivising compliance.</p>	
B18a. Please list principles you consider should guide the design of any potential cost recovery provisions for product regulation enforcement.	
<p>To implement cost recovery effectively, councils would require additional capacity and resources, including administrative and debt-recovery support. Clear provision within the legal framework would therefore be essential to ensure cost recovery powers are within the legislative framework, proportionate and practical to administer.</p>	
B18b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	

Cost recovery is not currently used by Northern Ireland councils in regard to Consumer Protection, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism, however we welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool.

Proposal B6. Information Sharing

B19a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that, there is a need for greater powers are needed, beyond establishing a legal framework, to facilitate sharing information between relevant authorities, emergency services, and specified persons for product regulation, safety, and compliance?

Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B19b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer. (optional)

This is essential to ensure efficient enforcement, and we strongly agree that greater powers are needed beyond the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate effective information sharing between relevant authorities, emergency services and specified persons for product regulation, safety and compliance. Information sharing between port authorities, MS authorities and other authorities such as Fire and Rescue Services will greatly assist consistent enforcement, particularly in Northern Ireland due to the small geographical area and the routine nature of collaborative working.

Greater powers to facilitate information sharing with neighbouring member states in particular ROI would also greatly assist with cooperation when dealing with business that operate cross border and complaints regarding these businesses.

Experience demonstrates that practical and operational barriers, such as data protection concerns, interpretations of information-sharing powers, and a lack of statutory duties to share information, often inhibit timely and effective collaboration. These barriers can delay interventions where there is a serious or emerging risk to safety, particularly in fast-moving product safety incidents.

B20a. Please list the information you consider should be made available for the purposes of product enforcement.

For the purposes of effective product enforcement, relevant authorities should have access to comprehensive information including complaint history, number of complaints received, action taken to date, product identification and traceability details; manufacturer, importer and distributor data; compliance and conformity documentation; incident, injury and risk information; product risk assessment, enforcement and compliance history; recall and corrective action data; and intelligence relating to supply chains, online marketplaces and distribution networks.

B20b. Please list which bodies or persons such information should be shared between to ensure effective market surveillance and enforcement.

Information relevant to product regulation, safety and enforcement should be shared between local authority enforcement bodies (including Environmental Health, Trading Standards and port health authorities); central government departments and national regulators responsible for product safety and standards; emergency services, including fire and rescue services and ambulance services; border, customs and import control authorities; and other relevant sector regulators.

Information from emergency services, port authorities and other regulators should also be available to support early identification of risks, coordinated intervention and proportionate enforcement action, subject to appropriate safeguards and data protection requirements.

Information sharing should also extend, where appropriate, to online marketplaces, fulfilment service providers, manufacturers, importers, distributors, conformity assessment bodies, and consumer protection organisations, as well as between enforcement authorities across regional and national boundaries. This joined-up approach is essential to support timely intelligence-led interventions, coordinated action on emerging risks, and consistent, proportionate enforcement.

B21a. Please list any additional safeguards you would wish to see within information sharing arrangements to prevent the improper use of data.

Information-sharing arrangements should include clear statutory limits on the purpose and use of data, supported by data minimisation principles to ensure only necessary and proportionate information is shared.

Clear retention and disposal policies should also be in place to ensure information is held only for as long as required and is securely disposed of in accordance with data protection requirements.

B21b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.

Role-based access controls, secure IT systems, audit trails and clear retention and disposal policies should be in place to prevent misuse of information.

The use of government security classifications on all correspondence should also be required.

These safeguards should operate alongside defined governance arrangements, staff training and full compliance with UK GDPR and data protection legislation.

Please email response form to

EnforceMarketSurvReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

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Appendix 3



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture

Response form

Introduction

This consultation seeks your views on important reforms to how we regulate the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture.

The proposals set out below reflect the policy aim to maintain a high level of fire safety while meaningfully reducing chemical flame retardant use. They reflect the large volume of stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering that has taken place over a number of years. The Government will:

- Introduce new furniture fire safety requirements based on a smoulder test.
- Pragmatic testing solutions to facilitate innovation.
- Proportionate scope adjustments.

The proposed policy remains subject to review and may change as a result of the evidence and views provided by stakeholders in response to this consultation.

Please return to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23:59 on 23 June

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	Siobhan Toland
2. Your email address	tolands@belfastcity.gov.uk
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	X
4. Name of organisation	Belfast City Council
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	X
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	X
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce reformed furniture fire safety sector legislation, based on a smoulder test?

Agree

Yes

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

You can provide comments in the space below.

This proposed approach addresses the potential concerns of chemical flame retardants (CFR's) and their impact on health as there is evidence that they may migrate from products onto surfaces and into house dust as well as contributing to an increase in smoke toxicity. Furthermore, removing such chemicals should make furniture easier to recycle and re-use and for its safer disposal at end of life. It will also bring the UK into line with the legislative requirements already in place in the EU and USA.

2. Do you agree with the proposal to allow businesses to use composite/representative sample testing or component testing to demonstrate compliance with the new regulations?

Agree

Yes

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

You can provide comments in the space below.

The proposal allows flexibility for manufacturers to decide how they demonstrate their products are safe and compliant avoiding the burden of additional and often unnecessary testing. There should be clear, documented guidelines/standards for manufacturers that will define how to achieve and demonstrate compliance with either testing option. This clearly defined guidance would also provide for consistent enforcement encouraging a level playing field whilst also maintaining consumer safety.

We are of the view that this would encourage innovation and future proof for advances in science and technology.

3. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate re-upholstery and repair of upholstered furniture?

Agree

Yes

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

You can provide comments in the space below.

Re-upholsterers advised they would like clear advice as the guidance previously issued was confusing. Hence the provision of clear definitions and guidelines as to what constitutes upholstery, repair and a safe product under GPSR will reduce the risk of inadvertent non-compliance, support small businesses and enhance consumer safety and regulator confidence in product safety.

This is essential to support these small, often independent businesses and provide confidence to the public and regulators that the products are safe. It will also prevent any confusion or ambiguity from the outset for all stakeholders

The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.

4. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture?

Agree

Yes

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

You can provide comments in the space below.

Using the General Product Safety Regulations (GPSR) to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture is appropriate, provided clear and proportionate guidance is issued. This would protect consumers from unsafe products while recognising the practical challenges faced by charities, re-use organisations and small second-hand retailers. The increase in reliance on charity and second-hand shops was an issue already identified by the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland who have produced guidance for this sector, and we feel that having clear guidance/a checklist for second hand upholstered furniture would be extremely beneficial as clear criteria for assessing safety will be essential to support compliance and consistent enforcement.

The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.

Please email response form to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

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Subject:	Request from Belfast Healthy Cities to attend Annual Business Meeting
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services 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	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members of an invite from Belfast Healthy Cities for either the Chair or Vice Chair of People and Communities committee or a suitable nominee from the Committee to attend the 2026 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference in Viana do Castelo, Portugal; 16-18 June 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the invitation and advise whether Council will be represented at the conference and if so, by whom.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.
3.2	In previous years the Chair or a representative of the People and Communities Committee has attended as part of the Belfast delegation. Members may recall that they recently agreed to endorse Belfast's application to Phase VIII of the WHO Healthy Cities Network; the application process is currently underway.
3.3	<u>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</u> Belfast Healthy Cities has contacted Council to invite representatives to the Annual WHO Business Meeting planned for June 2026. Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region.
3.3	Further detail on the meeting is provided in Appendices I and II. Public sector organisations should cover the costs of a member attending. One political representative from Belfast is asked to attend, relevant BHC staff and a BHC board member will also attend but they will cover those costs. Costs for attending the meeting in person will depend on the duration of stay however will cover return flights and accommodation and is likely to be in the region of £1,000.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications
4.1	As public sector organisations cover the cost of political members attendance at WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Meetings, the cost for a political representative to attend will have to come from council budgets. It is anticipated that the costs of attendance will be in the region of £1,000 which Belfast City Council would have to come from existing budgets, although this cost is not within planned expenditure.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	None
6.0	Appendices
6.1	Appendix 1 – Invite Appendix 2 – Programme overview



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:
UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: eurohealthycities@who.int
Website: <https://www.who.int>

Date: 24-04-2026

WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual
Business Meeting and Technical Conference

Viana do Castelo, Portugal

June 16-18, 2026

Our reference:
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Dear City Councillor,

We are pleased to invite you to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference, which will take place in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, from **16 to 18 June 2026**, under the theme **“Healthy Cities for Healthy Generations: Celebrating 40 Years of Promise and Progress Since the Ottawa Charter.”**

Since its establishment in 1988, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network has played a pivotal role in mobilizing cities as key actors in shaping policies that promote health, equity, and sustainable development. Marking 40 years since the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, this milestone offers a timely opportunity for political leaders to reflect on achievements, reaffirm commitments, and shape a shared vision for the health and well-being of future generations. Following the launch of Phase VIII earlier this year, which was inspired by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its six core priorities—People, Place, Participation, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and the addition of the thematic priority Prepare —, this gathering will focus on how cities can translate these commitments into tangible action—strengthening resilience, addressing inequalities, and delivering visible improvements in people’s daily lives.

Political leadership is essential in advancing the health and well-being agenda at the local level, and your leadership plays a critical role in shaping the conditions for healthier, more equitable, and resilient communities. Your presence at this meeting would offer a valuable opportunity to exchange insights with fellow city leaders, contribute to high-level discussions, and help shape the future direction of the Network. It will also provide a platform to elevate the voice and influence of cities in shaping regional and global agendas, reinforcing the leadership of local governments in responding to today’s complex challenges. Your engagement will also strengthen the collaboration between political leadership and technical coordinators in ensuring impactful, sustainable, and people-centered policies.

There will be various opportunities for engagement with other local politicians, including:

- **Welcome Reception** on 15 June 2026, 19:00-21:00, offering an informal setting to connect before the start of the official conference.

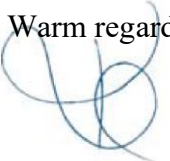
-
- **Politicians' Meeting** on 16 June 2026, 15:30-17:00, providing a structured forum for political leaders to discuss strategic priorities, address common challenges, and explore collaboration across cities.
 - **Dedicated Site visits** on 16 June 2026, 17:00-19:00 showcasing innovative urban health initiatives in Viana do Castelo, allowing for direct engagement with best practices in action.
 - **Politicians' Dinner** on 16 June 2026, 19:00-21:00, offering an exclusive and informal setting for political leaders to build relationships and continue conversations in a more relaxed environment.

Further details regarding registration, the scope and objectives of the conference can be found on the official event [website](#). Further for your reference, the provisional programme and travel package is attached with this invitation package.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation by **15 May 2026** by registering for the ABM through the following link [here](#).

Your participation would be highly valued, and we look forward to seeing you soon in Viana do Castelo, Portugal.

Warm regards,



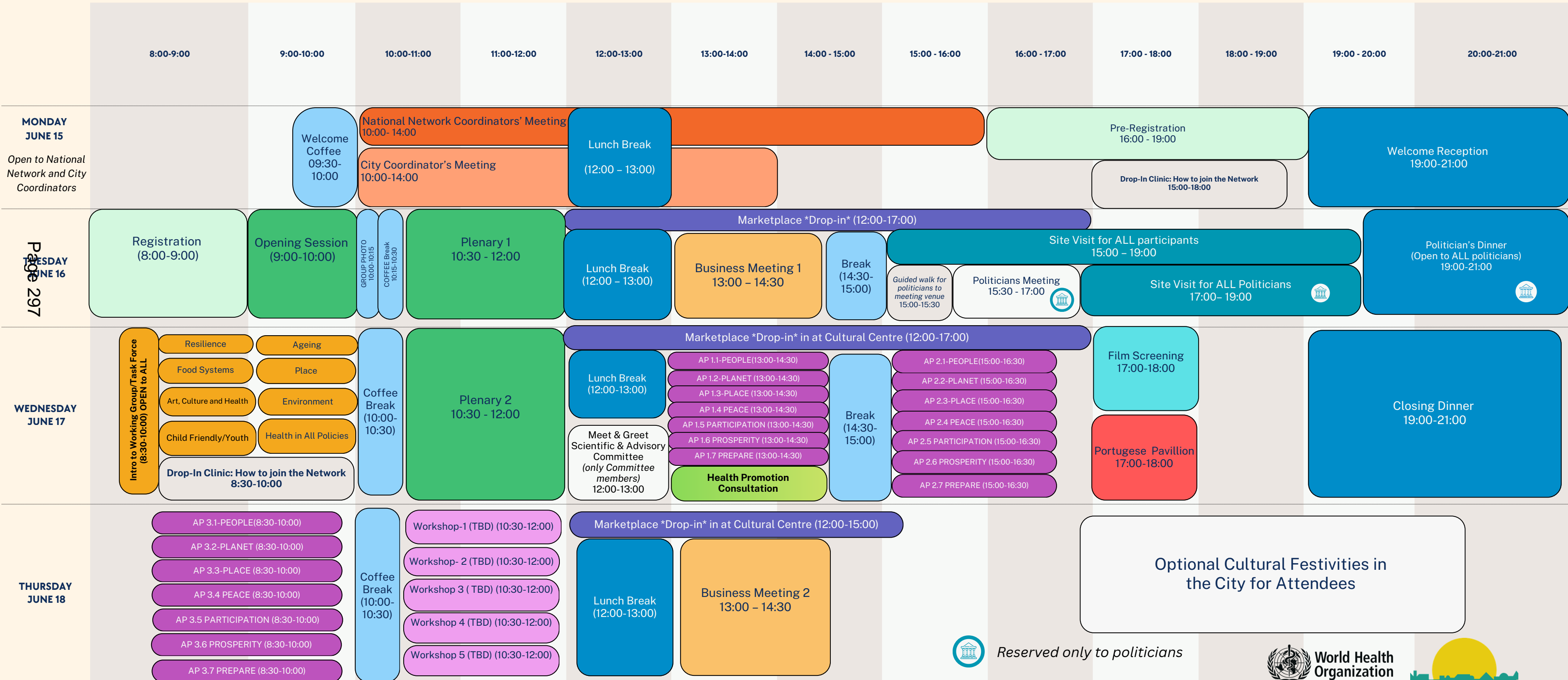
Kira Fortune
Senior Technical Adviser, Healthy Ageing and Healthy Settings
Division of Health Systems
WHO Europe

Healthy Cities for Healthy Generations

Celebrating 40 Years of Promise and Progress Since the Ottawa Charter

Programme
 Annual Business Meeting and
 Technical Conference 2026

16-18 June, 2026 | Viana do Castelo, Portugal



Reserved only to politicians



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Subject:	Pitch Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements Update
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ryan Haire, Sports Development Officer

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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" 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 					
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?					
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Call-in	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues														
1.1	<p>This report is to provide an update on progress on the ongoing Pitch Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements for 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.</p> <p>To recommend extension of Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements from 1 April 2026 through until 31 March 2027 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.</p>														
2.0	Recommendation														
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites.</p> <p>That Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements are extended until 31 March 2027 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.</p>														
3.0	Main Report														
3.1	<p>Legal Agreements</p> <p>Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The Agreements are for a period of 5 years with option to extend for up to a further two years. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the initial 5 year period and up to 31 March 2026.</p> <p>Facilities Management Agreements are operational since inception in 1996 when an FMA was entered into in respect of the Mary Peters Track. A range of FMAs are in place citywide and extension is ongoing on an annual basis.</p>														
3.2	<p>Agreement Extension</p> <p>On 4 March 2025 the Committee agreed to extend existing Pitch Partner Agreements until 31 March 2026.</p>														
3.3	<p>Partner Agreement Sites</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 1541 1272 1843"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Partner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dixon Playing Fields</td> <td>Sirocco Works FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park</td> <td>East Belfast FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodlands Playing Fields</td> <td>Co. Antrim Board GAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loughside Playing Fields</td> <td>Loughside FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shore Road Playing Fields</td> <td>Grove United FC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orangefield Playing Fields</td> <td>Bloomfield FC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Partner	Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC	Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC	Woodlands Playing Fields	Co. Antrim Board GAA	Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC	Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC	Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC
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3.4	<p>Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance have been completed at all sites. The reporting documents were amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines.</p> <p>All partners are compliant on these matters.</p>														

3.5	<p>Financial Support to deliver Partner Agreement Sports Development Plans</p> <p>All partners submitted their plans in early 2025 to improve sports development outcomes at each site in the 2025-2026 financial year. Funding of up to £20,000 per annum has been available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.</p>														
3.6	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring meetings with our delivery partners continue to take place. These meetings include updates on site management and bookings, health and safety, finance and their sports development plan. Action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved and improvements identified where required.</p>														
3.7	<p>Sports Development Impact</p> <p>In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the partner agreement sites. Programme delivery continues to achieve positive achievements across the sites.</p>														
3.8	<p>The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 6 partners for Quarters 1 to 4 (2025/26)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1086 1460 1355"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="279 1086 997 1120">A. Participation type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1120 997 1153">1. Members of different codes</td> <td data-bbox="997 1120 1460 1153">7805</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1153 997 1187">2. People with a Disability</td> <td data-bbox="997 1153 1460 1187">1648</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1187 997 1220">3. People from a minority ethnic background</td> <td data-bbox="997 1187 1460 1220">19523</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1220 997 1254">4. Females</td> <td data-bbox="997 1220 1460 1254">25147</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1254 997 1288">5. Older people</td> <td data-bbox="997 1254 1460 1288">21249</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1288 997 1321">6. Schools / youth organisations</td> <td data-bbox="997 1288 1460 1321">37</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	A. Participation type		1. Members of different codes	7805	2. People with a Disability	1648	3. People from a minority ethnic background	19523	4. Females	25147	5. Older people	21249	6. Schools / youth organisations	37
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3.9	<p>Different codes relates to other sports making use of the facilities at Orangefield Playing Fields (Rugby and Cycling) and Dixon Playing Fields (Tag Rugby)</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites.</p>														
3.10	<p>This sum is now adjusted to £120,000 following the Asset Transfer of Ulidia Playing Fields to Rosario FC on 1st November 2025.</p>														
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>														
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>														
4.1	<p>None</p>														

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