

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



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 11th August, 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
- (d) Workshop Community Support Plan - Verbal Update

2. Restricted

- (a) Resources and Fleet - Waste Management Update (Pages 1 - 122)
- (b) Financial Reporting - Year-end 2025/26 (Pages 123 - 130)

3. Notices of Motion/Matters referred from Council

- (a) Notices of Motion - Update (Pages 131 - 150)

4. Committee/Strategic Issues

- (a) Planning Application for Burial Land Development at Dundrod - Consultation Response (Pages 151 - 154)
- (b) Tobacco and Vapes Act - UK-wide Consultation on Packaging, Device Appearance and Shop Displays (Pages 155 - 198)
- (c) DAERA Consultation re: Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (Pages 199 - 214)
- (d) Dual Language Street Signs - Policy Review (Pages 215 - 220)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Request for the Use of Boucher Road Playing Fields (Pages 221 - 224)
- (b) Requests for the Use of Parks (Pages 225 - 230)
- (c) European City of Sport 2026 - Update (Pages 231 - 236)
- (d) Advice Funding 2026/27 (Pages 237 - 242)
- (e) Sports NI Grants - Get Active NI (Pages 243 - 246)
- (f) Abandoned Bins Protocol and Improvements to Bulky Waste Collections (Pages 247 - 262)
- (g) Update on Alleygates (Pages 263 - 268)

6. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) 150th Anniversary of First Association Football Game on the Island of Ireland (2028) - (Councillor Smyth to Raise)

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

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Subject:	Notices of Motion Update – August 2026
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales - Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Teresa Gallen – PA, City & Neighbourhood Services

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? <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
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Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance allocated to the People and Communities Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that People and Communities Committee: • Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that People and Communities Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and • Agree to the closure of 10 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.5 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in February 2026.
3.2	This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the February 2025 update, and those Motions and Issues which have since arisen.
3.3	Notice of Motion Updates There are currently 55 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remain active on the live database is attached at Appendix 1. Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons: • Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report but will be noted in the live database moving forward. • Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed in to a strategic programme of work. These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process. Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.

Category 1 Recommended Closures:**Ref No: 146 – 30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign**

The National Lottery Heritage Funded Nature Town and Cities Project launched this year with our joint grantee Ulster Wildlife. Working in collaboration with communities, citizens, and key environmental stakeholders - it aims to create a blueprint for nature recovery in Belfast; as well as upskilling, informing, and raising awareness on how we can maximize the potential for our parks and open spaces for nature and climate resilience. The project will also build capacity to support local action for urban biodiversity. Other relevant key projects delivering on this NOM include a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year; and development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. Delivery on capital actions are ongoing through the DAERA funded Belfast's "Making Space for Nature" Programme.

An update report on Biodiversity was taken to People & Communities on the 14th April 26 and regularly updates will follow as business as usual, therefore it is recommended this motion is closed.

Ref No: 321 Playful Belfast City Streets

A presentation from A Playful City was received at Committee on the 9th January 2024. Following this officers were to consider how best to progress this Motion and therefore it is requested that this be closed and reopened again when a proposal received.

Ref No: 363 Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces

A biodiversity unit budget now in place to support development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. In addition there is a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year. We recommend closing this issue.

Ref No: 371 Request to invite South Belfast Youth League representative to present at a future meeting

Circumstances have changes from this request, and the issue has been incorporated into the Pitches Strategy, which involved consultations with Football clubs. South Belfast Youth League were engaged with twice during the development of the current draft strategy. We propose to close this issue as their information along with others will be captured in the new consultation to finalise the pitches strategy.

Ref: 424 - Bin Collections Over the Christmas Period

A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members were content with the update and agreed to close the issue.

Ref No: 429 - BCC Animal Welfare Services - Capacity and Emergency Access Arrangements

A report was tabled at SP&R on the 22nd May 26 which advised that the Judicial Review which was lodged in the High Court by Belfast City Council & Fermanagh Omagh District Council on behalf of SOLACE against DAERA, to challenge the Department's decision to cease funding of the Animal Welfare Service, found in favour of the Councils in that there was a breach on the grounds of a procedural legitimate expectation. The Committee agreed to write to the AERA Committee; continue the existing Animal Welfare Service Delivery Model to March 2027 and noted that a review of future Service Delivery Options might be required depending upon the response from the AERA Committee.

This motion is now closed.

Ref: 430 - Family Parking at GLL Leisure Centres

Following the update that was presented to committee in August 25, a further request was made to pilot family parking at 2 leisure centres. Officers have been exploring this and have advised that the allocation of carparking spaces at leisure centres is for accessible spaces, EV charging spaces and standard carparking spaces. Piloting family car parking would have implications for all 16 leisure centres, as some of the new leisure centres car parking demand regularly exceeds capacity. To pilot family car parking, we would need to remove 2 carparking spaces to make 1 family carparking space, this would have a significant impact and further reduce car parking spaces. An example would be for Lisnasharragh car park to increase family car parking by 5 carparking spaces would reduce the current 53 standard carparking spaces to 43 standard carparking spaces and will have serious impact upon current operational carpark capacity which is limited by the site footprint at this centre. Officers would recommend that all future Leisure Transformation centres develop car parking which will maximise family parking and would request to close this motion.

Ref: 468 - Support of Leisure Workers

The dispute between GLL and Trade Unions has been resolved through a labour relations process. This motion is now closed.

Ref: 471 - Proposed Community Consultation on Renaming of Balfour Avenue Playground

Report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 7th Oct 25 outlining the process and principles previously agreed to name or re(name) a parks or leisure facility. Members were content with the update and agreed to close the issue.

Ref: 490 - Bin Collections over the Christmas Period

A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members noted the update and agreed to close the issue.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – P&C Committee

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Ref	Meeting Date	Motion Title	Proposed by	Reporting Officer	Status	Status Update - August 26
15	04/02/19	Recycling in Colin Neighbourhood & Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Collin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre	Cllr Seanna Walsh	David Sales	Ongoing	Council Officers have engaged with LCCC Officers but to date without success. Propose that the Council formally writes to the CEX of LCCC requesting that this issue be presented to LCCC elected members for consideration. Alternatively, members may wish to request similar NoM with party colleagues at LCCC. This now includes no:354
22	01/07/19	Glyphosate-Based Weed killer	Cllr Fiona Ferguson	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Currently concluding benchmarking trials for alternative weed control methods which will feed into the proposed operational protocol. Draft reduction protocol will be finalised and circulated when trial results are appraised. Protocol will then be implemented with close monitoring of herbicide use to appraise effectiveness
30	02/09/19	Rewilding our Wards & Urban Wildflower Meadows	Cllr Matt Garrett	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026 - This now includes NoM 328
76	01/07/20	Littering	Cllr Aine Groogan	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	A litter bin replacement programme is ongoing, with 120 bins replaced up to March 2026. We hope to install another 120 in the 26/27 financial year. Officers have installed 19 post mounted bins within dog fouling hot spots. We have invested further in our SMART bin technology with 26 bins now located in the City Centre and city hall grounds, including recycling bins, which we hope to roll out to our parks, subject to approved budget.

146	07/01/21	30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Recomm end close	The National Lottery Heritage Funded Nature Town and Cities Project launched this year with our joint grantee Ulster Wildlife. Working in collaboration with communities, citizens, and key environmental stakeholders - it aims to create a blueprint for nature recovery in Belfast; as well as upskilling, informing, and raising awareness on how we can maximize the potential for our parks and open spaces for nature and climate resilience. The project will also build capacity to support local action for urban biodiversity. Other relevant key projects delivering on this NOM include a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year; and development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. Delivery on capital actions are ongoing through the DAERA funded Belfast's "Making Space for Nature" Programme. An update report on Biodiversity was taken to People & Communities on the 14 th April 26 and regularly updates will follow as business as usual.
270	23/08/22	Herbicide Reduction Policy	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Currently concluding benchmarking trials for alternative weed control methods which will feed into the proposed operational protocol. Draft reduction protocol will be finalised and circulated when trial results are appraised. Protocol will then be implemented with close monitoring of herbicide use to appraise effectiveness

288	24/11/22	Imagination Library	Cllr Seamas De Faoite	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	Council delivered this project in October 25 where 75 babies were registered within the first 4 days of opening, at which point the available budget had been used up. The available budget was £10,000, there is no recurring budget for this project. Council officers are currently working with Data Protection Unit to develop a waiting list for the project should further funding become available.
321	27/06/23	Playful Belfast City Streets	Cllr Ross McMullan	David Sales	Recommend Close	Alliance members are considering how best to progress this Motion and will update officers in due course. It is proposed this is closed and can be reopened in the future.
328	29/08/23	Urban Wildflower Meadows	Cllr Ronan McLaughlin	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026 - Amalgamate with NoM.30
350	28/11/23	Tiny Urban Forests	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Selection of suitable location to trial planting of an urban forest using the Miyawaki method underway with a view to delivery Autumn tree-planting season. As part of Council's wider Tree Strategy - delivery of community-led tree planting projects also delivered in urban areas with the lowest tree canopy cover as part of new Community Orchard Initiative including at Ardoyne Community Centre grounds and Holy Cross Nursey School. Report entitled Belfast Tree Strategy Update/Notice of Motion - Community Orchards tabled at P&C Committee May 2026.

354	05/12/23	Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Collin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre	Cllr Michael Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Council Officers have engaged with LCCC Officers but to date without success. Propose that the Council formally writes to the CEX of LCCC requesting that this issue be presented to LCCC elected members for consideration. Alternatively members may wish to request similar NoM with party colleagues at LCCC. This motion will now be amalagted with No.15
363	06/02/24	Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces	Cllr Anthony Flynn	Stephen Leonard	Recommend close	Biodiversity unit budget now in place to support development of baseline Ecological/Habitat Survey reports for Council owned open spaces with delivery of key actions. In addition a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast which is due to be published this financial year. We recommend closing this issue.
366	28/03/23	Graffiti - Development of Memorandums of Understanding	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Update on this due to be taken in September/October committee.
371	12/03/24	Request to invite South Belfast Youth League representative to present at a future meeting	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Jim Girvan	Recommend Close	Circumstances have changes from this request, and the issue has been incorporated into the Pitches Strategy, which involved consultations with Football clubs. South Belfast Youth League were engaged with twice during the development of the current draft strategy. We propose to close this issue as their information along with others will be captured in the new consultation to finalise the pitches strategy.
380	09/04/24	Communication Boards & Communication Boards within Parks	Cllr Sarah Bunting	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Installations are ongoing citywide, circa 40% of the total number now installed. Completion still expected in October 2026. This is now combined and includes No. 414

399	06/08/24	Knockbreda Road Crossing	Cllr Jenna Maghie	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Awaiting feedback from DfI how it could expedite the public consultation process for further applications.
401	10/09/24	Update Report requested on Dog Litter Bins	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Pole mounted mixed waste bins are currently being installed as a trial in each area of the city linking in with areas identified as dog fouling hotspots. Refer to P&C litter bin report October 2025. This will be amalgamated with 443.
414	05/11/24	Communication Boards within Parks	Cllr Sarah Bunting	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Installations are ongoing citywide, circa 40% of the total number now installed. Completion still expected in October 2026. This has been combine with No. 380 and this will be closed.
424	14/01/25	Bin Collections over the Christmas Period	Cllr Micheal Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Report tabled on 10th Feb 26. This is now closed
426	04/02/25	BCC Animal Welfare Services - Capacity and Emergency Access Arrangements	Cllr Nicola Verner	Siobhan Toland	Recommend Close	A report was tabled at SP&R on the 22nd May 26 which advised that the Judicial Review which was lodged in the High Court by Belfast City Council & Fermanagh Omagh District Council on behalf of SOLACE against DAERA, to challenge the Department's decision to cease funding of the Animal Welfare Service, found in favour of the Councils in that there was a breach on the grounds of a procedural legitimate expectation. The Committee agreed to write to the AERA Committee; continue the existing Animal Welfare Service Delivery Model to March 2027 and noted that a review of future Service Delivery Options might be required depending upon the response from the AERA Committee. This motion is now closed.

430	04/02/25	Family Parking at GLL Leisure Centres	Cllr Jenna Maghie	Jim Girvan	Recommend end Close	following the update that was presented to committee in August 25, a further request was made to pilot family parking at 2 leisure centres. Officers have been exploring this and have advised that the allocation of carparking spaces at leisure centres is for accessible spaces, EV charging spaces and standard carparking spaces. Piloting family car parking would have implications for all 16 leisure centres, as some of the new leisure centres car parking demand regularly exceeds capacity. To pilot family car parking, we would need to remove 2 carparking spaces to make 1 family carparking space, this would have a significant impact and further reduce car parking spaces. An example would be for Lisnasharragh car park to increase family car parking by 5 carparking spaces would reduce the current 53 standard carparking spaces to 43 standard carparking spaces and will have serious impact upon current operational carpark capacity which is limited by the site footprint at this centre. Officers would recommend that all future Leisure Transformation centres develop car parking which will maximise family parking and would request to close this motion.
435	04/03/25	FIDO - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle	Cllr Claire Canavan	Stephen Leonard	Recommend end Close	Machinery options appraisal including trial of SCARABS as an addition/alternative to the FIDO service currently ongoing. This will now be amalgamated with no: 443

443	08/04/25	Council Dog Warden Service & Update Report requested on Dog Litter Bins & FIDO - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle	Cllr Ruth Brooks & Cllr Claire Canavan	Siobhan Toland	Ongoing	The NOM remains open until a decision around the growth bid for the enhanced service provision is taken. In now includes No. 435
445	08/04/25	Returning of Black Bins to Properties	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	P&C Committee 5th August 2025 - Requeste to remain open with further updates on the legislation etc
452	22/05/25	Motion to support Endometriosis Patients	Cllr Michael Collins	David Sales	Ongoing	Council Officers spoke with the relevant senior contact within BHSCT in February 2026. Pending the outcome of future decisions by the Dept of Health relating to related services, BHSCT agreed to further consider how they could engage on this issue. Officers are awaiting the outcome which has not as yet been announced.
453	22/05/25	Stranded Dreams report launched by Anaka Women's Collective	Cllr Micky Murray	David Sales	Ongoing	This Council endorses the Stranded Dreams report launched by Anaka Women's Collective on the need for targeted education provision for young refugees and asylum seekers in Northern Ireland and wrote to the Ministers of Economy and Education to outline our support for the recommendations, including a pilot scheme for the Greater Belfast area. The department's have acknowledged the Council's correspondence and officials will consider the report in due course.
458	03/06/25	Antisocial Behaviour in Marrowbone Park	Cllr Claire Canavan	David Sales	Ongoing	Growth proposal submitted for additional Park Warden and MFA resources in Marrowbone

461	07/10/25	Dedicated site for Scramblers	Cllr Paul Doherty	David Sales	Ongoing	Community Safety recently met with Cllr Doherty regarding his motion on a dedicated scrambler site in Belfast. In terms of feasibility etc it would sit better with Physical Programmes / OSS. From a community safety perspective, we can assist with linking in some of the key partners but it would need someone else to lead. Cllr Doherty has asked that the Safer Neighbourhood Officer Team and the Park Warden Teams continue to report all instances of Scrambler use in Parks and Open spaces to help provide an evidence base for the need for this dedicated facility.
462	05/08/25	Lagan Gateway - Pedestrian Crossing	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	David Sales	Ongoing	Officers are still exploring options.
463	05/08/25	Targeted Upgrades to Enhance Park Accessibility	Cllr Ruth Brooks	David Sales	Ongoing	Update report tabled at P&C Committee meeting in May 2026 outlining work to date that is targeted at improving accessibility. Recommendations for the development of an online map, showing playground locations and accessible equipment were included, officers are now working to take this forward.
466	21/08/25	Review Funding Levels for the Summer Scheme Fund	Cllr Fiona McAteer	David Sales	Ongoing	Officers will carry out a review in Autumn 2026 of the operation of Summer Scheme grants and Additional needs Summer scheme. Update to be provided at a member workshop.
468	21/08/25	Support of Leisure Workers	Cllr Michael Collins	David Sales	Recommend close	The dispute between GLL and Trade Unions has been resolved through a labour relations process. This motion is now closed.

469	09/09/25	Alleygate Key Provision	Cllr Claire Canavan	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	The Committee agreed that no charges be made for the cost of replacement keys for a period of one-year (commencing January 2026) and that a further report in this regard be considered at the Committee's meeting in December 2026.
471	09/09/25	Proposed Community Consultation on Renaming of Balfour Avenue playground	Cllr R-M Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend Close	Report tabled at P&C Committee on the 7th Oct outlining the process and principles previously agreed to name or re(name) a parks or leisure facility. It is proposed this issue is closed.
481	04/11/25	Leaf Clearance from Roads and Pavements	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Meetings are on going with Dfl.
482	04/11/25	Consultation Process for the Pedestrian Crossing at Knockbreda Road	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Consultation carried out by BCC officers on behalf of Dfl. Officers have had no further updates from Dfl since the consultation completed and the results were returned in May 2025.
483	04/11/25	Request for Deputation - Donegall Pass Community Association	Cllr Tracy Kelly	Jim Girvan	Ongoing	Report tabled 2nd Dec 25 - The Committee noted information provided in relation to recent reports of antisocial activity within the Reverend Robert Bradford Park and agreed that a report be submitted that would examine the feasibility of installing CCTV across all parks and
489	02/12/25	Botanic Gardens - 200th Anniversary in 2028	Cllr Aine Groogan	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Feasibility funding has been secured to procure design consultants to develop an Opportunities Plan for Botanic Gardens in partnership with council officers, elected members, Friends groups, park users and a range of stakeholders. The procurement process is underway.

490	13/01/26	Bin Collections over the Christmas Period	Cllr Rois-Maire Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Recommend close	A report was tabled at People & Communities Committee on the 10 th February 2026 and gave an update of the collections over the Christmas period, the communication process to customers and also included Bryson Recycling collections plan. It was noted that collections were impacted by the severe weather and that recovery took somewhat longer than usual due to the weather. At the same committee, a deputation from Bryson Recycling was received. Members noted the update and agreed to close the issue.
496	10/02/26	Irish Football Association - Grounds' Criteria	Cllr Ruth Brooks	David Sales	Ongoing	On 14th April 2026, the Committee agreed to receive, at its meeting on 6th October, a presentation from representatives of the Irish Football Association regarding its review of football grounds' criteria.

508	24/03/26	Pilot Drug and Pill Testing Facilities at Major Events and Festivals held in Belfast	Cllr Micky Murray	David Sales	Ongoing	An update report was presented to SP&R with the following actions noted to progress: To request a formal paper from the Department of Health on what would be required to issue a licence in Northern Ireland; • To request that the Stormont Executive include drug testing in the next update of: Preventing Harm, Empowering Recovery; • That the Council convene a roundtable with relevant stakeholders such as the Department of Health, Public Health Agencies, PSNI, Universities, Promoters and an experienced provider and potential delivery partner, such as the Loop, to which a nominee from each party would be invited to attend; • That the Council identifies a pilot event for 2027 and designs an operational model based on best practice and research and works in partnership with others immediately, so that Belfast is prepared for the moment that licensing was enabled; and • To write to the Prosecution Service and the Attorney General to request that the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is reviewed in relation to a public interest test on the storage, handling and transportation of substances of material for rapid drug testing from sites to a licensee holder to allow the rapid testing to take place and results expedited.
509	14/04/26	Stoma-Friendly Toilets	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Property Services are currently undertaking condition surveys for all BCC properties starting with community centres and as part of this we can assess and record the alterations needed to accessible toilets to make them 'stoma-friendly' and thus allow us to determine an overall cost for the conversions.

510	14/04/26	Pollution Incidents at Cregagh Glen	Cllr Brian Smyth	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	Councils in Northern Ireland have no legal powers to investigate, monitor, enforce or prosecute for water pollution as water pollution regulation and enforcement sits entirely with the NIEA. As the Council is a landowner for a segment of the Cregagh Glen river, advice has been sought from Legal Services regarding the organisation's responsibilities and obligations as a land owner.
512	28/04/26	Public Acts of Remembrance Events	Cllr Christine Bower		Ongoing	Officers are still exploring options.
516	12/05/26	Reuse of Parks Plants	Cllr Gary McKeown	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	
517	12/05/26	Playpark at Short Strand	Cllr Rois-Maire Donnelly	Stephen Leonard	Ongoing	
521	26/05/26	Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Tenancy Succession Policy	Cllr Claire Canavan	Nora Largey	Ongoing	Letter sent to The Communities Minister
522	26/05/26	Policy Prohibiting Lock Boxes Associated with Short-term Holiday Lets	Cllr Conor McKay	Kate Bentley	Ongoing	Letter sent to The Executive Office

525	23/06/26	Bulky Waste Collection Response Time	Cllr Ruth Brooks	Stephen Leonard		
526	23/06/26	Refuse Bags - Left on Pavements in the City Centre/Arterial Routes	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	Stephen Leonard		
527	23/06/26	Changing Pavilion at Cherryvale Playing Fields	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	Stephen Leonard		
528	23/06/26	Support for Youth Work Charter	Cllr Nicola Bradley	Jim Girvan		Letter sent to The Communities Minister

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Subject:	Consultation Response: Planning Application for Burial Land Development at Dundrod
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
Contact Officer:	Seamus McBride, 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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report / Summary of Main Issues.
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1.1	To advise the Members that Belfast City Council has been formally consulted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Planning Department in respect of planning application LA05/2025/0372/F for burial land development at Dundrod.
2.0	Recommendation.
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the content of the draft consultation response, which provides factual information only and does not convey a position of support or objection.
3.0	Main Report.
3.1	Since 1995, Belfast City Council (BCC) has navigated significant challenges in securing adequate burial land. Current projections indicate that the Council has approximately 18.5 years of burial provision remaining, primarily situated at Roselawn.
3.2	In 2019, the Council issued a formal Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify lands suitable for cemetery development. The Dundrod site was one of two locations shortlisted for further consideration. A planning application has now been submitted for this site, and BCC has been invited to provide a consultation response.
	Key Issues
3.3	Strategic Need: The 2015 Review of Burial Policy identified a critical need for additional capacity, particularly to serve the North and West of the city. The Dundrod site represents a viable option to address this localized shortage.
3.4	Regional Role: Data from 2023–2026 confirms that BCC remains a sub-regional hub for bereavement services. Despite a slight decline in total burial volumes, non-resident burials consistently account for approximately 25% of total activity.
3.5	Cremation Trends: While cremation is a significant factor in the Belfast service area (46%), the wider Northern Ireland regional rate for 2025 stands at 25.09%. This demonstrates that traditional burial remains the preferred choice for the majority of the population, necessitating the continued search for land.
3.6	Site Status: The Dundrod site remains one of two active sites under consideration by BCC. Supporting this planning application is consistent with previous Council decisions to explore land opportunities outside the immediate BCC boundary to meet statutory duties.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications.</u>
3.7	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this consultation response. However, the development of new burial land remains a key component of the Council's long-term capital programme and strategic planning.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	BCC Consultation response.



Consultation response in respect of planning application

Application reference	LA05/2025/0372/F
Proposal	Proposed cemetery including associated ceremony building, maintenance depot, new vehicular access onto Quarterland Road and race day access onto Carnaghliiss Road, car parking, landscaping and associated site and infrastructure works.
Location	Lands located c.120m east of No. 10 Quarterland Road, c.130m west of No. 28 Quarterland Road, east of No. 27 Carnaghliiss Road and c.130m east of No. 29 Carnaghliiss Road, Crumlin, Dundrod
Consultation date	17/06/2025
Response date	

Response type

Content	
Advice	X
Standing advice	
Consulted in error	
More information required	

Comments:

Belfast City Council provides the following consultation response in respect of the proposed cemetery development at Dundrod. The Council has no specific comments on the technical aspects of the planning application and sets out below contextual information relating to burial provision and land acquisition.

Current Capacity and Context

Belfast City Council has an estimated remaining burial capacity of approximately 18.5 years. The most recent burial provision developed by the Council is located at Roselawn, which is situated outside the Council's administrative boundary. A Review of Burial Policy undertaken in 2015 identified that hydrogeological and spatial requirements for cemetery development may necessitate consideration of sites beyond the Council boundary.

Expression of Interest and Site Selection

In 2019, the Council issued an Expression of Interest to identify land suitable for cemetery development. Following assessment, two sites remain under consideration, including the Dundrod site that is the subject of this application. This site is being evaluated in terms of its

technical and geographical suitability to contribute to future burial provision.

Burial Trends and Demand

Data for the period 2023–2026 indicates a reduction in annual burial numbers from 1,353 to 1,172 (13% decrease). Over the same period, non-resident burials have remained consistent at approximately 25% of total burials.

Additional observations include:

- Roselawn Cemetery accommodates users from outside the Belfast area.
- There is limited burial capacity available for residents in North and West Belfast, following the closure of City Cemetery to new burials.
- Cremation levels have stabilised at approximately 46%, below earlier projections of 55%, indicating continued demand for burial space.

Summary

Since 1995, Belfast City Council has assessed multiple potential sites for cemetery development. Some sites were not progressed due to hydrogeological constraints or land acquisition issues. The current approach focuses on identifying smaller sites and considering provision at a broader regional level

Officer name:

This response is issued on behalf of Belfast City Council and is based on information available at the time of response.



Subject:	Consultation Response – ‘Proposals for regulating tobacco, vaping and nicotine product packaging, under the implementation of the Tobacco and Vapes Act’
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager Diane Herron, Senior Environmental Health Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To ask Committee to approve the draft Council response to the UK wide consultation 'Proposals for regulating tobacco, vaping and nicotine product packaging, appearance and display to implement the Tobacco and Vapes Act' (published on 10 July 2026 by Department of Health and Social Care, in partnership with the Department of Health in Northern Ireland).
1.2	This consultation is part of the implementation of the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (T&V Act). A report was considered by Committee in June highlighting initial restrictions being introduced.
1.3	The T&V Act includes provision for the Department of Health in Northern Ireland to introduce Regulations on specified restrictions around tobacco, vaping and related products, following public consultation.
1.4	The current consultation includes proposals for restrictions on: - the packaging of a range of products, including vape and nicotine products; - the appearance of vapes and heated tobacco devices; - the display of a range of products, including vape and nicotine products which would align with the rules around the display of tobacco products.
1.5	A draft consultation response to these proposals has been prepared for Committee approval, to allow submission in advance of the consultation closing date of 2 October 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the attached draft response at Appendix 1, subject to any amendments arising from your discussion. However, as this is not a delegated matter, the committee's decision and any proposed amendments to the consultation response will be placed before the Council in September for ratification. The consultation closes on the 2 October 2026.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The T&V Act represents a significant public health intervention and introduces wide-ranging measures aimed at reducing tobacco and nicotine-related harm, particularly among children and young people.
3.2	Smoking and wider tobacco use remains a significant public health concern. In 2024 statistics showed that 10.5% of adults in Northern Ireland currently smoke and it remains the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in Northern Ireland, accounting for over 2,000 deaths annually. It is also a major driver of health inequalities, with lung cancer rates in the most deprived areas two and a half times higher than in the least deprived communities.
3.3	The rise in vaping among young people has also been identified as a significant concern. In Northern Ireland, 15% of all 11–18 year olds vape, with evidence suggesting a gateway effect between vaping and subsequent cigarette use. While research shows that vaping may be less harmful than smoking, vapes are not harm-free and data on the longer-term harms of vaping is still emerging.

3.4	The main health risk to children and young people from vaping and nicotine products is nicotine addiction. There is also no safe level of tobacco consumption and as heated tobacco is also becoming more popular, and it is vital that restrictions are aligned for all these products.
3.5	The T&V Act supports the long-term vision of the Ten-Year Tobacco Control Strategy for Northern Ireland, which aims to create a tobacco-free society. Following enactment of the legislation, the Department of Health will develop a successor strategy, with an expanded scope to include vapes and other nicotine products.
3.6	Further information on the Tobacco and Vapes Act including the implementation arrangements for each phase can be accessed using the link below: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/tobacco-and-vapes-bill-documents
3.7	Representatives from district councils, (the Council was represented by Diane Herron, Senior Environmental Health Officer), are currently working with the Department of Health and Public Health Agency through a Tobacco and Vapes Joint Implementation Group to prepare for the implementation of the phases of the Act and associated Regulations. This includes preparing guidance for retailers on the new requirements.
3.8	This consultation is wide-ranging and proposes a range of measures across a variety of products including heated tobacco, herbal smoking products, vapes and nicotine products which will contribute to making these less appealing and attractive to young people.
3.9	Some of the proposals within the consultation include: • Introducing plain packaging and the need for health and pictorial warnings for all tobacco products, herbal smoking products and heated tobacco. This would be similar to current requirements for cigarettes. • Pack inserts, with advice on how to quit, being included within all tobacco and herbal smoking products and heated tobacco devices. • Restricting colours, imagery, branding, lights and screens on vape and heated tobacco devices. • Restricting flavour descriptions on vape and nicotine products packaging and permitting only one single lead flavour. Additional measures may also include banning concept and sensory names or those imitating other items, such as sweets. • Stopping vapes imitating other products, such as highlighter pens and game devices. • Restricting the retail display of vapes, nicotine products, cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products. This would be similar to current requirements for cigarettes.
3.10	The draft response to the consultation proposals indicates broad support for the proposals, and reflects the potential for improved health outcomes from reducing uptake of nicotine products and addiction in young people. This is in line with the Council's previous response to the Government's consultation in 2025 on creating a Smokefree Generation.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.11	The Council receives funding from the Public Health Agency to cover two full-time Tobacco Control Officers. For 2026/27 this funding amounts to £150,248. The Tobacco Control Officers currently enforce legislation with regards to underage sales and carry out advisory and compliance visits to tobacco retailers. Any additional work regarding the Council's regulatory functions in this field are currently covered within existing service budgets.

3.12	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Equality and rural need screenings have been undertaken by the Department of Health in advance of introducing the legislation. The legislation is expected to have a positive impact on equality and health outcomes, particularly for children and young people and those living in areas of greater deprivation.
4.0	<u>Appendices</u>
4.1	Appendix 1: Draft Belfast City Council consultation response to 'Proposals for regulating tobacco, vaping and nicotine product packaging, to implement the Tobacco and Vapes Act'

Appendix 1 – Recommended Response

Tobacco and vapes: packaging, appearance and display – Consultation

About you

Questions for everyone

In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

- An individual sharing my personal views and experiences
- An individual sharing my professional views
- **On behalf of an organisation**

Do you have any direct or indirect links to, or receive funding from, the tobacco industry?

- Yes
- **No**

Questions for people sharing their personal or professional views

What is your age? (Optional)

- Under 13
- 13 to 15
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- 85 or above
- Prefer not to say

What is your sex? (Optional)

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (Optional)

- Yes
- No

- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group? (Optional)

- White - includes British, Northern Irish, Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma or any other White background
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - includes White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian or any other Mixed or Multiple background
- Asian or Asian British - includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese or any other Asian background
- Black, Black British, Caribbean or African - includes Black British, Caribbean, African or any other Black background
- Other ethnic group - includes Arab or any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (Optional)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If you answered 'Yes', do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? (Optional)

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- Not at all
- Prefer not to say

Where do you live in the UK? (Optional)

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- I live outside the UK
- Prefer not to say

If you answered 'England', in which area of England do you live? (Optional)

- North East England
- North West England

- Yorkshire and the Humber
- East of England
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- London
- South East England
- South West England
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your smoking habits (including heated tobacco use)?

- I currently smoke at least once a week
- I smoke occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to smoke but have now quit
- I have never smoked
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your vaping habits?

- I currently vape at least once a week
- I vape occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to vape but have now quit
- I have never vaped
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your usage of other nicotine products? For example, nicotine pouches.

- I currently use nicotine products at least once a week
- I use nicotine products occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to use nicotine products but have now quit
- I have never used nicotine products
- Prefer not to say

Questions for people responding on behalf of an organisation

What is the size of your organisation? (Optional)

- Small (0 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more employees)

Where does your organisation operate or provide services? Select all that apply.
(Optional)

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- **Northern Ireland**
- The whole of the UK
- Outside the UK

Please provide the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of. (Optional)

Questions for people sharing their professional views and those responding on behalf of an organisation

What is the main area or focus of your work? (Optional)

- Academic
- Advocacy
- Distribution
- Education
- Emergency services
- Enforcement agencies
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Justice system
- Legal
- **Local government**
- National government
- Production or manufacturing
- Retail
- Social care
- Wholesale
- Other, please specify

Do you work for, or are you providing views on behalf of, any of the following? Select all that apply.

- Manufacturer or producer of a tobacco product
- Manufacturer or producer of a vape or nicotine product

- Importer of a tobacco product
- Importer of a vape or nicotine product
- Distributor of a tobacco product
- Distributor of a vape or nicotine product
- Retailer of a tobacco product
- Retailer of a vape or nicotine product

Or:

- None of the above

Tobacco packaging

Proposals for further plain packaging requirements

We propose to introduce plain packaging requirements for:

- all tobacco products (including but not limited to cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco, waterpipe tobacco, smokeless and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products
- cigarette papers

These requirements would broadly align with existing requirements for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco.

An overview of the existing requirements for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco is set out below.

Colour

Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) colour with a matt finish.

Branding

Brand name permitted once each on front, top and bottom of pack. It must:

- be in a centred position
- be in Pantone Cool Gray 2 C
- be in Helvetica font size 14 point or less
- have only the first letter capitalised

The variant name must follow the same requirements other than to be size 10 point or less and positioned immediately below the brand name.

No promotional images or logos, additional colours or markings are allowed.

Shape

Specified packaging shapes. For cigarettes this is cuboid only and for hand-rolling tobacco this is cuboid, cylindrical or pouch.

Packaging materials

Specified packaging materials. For cigarettes this is carton or soft material only.

Minimum size

20 pack for cigarettes, 30 grams for hand-rolling tobacco.

Some products may require specific plain packaging requirements, for example hand-rolling tobacco pouches are permitted to have a re-sealable sticker and cigarette packets have a lining. If we proceed with the policy, we will engage further on the details of the plain packaging measures for specific products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for all tobacco products? This does not include cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco which already have strict plain packaging requirements.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for cigarette papers?

- **Agree**

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing your views on which tobacco products plain packaging requirements should or should not be introduced for, or specific elements of our proposals which you agree or disagree with. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that all tobacco products should be subject to the same requirements as each poses a public health risk and by aligning these requirements this will help outline to the public that this is the case.

The plain packaging requirements should apply to all tobacco products as this will help reduce attractiveness to young people and those wanting to quit. It will also help ensure that the health warnings are clear and impactful while reducing loopholes for the industry to advertise.

Heated tobacco contains nicotine, which is highly addictive and has a range of harmful side effects, so any measures that can reduce uptake and supporting those wanting to quit we are supportive of. In addition, plain packaging for heated tobacco devices may make the product safety information more visible and prominent to support compliance checks and safe user awareness.

Herbal smoking products are not a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes and plain packaging will help ensure that they cannot be promoted as such.

Cigarette papers should be included as this will prevent tobacco companies from using these for marketing purposes.

Text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices and cigarette papers

We propose to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices and cigarette papers. All tobacco products and herbal smoking products already have these warnings. The wording of warnings will reflect the harms of using each product.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of cigarette papers?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

Yes, we agree that health warnings should be included on the packaging of heated tobacco as it is vital that users are aware of the dangers associated with nicotine addiction. With the amount of tobacco products on the market consumers may not be clear what the potential health effects for heated tobacco are and this should be highlighted for users

We agree that health warnings on cigarette papers should be introduced to ensure consistency across all tobacco products and to educate smokers about the risks, assist them in wanting to quit and to help deter young people from starting to smoke.

Consideration should be given to ensure that any health warnings on packaging is not to the detriment of the required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements for heated tobacco devices. Any requirements should therefore ensure that sufficient space remains for all essential regulatory information.

Picture health warnings on the packaging of more products and devices

All smoked tobacco products currently require picture health warnings, excluding individually wrapped cigars and cigarillos, and packs of large cigars that weigh more than 3 grams each. These products only require text warnings on their packaging.

Smokeless tobacco products, heated tobacco devices and herbal smoking products currently do not have picture health warnings.

We propose to introduce picture warnings on the packaging of:

- all tobacco products (including all cigars and cigarillos, smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

We do not propose including picture warnings for cigarette papers due to the typically smaller size of the packaging.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of all tobacco products? This builds on requirements that are already in place for most tobacco products.

- Agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of herbal smoking products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that picture health warnings should not be required on the packaging of cigarette papers? We do not propose including picture health warnings on cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing your views on which tobacco products health warning requirements should or should not be introduced for. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that picture health warning should be introduced on the packaging of all tobacco products and herbal smoking products. Pictorial warnings are more likely to be noticed than text-only warning and are a cost-effective way to educate smokers about the health risks. In addition, graphic visual warnings may also prevent young people from starting to smoke and help motivate those wanting to quit. Where possible combining picture health warnings, along with text is an impactful way to highlight the message.

Some promotion of herbal smoking has attempted to show these are safer than traditional smoking and it is important to highlight the risks to both current and potential future users.

If health warnings are to be introduced it should not be to the detriment of the required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements on the packaging of heated tobacco devices. Any requirements should therefore ensure that sufficient space remains for all essential regulatory information.

Pack inserts in packaging for all tobacco and herbal smoking products and heated tobacco devices

Quit themed pack inserts will soon be introduced for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco following previous consultation. We propose to also include quit themed pack inserts in the packaging of:

- all tobacco products (including products such as such as cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco, waterpipe tobacco and smokeless and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

We do not propose including pack inserts in cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for all tobacco products? This does not include cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco which we are addressing separately to this consultation.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that pack inserts should not be required in the packaging of cigarette papers? We do not propose including pack inserts for cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on specific tobacco products for which you do or do not think pack inserts should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that pack inserts should be introduced, where practical, for all tobacco products. They are a cost-effective way to highlight quit themed messages and promote cessation at a time when the product is about to be used. They have been introduced in several other countries, including Canada and Australia, and smoking rates have declined in this period

We agree that pack inserts should be included in heated tobacco devices and herbal smoking products as they are not a safe product and it is important to provide the same motivational quit messages and cessation advice to these users, as with smoking.

We agree that providing pack inserts for cigarette papers is impractical due to size constraints.

In addition pack inserts may support consumer understanding and expectations regarding product risks, providing it is not to the detriment of the product information requirements in the required accompanying documentation for heated tobacco devices, that should include safety use and warnings, CE Markings and traceability information.

Time allowed to implement new packaging requirements

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to update their packaging to comply. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all products covered by our tobacco packaging proposals would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 12-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree?
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that a time period of no longer than 12 months is necessary from the date legislation is introduced. This will allow manufactures to adapt packaging requirements and sell through existing stock. It is important that no longer than 12 months is permitted as this will undermine the importance of the introduction of the new requirements and the impact this may have on people wanting to quit tobacco products and starting in the first place. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

An additional 6-month grace/transition period may be considered for retailers to allow them to sell through any lawful transitional stock.

Heated tobacco device appearance

Restricting the colour and finish of heated tobacco devices

We propose to restrict the colour of heated tobacco devices to Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) with an opaque matt finish. Pantone 448C is the same colour as cigarette and hand-rolling tobacco packaging.

Restricting the colour of the device in this way would also prevent certain aesthetic features on the device, such as the presence of cosmetic lights.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of heated tobacco devices to Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) with an opaque matt finish?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that heated tobacco devices should be banned from having cosmetic lights? This will not apply to functional lights, like those that indicate charge level.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether restricting heated tobacco devices to an alternative colour may be more effective, or whether technical exemptions are required. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that the packaging of all tobacco products should be restricted to highlight that none of these products have been proven safe to use. Colours and lights should be restricted to prevent marketing and the appeal of the products to young people. There should be strict and clear guidelines to help ensure that manufacturers are clear what is permitted and that the legislation is easily enforceable.

We agree restricting the colour of heated tobacco devices aligns these to all tobacco products and may help raise consumer awareness about the product's risks. For these devices, the required product, safety and traceability information must be included. Therefore, the standardised colour of the device could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

We agree on a ban of cosmetic lights on these devices. Products must be compliant with EU General Product Safety regulations in that they do not imitate food. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using the product. The cosmetic lights features may imitate other consumer goods (games) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

Restricting branding, imagery and artwork on heated tobacco devices

We propose to ban heated tobacco devices from having images or artwork on them, except for any image that is a regulatory requirement, such as required warnings.

We also propose to limit branding to a single brand name, which would be subject to a set font, size and colour on the device.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict all branding, imagery and artwork on heated tobacco devices?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on which of the proposed restrictions you do or do not think should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the branding, imagery and artwork should be restricted on heated tobacco devices to prevent marketing and particularly the appeal of the products to young people. This could lead to a health benefit by preventing young people from starting to smoke and assisting those wanting to stop. There should be strict and clear guidelines to help ensure that manufacturers are clear what is permitted and that the legislation is easily enforceable.

This could also simplify the appearance of the device, and subject to device size, may allow required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements to be more easily seen. However complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit, and while this may assist with enforcement, restricted branding may make it more difficult for consumers to distinguish between devices and identify compatible consumables and accessories. A requirement for clear product identification of electrical devices helps to promote safer use.

Restricting digital screens on heated tobacco devices

We propose that digital screens on heated tobacco devices are restricted to only display safety and status information, such as battery levels.

Do you agree or disagree that digital screens on heated tobacco devices should be restricted to only the display of safety and status information such as battery level, and be greyscale in colour (black, white and grey only)?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the digital screens on heated tobacco should be restricted to prevent these being used for marketing purposes. This could help reduce the appeal to both current users and young people, reducing their use and uptake.

Digital displays should be restricted to functional, safety and device status information and should not be used for promotional or branding purposes. Also, subject to the device size, a screen size could compete for space with mandatory product and safety information required on the device. However, for consumer safety, colour displays can provide important benefits by highlighting warnings, maintenance requirements, battery conditions and device faults more clearly than monochrome displays. The use of limited colours for these purposes may improve consumer understanding and support the safe operation of the device.

Stopping heated tobacco devices imitating other products

We propose to limit the potential appeal of heated tobacco devices by stopping them from looking like other products, such as drink bottles and game devices.

This proposal aligns with the restrictions we are proposing for vape devices. It will ensure that heated tobacco devices do not appear more attractive than vapes.

Do you agree or disagree that heated tobacco devices should not be permitted to mimic the design of other products and items? The objective of this proposal is to limit the appeal or attractiveness of heated tobacco devices.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that heated tobacco devices should not mimic the design of other products. Products must be compliant with EU General Product Safety regulations in that they must not imitate food. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using products that imitate other consumer goods (games devices) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

From a consumer safety perspective, requirements that prevent products from being designed to resemble toys, food, cosmetics or other everyday consumer goods would help reduce confusion about the nature of the product and its associated risks. Such measures may also help prevent accidental handling or misuse, particularly by children and other vulnerable groups.

Time allowed to implement new device requirements

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to ensure their devices are compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean heated tobacco devices would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 12-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that a time period of no longer than 12 months is necessary from the date legislation is introduced. This will allow manufactures to adapt and sell through existing stock. It is important that no longer than 12 months is permitted as this will undermine the importance of the introduction of the new requirements and the impact this may have on people wanting to quit and starting in the first place. With advances in technology it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

An additional 6-month grace/transition period may be considered for retailers to allow them to sell through any lawful transitional stock.

Vaping and nicotine product packaging and flavour descriptors

Definition of vaping products

Throughout this section, we refer to 'vaping products'. This includes vapes, as well as other vape components and refill containers sold separately from the device.

Restricting the colour on packaging for all vaping and nicotine products

We propose that the packaging for vaping and nicotine products should be white.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of packaging of all vaping products to white?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of packaging of all nicotine products to white?

- Agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the packaging for vapes and nicotine products should be plain and simple to reduce attractiveness of the products, particularly to image conscious young people. Keeping this white will ensure that manufacturers are clear on the requirement and will ensure that the legislation is easily enforceable.

Colour restrictions can help reduce the risk of packaging resembling sweets, confectionery or other consumer goods, while safety information and health warnings may be displayed more prominently. However, packaging of vape components (contains e-liquid), requires safety warnings and symbols under the Classification of Labelling and Packaging legislation must be considered to ensure warning symbols remain visible and compliant – i.e. in circumstances where warnings are specifically required to appear on a white or yellow background. Therefore, the standardised colour could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

Restricting imagery, branding, text and other promotional features

We propose that the packaging for all vaping and nicotine products should not include imagery, and that all text on the packaging, including any branding or brand names, should be in a standard colour, font and typeface.

There should be no other promotional features on the outside or inside of packs or attached to the packaging, such as links to social media accounts or any feature that suggests a financial benefit, such as vouchers or discounts.

We recognise that there may be a case to allow packaging of vaping products to display a picture of the product contained inside (for example, a mouthpiece). We welcome views on whether any limited exemptions may be appropriate in the free text box.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the restrictions to imagery, branding, text and promotional features outlined above for the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the restrictions to imagery, branding, text and promotional features outlined above for the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, your views on whether there should be any exemptions or further restrictions. You may also indicate any elements of the proposal you disagree with and why, or elements you feel could be further strengthened. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that packaging for vape and nicotine products should be free of all imagery and standard in size and colour. In addition, no marketing or promotion should be permitted. This will assist in reducing the appeal and attractiveness of the products, particularly to young people and assist those wanting to quit.

If any exemptions are permitted to allow pictures of the products on vape packaging the wording of the legislation should be clear to ensure that manufacturers are aware what is permitted and that this is easily enforceable.

We agree in principle on the restrictions for vape and nicotine products packaging, providing this is not to the detriment of safety warnings for nicotine (as designated under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging legislation), electronic devices which are subject to CE Marking or traceability requirements as required under Market Surveillance Regulations (NI) 2021.

Harmonised packaging standards across the market should require clear and prominent product identification, safety information and user instructions. Also, include information such as nicotine strength, product compatibility, battery specifications and relevant safety warnings so that consumers can make informed purchasing and usage decisions. Simplifying the packaging should allow this safety information and warnings to be more visible. However, it is noted complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit.

Restricting the shape, materials and safety features of packaging for all vaping and nicotine products

We propose that packaging used for vaping and nicotine products should use uniform shapes. For example, the packaging for devices or coils should use a similar shape, such as a rectangular cuboid, depending on their dimensions.

We also propose that manufacturers should not use materials that enhance a product's appeal, such as:

- glossy plastics
- holographic foils
- other tactile features, for example fuzzy or velvety materials

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all vaping products should have uniform shapes, and that there should be restrictions on materials and finishes that can enhance appeal?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all nicotine products should have uniform shapes, and that there should be restrictions on materials and finishes that can enhance appeal?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Vapes are already required to have child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. We propose to introduce this requirement for all vaping and nicotine products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all vaping products should be both child-resistant and tamper-evident?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all nicotine products should be both child-resistant and tamper-evident?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, indicating any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, if there are elements that you feel could be further strengthened or other features that should be included. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree with any proposals such as restricting the shape, finish etc of any nicotine or vape product that will help reduce their attractiveness and appeal, particularly to young people.

This could also provide a consistent approach that minimises consumer confusion and avoids potential misuse.

In addition, both nicotine and vape products should have child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. This will help ensure the safety of the product and make counterfeit products more difficult to produce and more recognisable.

This would also support consumer protection, create clear user expectations and help ensure a consistent level of product safety across the market. A uniform approach may also reduce the likelihood of products being designed to resemble other consumer goods, helping to minimise consumer confusion and potential misuse. However, regulations should ensure that safety markings, warnings and user information remain clear and prominent so that consumers receive consistent risk information. Packaging should also include appropriate traceability information, such as serial numbers, batch numbers and manufacturer details, to support compliance checks and reduce the need for enforcement officers to open packages which can increase inspection times and result in unnecessary product wastage.

Restricting flavour descriptions on vaping and nicotine products packaging

Single lead flavour

We propose to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging for vaping and nicotine products to a single, recognised flavour name, like apple or strawberry. This would include restricting hyphenated or combined flavour names, such as blueberry-apple.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging of all vaping products to a single lead flavour?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging of all nicotine products to a single lead flavour?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Concept, sensory, food and drink categories

We also propose restricting any concept or sensory words from being used to describe a flavour.

A concept name refers to any flavour name that does not directly describe a recognisable food, drink or natural flavour. Instead, the word conveys a mood, an idea, a brand or even

a number or codename, rather than describing an actual flavour. This could include flavour names such as:

- 'Unicorn Dream'
- 'DC100'

A sensory name refers to a recognisable taste, smell or sensation experienced when using a vape or nicotine product, such as 'Mint Blast'.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that concept and sensory flavour descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that concept and sensory flavour descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

We also propose restricting descriptor names of certain food and drink categories that appeal to children and young people. This includes flavours like:

- confectionery and sweets (such as 'Chocolate', 'Candy' and 'Bubblegum')
- desserts and cakes (such as 'Brownie' and 'Cheesecake')
- alcohol and other drinks (such as 'Cola')

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that confectionery, sweets, dessert and cake name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that confectionery, sweets, dessert and cake name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that alcohol and drink name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that alcohol and drink name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, your views on any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, or any flavour names that you believe should or should not be restricted. You may also wish to comment on whether there should be any differences in how these restrictions apply to vaping and nicotine products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We strongly support any measures that would reduce the appeal of vape and nicotine products to young people. Restricting both the name and the packaging to prevent descriptors that are aimed to entice people to buy will reduce uptake and assist those wanting to quit. A single lead flavour should be permitted to describe the flavour, and alcohol descriptors should be prohibited.

The wording of the legislation around this would need to be carefully considered to ensure that it is clear and prevents loopholes for manufacturers to use words or descriptors that could be used in marketing to appeal to young people. Clear guidance should be provided for both manufacturers and enforcement officers around this.

To avoid misleading the consumer the terminology needs to be clearly defined and there needs to be clear and consistent standards that can be understood by both the consumer and enforcement officers. While we appreciate this intention enforcement of such restrictions will be difficult without a clear mechanism for testing or analysis to compare flavours with those described. It is difficult to see how enforcement of this could be undertaken and by whom.

Product information on and inside vaping and nicotine products packaging

We propose that the packaging of all vaping and nicotine products should have:

- a full list of ingredients, including flavour agents
- expiration details
- an age restriction symbol, for example a crossed-out 18 symbol
- a standardised display of nicotine strength, for example in milligrams, millilitres or as a percentage
- nicotine delivery per puff or pouch, where relevant

We also propose that relevant products should have a nicotine warning label on the front and back of the packaging. For example, this warning could say 'This product contains nicotine which is a highly addictive substance'. Packaging should also have clear instructions on appropriate waste disposal.

Where applicable, we propose that certain products have an instruction leaflet to inform users of any appropriate warnings and the adverse effects of nicotine.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require the consumer information listed above on and inside the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require the consumer information listed above on and inside the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, if there are areas that you feel could be further strengthened or areas that have been missed and should be included. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree consumer information provided on and inside the packaging of vaping and nicotine products strengthens the current approach and supports consumer protection by helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions, understand product hazards, follow safe usage instructions and avoid misuse. Information requirements on and inside packaging should be clearly defined and applied consistently across the market. Also, clear traceability information should remain prominent on packaging. Challenges arise where enforcement officers are required to open packaging or break seals to verify product information. This can result in additional burdens for retailers through damaged stock,

increased handling requirements and potential product wastage, while also extending inspection times for enforcement officers.

Time allowed to implement new packaging requirements

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to update their packaging to be compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with the new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all products in scope of our vaping and nicotine product packaging proposals would need to comply with any new regulatory requirements by the end of a 12 month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that a time period of no longer than 12 months is necessary from the date legislation is introduced. This will allow manufactures to adapt packaging requirements and sell through existing stock. It is important that no longer than 12 months is permitted as this will undermine the importance of the introduction of the new requirements and the impact this may have on people wanting to quit tobacco products and starting in the first place. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

An additional 6-month grace/transition period may be considered for retailers to allow them to sell through lawful transitional stock.

Clear guidance, commencement dates and evidence requirements for enforcement officers is essential to distinguish lawful transitional stock from non-compliant products. Appropriate

resources are needed for enforcement officers to manage the transition and dedicated to give notice to business and consumers, then 12 months allows enforcement authorities time to prepare guidance, training and a compliance workplan.

Vape device appearance

Restricting the colour and finish of vapes

We propose restricting the colour of vape devices, including all visible parts, to:

- white, black or grey, with only one of those colours per device
- a matt finish
- no variation in shades or opacity

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to limit the colour of a vaping device (including all visible parts) to white, black or grey with a matt finish?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that vape devices should be banned from having cosmetic lights? This would not apply to functional lights, such as those that indicate charge level.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether you think no restrictions should apply, if you think only a subset of the proposed colours should be allowed or if you think alternative colours should be allowed. Equally, you may want to highlight technical exemptions that should be considered. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that vaping devices should be restricted to plain and simple colours with a matt finish. There is no functional need for devices to have brightly coloured designs and cosmetic lights. Restricting the appearance of these devices will help reduce the appeal to young people, reducing the number of young people starting to vape and assisting those wanting to quit.

Standardised colour and finish of vapes helps move the consumer's focus from aesthetics appeal and encourage purchasing decisions based on product information. Permitting only a subset of colours will reduce the likelihood of appearance undermining the health and safety information, by improving the visibility of regulatory markings and warnings.

Colour restrictions on these devices also reduce the risk of packaging resembling sweets, confectionery or other consumer goods, while safety information and health warnings may be displayed more prominently. Therefore, standardised colour of the device could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

We agree on a ban of cosmetic lights on these devices as the feature may imitate other consumer goods (games) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

Restricting branding, imagery, and artwork on vapes

We propose that vapes are banned from having images or artwork, except for where these may be a legal requirement, such as warnings.

We also propose that branding should be limited to a single brand name, which would be subject to a set font, size and colour on the device. This aligns with the restrictions we are proposing for heated tobacco devices.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict all branding, imagery and artwork on vapes?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether you think none or only some of the proposed restrictions should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that there should be no branding, imagery and artwork on vapes. This has been used by manufactures to make vapes seem attractive and cool to young people. Restricting this use of marketing will help reduce the appeal to both current users and young people, reducing their use and uptake.

From a consumer safety perspective a simplified device appearance, subject to the device size, may increase visibility of required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements. However complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit. Also, restricted branding may make it more difficult for consumers to distinguish between devices and identify compatible consumables and accessories. A standardised requirement for clear product identification of electrical devices helps to promote safer use.

Restricting the digital screens on vapes

We propose that digital screens on vapes are prohibited, except for screens which display safety and status information such as battery and liquid levels.

Do you agree or disagree that digital screens on vapes should be restricted to only the display of safety and status information such as battery level, and be greyscale in colour (black, white and grey only)? This would not include lights that indicate status information, such as when the device is being recharged.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

Digital displays should be restricted to functional, safety and device status information and should not be used for promotional or branding purposes. Also, subject to the device size, a screen size could compete for space with mandatory product and safety information required on the device. However, for consumer safety, colour displays can provide important benefits by highlighting warnings, maintenance requirements, battery conditions and device faults more clearly than monochrome displays. The use of limited colours for these purposes may improve consumer understanding and support the safe operation of the device.

Stopping vapes imitating other products

Currently vapes can and do copy the design of other products, such as highlighter pens, refillable water bottles and game devices.

We propose to limit the potential appeal of vapes by stopping them from looking like other products.

Do you agree or disagree that vapes should not be permitted to mimic the design of other products and items? The objective of this proposal is to limit the appeal or attractiveness of vapes.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree prohibiting vapes from imitating other products aligns with the proposed restrictions for heated tobacco devices and helps ensure a consistent regulatory approach across the market.

Food imitation legislation currently exists under EU General Product Safety Regulation 2023/988. However, work needs to be carried out to ensure this can be applied to vapes and vaping products. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using products that imitate other consumer goods (games devices) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

From a consumer safety perspective, requirements that prevent products from being designed to resemble toys, food, cosmetics or other everyday consumer goods would help reduce confusion about the nature of the product and its associated risks. Such measures may also help prevent accidental handling or misuse, particularly by children and other vulnerable groups.

Time allowed to implement new device requirements

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to ensure their devices are compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all vapes would need to comply with any new regulatory requirements by the end of a 12 month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that a time period of no longer than 12 months is necessary from the date legislation is introduced. This will allow manufactures to adapt packaging requirements and sell through existing stock. It is important that no longer than 12 months is permitted as this

will undermine the importance of the introduction of the new requirements and the impact this may have on people wanting to quit tobacco products and starting in the first place. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

An additional 6-month grace/transition period may be considered for retailers to allow them to sell through lawful transitional stock.

Clear guidance, commencement dates and evidence requirements for enforcement officers is essential to distinguish lawful transitional stock from non-compliant products. Appropriate resources are required for enforcement officers to manage the transition and dedicated to give notice to business and consumers, then 12 months allows enforcement authorities time to prepare guidance, training and a compliance workplan.

Retail display

Requested temporary and incidental displays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Under existing legislation, tobacco products cannot be displayed inside or outside most shops across the UK. However, tobacco products can be shown to a customer following a request. The request must be by a person who is of the legal age of sale in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We call this a 'requested temporary display' in this consultation.

Requested temporary displays enable informed purchasing decisions. As a result of a requested temporary display, other people nearby may also incidentally see these products. Current legislation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland also makes allowances for:

- restocking
- staff training
- pricing
- display unit maintenance

We call this 'incidental display' in this consultation.

Restricting the retail display of cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Tobacco products

We propose that the requested temporary display of all tobacco products should only be allowed from behind a sales counter, and not another location within a retail setting.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce a legal requirement that the requested temporary display of all tobacco products must take place from behind a sales counter?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Don't know

Cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products

We propose that most of the restrictions and allowances that apply to the display of tobacco products should apply to cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products too.

This includes:

- restricting the display of these products outside of all retail settings and inside the majority of retail settings
- providing allowances enabling display unit restocking, maintenance, pricing, staff training and requested temporary displays
- permitting the same maximum visible areas (1.5 square meters)

We also propose that the requested temporary display of these products should only be allowed from behind a sales counter, and not another location within a retail setting in the same way as we are proposing to make this a legal requirement for tobacco products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of cigarette papers? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of heated and other tobacco-related devices? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of herbal smoking products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that it should be a legal requirement that all requested temporary displays of tobacco products are made behind a sales counter. This will help ensure that the display of the products is managed and restricted to the person requesting this. It will also ensure that the rules around temporary display are clear and will assist with consistent enforcement. This may also help prevent retailers from trying to circumvent the restriction by displaying the products in another area when requested and trying to promote to other customers.

We believe that all tobacco products and accessories should be subject to the restricted display requirements. Cigarette papers are widely sold, including in shops not selling cigarettes or tobacco, e.g. large chain discount retailers and by not being visible this reduces their appeal and accessibility. As with all tobacco products this will help reduce impulse purchases, assisting those wanting to quit smoking and preventing young people from starting.

We believe that herbal smoking products, heated and other tobacco-related devices should be subject to display restrictions and only sold from behind a counter. By introducing the same restrictions for all tobacco products this highlights and reinforces the message to the consumer that the product is not safe. This will also help ensure that smoking these does not become normalised in society and act as a gateway to smoking cigarettes.

It is vital that all such products are restricted in the same way to prevent impulse purchases and their accessibility and appeal to young people.

Retail display of prices for cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Retailers can display prices for tobacco products in 3 formats:

- a single price list that can be permanently on display at each point of sale, but must be text-only and subject to size and font requirements
- a picture price list that can include product images and can only be shown in response to a request by a person who is of the legal age of sale
- small price labels that can be placed on the covered shelf or on the display unit where the product is kept, pending sale

We propose to apply the same price display principles to:

- cigarette papers
- all tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for cigarette papers?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for all tobacco-related devices including heated tobacco devices?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for herbal smoking products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the display of price lists for cigarette papers should be restricted in line with the current requirements for tobacco products. We also agree that the display of price lists for herbal smoking products and tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices should be restricted and in line with the current requirements for tobacco products.

It is vital that size limits are not increased as price lists could easily become an alternative form of in store promotion.

In addition, we believe that there should be a restriction placed on retailers to ensure that price lists only show the current price and do not draw attention to price promotions or reductions.

Exemptions to display restrictions for tobacco products, cigarette papers, tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Across the UK, there are exemptions that allow for tobacco products and their prices to be on display inside certain premises. These premises include:

- relevant trade premises (those that are only accessible to people that work in the tobacco trade)
- specialist tobacconists
- bulk tobacconists (including duty-free tobacco areas)

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we propose to maintain current exemptions for tobacco products for relevant trade premises and specialist tobacconists.

If and when additional retail display restrictions are brought in, we also propose that relevant trade premises and specialist tobacconists will continue to be allowed to display the following products, and their prices:

- cigarette papers
- heated and other tobacco-related devices
- herbal smoking products

We propose to remove the bulk tobacconist exemption for tobacco products and to not replicate it for any other products in scope of this consultation, since it presents a situation where products may be visibly accessible to the public, including children and young people.

Display exemptions for trade premises

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of cigarette papers and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices, and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of herbal smoking products and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, why you think certain exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that for the purpose of those working in the trade it is reasonable that cigarette papers, herbal smoking products and tobacco related devices, including heated tobacco devices and their prices are displayed in relevant trade premises, provided access is restricted to those over 18 years of age.

Display exemptions for specialist tobacconists

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of cigarette papers and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices, and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of herbal smoking products and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think proposed exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any

additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the display of cigarette papers, tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco, herbal smoking products, and their prices can be displayed within specialist tobacconists, provided access is restricted to those over 18 years of age. They should not be able to have any advertisement visible from the outside of their premises. We believe that this should include price display lists as these could be used as a form of advertisement or to highlight promotions and be visible to children.

Display exemptions for bulk tobacconists

We propose to remove the bulk tobacconist exemption for tobacco products and their prices and to not replicate it for any other products in scope of this consultation. Keeping the exemption would mean children and young people may still be able to see these products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to remove and not replicate this exemption for all products in scope of this consultation?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. Where possible please include any information on any costs to bulk tobacconists associated with removing this exemption for tobacco products, including the number of businesses likely to be affected. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that bulk tobacconists should be subject to the same restrictions as other consumer retail premises. We feel that it is important that these establishments do not become loopholes that will undermine the spirit of the regulations and believe that the regulations should be extended to include a restriction on persons under the age of 18 being able to gain access to these areas. These areas should be subjected to age restriction and verification of age upon entrance.

Definition of vaping products

Throughout this section, we refer to 'vaping products'. This includes vapes, as well as other vape components and refill containers sold separately from the device.

Restricting the display of vaping and nicotine products across the UK

We propose that the display of vaping products and nicotine products is restricted.

We propose that the same allowances for temporary and incidental displays as we have proposed for most other products within scope of this consultation are applied across the UK. This includes a temporary requested display taking place behind a sales counter. This

would make the maximum visible area permitted for a requested temporary display or incidental display:

- 1.5 square metres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- 0.1 square metres in Scotland

We also propose that a requested temporary or incidental display of vaping or nicotine products must not result in the display of:

- tobacco products (and smoking-related products in Scotland)
- cigarette papers
- heated and other tobacco-related devices
- herbal smoking products

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of vaping products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of nicotine products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that the requested temporary or incidental display of vaping and nicotine products should not result in the display of tobacco products (and smoking-related products in Scotland), cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco devices or herbal smoking products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products.

(Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that any display of vaping and nicotine products should not result in the display of any other product. Each product should be stored independently to ensure no deliberate or inadvertent display takes place during a request for one type of product.

We support the removal of the display of nicotine and vaping products as we believe this will reduce the attractiveness and availability to children and support those wanting to quit vaping. In addition, ensuring that this display can only be made from behind a sales counter will limit the ability to get around the display restriction by ensuring this is in one area and not used to promote vape.

Display of prices of vaping and nicotine products across the UK

Across the UK, we propose to apply the same principles for the display of prices of tobacco products to:

- vaping products
- nicotine products

We propose that the price lists for vaping and nicotine products are permitted to also include nicotine strength and ingredients. This will help consumers make informed purchases.

We propose that separate price lists must be used for vaping and nicotine products and for tobacco products, for both permanently displayed price lists and picture prices lists, given vaping and nicotine products carry lower levels of harm than tobacco products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for vaping products, and allow for additional information on nicotine strength and ingredients?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for nicotine products and allow for additional information on nicotine strength and ingredients?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products.

(Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that price lists for vaping and nicotine products should be aligned with tobacco products and additional information on ingredients and strength permitted.

Exemptions to display restrictions of vaping and nicotine products across the UK

Across the UK, it is permitted to display tobacco products inside premises that are only accessible to people working in the tobacco trade as long as this is not visible to the public from the outside. We propose to have this exemption to allow for relevant trade premises to display vaping products and nicotine products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of vaping products in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of nicotine products in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. If you have comments on business exemptions to our display proposals, please include them here. This could include, for example, why you think certain exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that for trade only premises the display of vaping and nicotine products should be permitted.

Time allowed to implement all new display restrictions

If and when new requirements are introduced, retailers will need time to update their shops to comply with the necessary changes.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 6 months would be enough. This would mean the display of products in scope would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 6-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree with our proposal that there should be a minimum of 6 months' notice (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have taken into account to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that 6 months is a reasonable time for retailers to implement the necessary changes to ensure the display restrictions are met. The introduction of the display ban for tobacco products highlighted that this could be achieved in a simple and cost-effective way.

We do not feel that any longer than 6 months is required. This balances the need for action, to remove promotional displays which may encourage young people from starting to use the relevant products and supporting those who wish to give up, with the time required for district councils to prepare for advisory and enforcement activities and for retailers to comply.

Consultation stage impact assessments

We have published consultation stage impact assessments alongside this consultation. The Scottish government, Welsh government and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland have also published impact assessments for proposals relating to retail display.

We would like to hear about any measurable impacts we have not considered in these initial impact assessments.

The data and evidence used in the impact assessments reflects the best available at the time of their completion in October 2025 (May 2026 for the impact assessment for Scotland and June 2026 for the impact assessments for Wales and Northern Ireland). Following this consultation, we will update the impact assessments as appropriate, including in consideration of information we gather through responses and any new data and evidence made available since their publication.

For each impact assessment, you will be asked the following questions. You can respond to as many questions and impact assessments as you want to.

For the retail display impact assessment, you can also respond about the impact assessments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Please make it clear which one you're responding to.

If you have any evidence or data to inform the assumptions or estimates in the consultation stage impact assessment, please enter it in the relevant free text box.

Please do not include any personal information in your response.

Provide any evidence to inform our estimates in the impact assessment of the benefits of the proposed policy. For example, information on the impact that options will have on the number of people using products in scope and/or health benefits associated with any reduction in usage. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Provide any evidence to inform our estimates in the impact assessment of the costs of the proposed policy. For example, information on profit margins for manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, and/or costs and process of product redesign. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Specify any stakeholders that may be impacted by the proposed policy and/or costs and benefits that we have not identified in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Outline any potential unintended consequences of the proposed policy that we have not identified in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Provide any other comments to inform our assumptions or analysis in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

File upload

If you would like to upload a document to support your submission, you will be able to do so. Please do not upload information that could identify you or another member of the public.



Subject:	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland.
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
Contact Officer:	Alastair Curran Environmental 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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report / Summary of Main Issues.
1.1	The People and Communities Committee is advised that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is presently consulting upon legislative proposals to tighten existing annual average particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) limit values, targets and objectives in Northern Ireland in order to reduce harmful air pollution, protect public health, and align Northern Ireland more closely with international World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance and emerging standards across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Current short-term air quality standards for particulate matter will remain, unaltered.
1.2	This report serves therefore to provide an overview of the evidence and guidance that DAERA have considered in developing the revised annual average particulate matter health-based air quality standards for Northern Ireland and regarding the separation of regulatory obligations to achieve the revised PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} air quality standards between Northern Ireland Government Departments, district councils and competent authorities, to be provided for via amendments to The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.
1.3	As part of the consultation process, DAERA have posed 14 questions for respondents to consider and respond to. Proposed responses to the 14 questions have been provided at Appendix 1 to this Committee report.
2.0	Recommendation.
2.1	The Committee is requested to: • Note the contents of this report concerning DAERA proposals to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland. • Agree that the proposed consultation response, provided at Appendix 1 to this report, be submitted to the DAERA by the consultation deadline of 31st August 2026.
2.2	Upon Committee agreement, the consultation response will be provided to DAERA by 31 st August 2026, indicating that the consultation response remains subject to ratification at a meeting of full Council on 1 st September 2026, and that the consultation response may therefore be subject to amendment.
3.0	Main Report.
3.1	DAERA have highlighted that particulate matter is comprised of primary components (those directly emitted) and secondary components (those formed in the atmosphere), and that the potential adverse impacts of particulate matter upon human health are well established. PM _{2.5} (airborne particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometres (µm) or less) and PM ₁₀ (airborne particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres (µm) or less) can both act directly as respiratory irritants in the airways. For PM _{2.5} , in particular, the particles may cross from the lungs into the bloodstream, where they may have indirect systemic effects, such as increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke.
3.2	DAERA have additionally highlighted that The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2025 publication entitled, ' <i>Air Pollutant Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2005-2023</i> ' indicates that for primary PM _{2.5} , key emission sources within Northern Ireland include domestic burning (26.1%); industrial combustion (9.1%); road transport (16.9%) and; solvent use and industrial processes (10.1%).

3.3	For PM ₁₀ , key emission sources include agriculture; industrial processes; residential, commercial and public sector combustion and; transport. Agriculture produces 97% of current ammonia (NH ₃) emissions, which can persist in the atmosphere, be transported for long distances and can react with other ambient pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), to form ammonium aerosols, which are precursors to particulate matter formation, including PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} . The Committee will be aware that particulate matter is regarded as a transboundary pollutant.
3.4	Northern Ireland legislation currently regulates ambient levels of PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} through two distinct but complementary legislative pathways.
3.5	The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 transpose the various provisions of <i>'Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe'</i> into Northern Ireland legislation, thereby establishing a PM ₁₀ annual average limit value of 40 µgm ⁻³ and a 24-hour mean limit value of 50 µgm ⁻³ , the 24-hour mean limit value not to be exceeded more than 35 times per calendar year; and an annual average limit value and a target value of 25 µgm ⁻³ for PM _{2.5} , the limit value to be achieved by 1 st January 2015.
3.6	For clarity, a <i>'limit value'</i> means a level fixed on the basis of scientific knowledge, with the aim of avoiding, preventing, or reducing harmful effects on human health and/or the environment as a whole, to be attained within a given period and not to be exceeded once achieved. A <i>'target value'</i> alternatively means a level fixed with the aim of avoiding, preventing, or reducing harmful effects on human health and / or the environment as a whole, to be attained where possible over a given period. Target values are therefore intended to be attained where possible, whilst limit values are mandatory concentrations that are not to be exceeded.
3.7	The 2010 Regulations place a statutory duty upon Northern Ireland government Departments to ensure that concentrations of PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} do not exceed the respective limit values. In zones, where concentrations of the particulate matter pollutants are below limit values, Northern Ireland Departments are additionally required to ensure that concentrations are maintained below the respective limit values and to endeavour to maintain the best ambient air quality, compatible with sustainable development.
3.8	The 2010 Regulations place a further statutory duty upon Northern Ireland government Departments to ensure that all necessary measures, not entailing disproportionate costs, are taken to ensure that concentrations of PM _{2.5} do not exceed the target values.
3.9	DAERA have highlighted that the annual average limit and target values for PM _{2.5} , as detailed within schedules 2 and 3 of The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, are equivalent at 25 µgm ⁻³ , and so consequently ineffective. DAERA have therefore proposed a more stringent target value.
3.10	The Committee will be aware that Part III of The Environmental (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, concerning ambient air quality, separately places a statutory duty upon district councils to periodically review and assess ambient air quality within their council areas against a series of health-based air quality objectives, established via the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and reiterated within the July 2007 Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

3.11	With regard to particulate matter (PM ₁₀), the schedule to the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 establishes a PM ₁₀ 40 µgm ⁻³ annual mean objective and a 50 µgm ⁻³ 24-hour mean objective, not to be exceeded more than 35 times per annum, both to have been achieved by district councils and competent authorities by 31 st December 2004. Competent authorities include government Departments, other district councils, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation. These Regulations contain no objectives for PM _{2.5} , although the Committee will appreciate that PM _{2.5} is a subfraction of PM ₁₀ and so actions to improve ambient concentrations of PM ₁₀ will also have a beneficial impact upon PM _{2.5} concentrations, where there are common emission sources.
3.12	The Committee is advised that annual mean limit values and objectives apply at all locations where members of the public may be regularly exposed, including at building façades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, care homes etc. They do not apply at façades of offices or other work locations, where health and safety at work legislation applies, at hotels, at gardens of residential properties, at kerbside sites or any other location where public exposure is anticipated to be short term.
3.13	The Committee will recall that in 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) for particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀), ozone (O ₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), sulphur dioxide (SO ₂) and carbon monoxide (CO). The WHO publication therefore provides updated air quality guideline values for PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀ , together with a series of four interim targets, although the WHO have advised that the interim targets should be regarded as steps towards the ultimate achievement of the Air Quality Guideline values at a point in the future, rather than being regarded as end targets in themselves. The interim target values have been designed to deliver successive improvements in ambient air pollution, with WHO interim target 4 the most stringent air quality target, sitting just below the final Air Quality Guideline level. This WHO approach therefore allows for a gradual progression towards achieving cleaner air, taking account the need for policy change, infrastructure investment, and realistic timescales for implementing effective change.
3.14	In terms of proposals to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives for Northern Ireland, DAERA have suggested the following reductions:
3.15	The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010; <i>applicable to Northern Ireland government Departments.</i> PM₁₀ - the annual average limit value for PM₁₀ should be reduced from the current 40 µgm⁻³ to 20 µgm⁻³; equivalent to interim target 4 of the WHO guideline values. PM_{2.5} - the annual average limit value for PM_{2.5} should be reduced from the current 25 µgm⁻³ to 10 µgm⁻³; equivalent to interim target 4 of the WHO guideline values. PM_{2.5} – the annual average target value for PM_{2.5} should be reduced from the current 25 µgm⁻³ to 8 µgm⁻³. For clarity, the WHO Air Quality Guideline annual average value for PM₁₀ is 15 µgm⁻³ and 5 µgm⁻³ for PM_{2.5}.

3.16	The Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003; <i>applicable to district councils and competent authorities.</i> PM₁₀ - the annual average objective value for PM₁₀ should be reduced from the current 40 μgm^{-3} to 20 μgm^{-3}; equivalent to interim target 4 of the WHO guideline values. The WHO Air Quality Guideline annual average value for PM₁₀ is 15 μgm^{-3}.
3.17	DAERA have advised that adoption of interim target 4 for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} of the WHO guideline levels puts Northern Ireland on a path to achieve the Air Quality Guideline levels for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at a point in the future but that further policy interventions will be necessary before more stringent particulate matter standards are introduced. DAERA have further advised that to ensure consistency and to provide a 'lead in' time, all of the new annual average limits, targets and objectives will have an intended compliance date of 1st January 2028 and each calendar year thereafter.
3.18	In terms of the DAERA proposed compliance date of 1st January 2028 and having considered the approach employed by Defra when setting a PM_{2.5} target for England, based on robust scientific trajectory scenarios and modelling assessments, it is unclear if DAERA have undertaken an equivalent particulate matter trajectory and achievability assessment for Northern Ireland. As a consequence, it is recommended that dates for achieving the proposed strengthened Northern Ireland particulate matter standards should be informed by an equivalently robust scientific trajectory assessment. Accordingly, it is considered that 1st January 2028 is an unrealistic compliance date, in terms of the various strategies and policies that will need to be developed and mitigation actions that may need to be taken by Departments and councils to achieve the newly proposed limits, targets and objectives for particulate matter.
3.19	In order to characterise the likely regulatory impact of the new particulate matter standards, DAERA have undertaken a review of historical annual mean particulate matter monitoring data across Northern Ireland from 2019 – 2024. For PM_{2.5}, DAERA have advised that most recently, in 2024, 10 monitoring sites achieved both the proposed new annual average limit value of 10 μgm^{-3} and the proposed new annual average target value of 8 μgm^{-3}. For PM₁₀, DAERA have advised that 13 monitoring sites achieved the proposed new annual average limit value / objective of 20 μgm^{-3} for PM₁₀.
3.20	As an addition, the Committee is advised that for 2025, monitored PM₁₀ annual mean concentrations at the Belfast Centre urban background and Stockmans Lane roadside monitoring sites were 13 μgm^{-3} and 19 μgm^{-3} respectively; both in compliance with the proposed 20 μgm^{-3} annual average objective value for PM₁₀.
3.21	Similarly, the 2025 PM_{2.5} annual mean, monitored at the Belfast Centre urban background monitoring site, was 8 μgm^{-3}; in compliance with the proposed 10 μgm^{-3} annual average limit value and equal to the 8 μgm^{-3} annual mean target value.
3.22	It should be noted, however, that background PM₁₀ concentrations within the Belfast City Council area have been estimated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to be up to 14.2 μgm^{-3} during 2026; more typically around 10-11 μgm^{-3} in built up areas and that background PM_{2.5} concentrations have been estimated to be up to 8.6 μgm^{-3} during 2026; more typically 6-7 μgm^{-3} in built up areas. Defra have clarified that the total concentration of an air pollutant comprises contributions from explicit local emission sources such as roads,

	chimneystacks, etc., and those that are transported into an area by wind from further away, adding that if all of the local emission sources are removed, what remains is pollution that comes from further away; the '<i>background</i>'. The Committee is therefore advised that a significant proportion of PM₁₀, (and indeed PM_{2.5}) experienced within the Belfast City Council boundary, arises from distant background particulate matter sources, that Belfast City Council has limited opportunity to address via its statutory Local Air Quality Management functions.
3.23	The Committee will recall that Council Air Quality Officers and Aecom consultants completed a detailed assessment for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) for the Belfast City Council area during 2023. The detailed assessment considered a 2019 pre-Covid base year, and a forward projection year of 2028. The outworkings of the detailed assessment were considered by the People and Communities Committee at agenda item 12 of its hybrid meeting of 13th June 2023. https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MIId=11151
3.24	For PM₁₀, for the forward projection year of 2028, Aecom advised that the highest levels of PM₁₀ would occur where local source contributions coincided with elevated background concentrations and that the highest annual mean modelled concentration at a discrete sensitive receptor location in 2028 was therefore predicted to be 20.3 µgm⁻³, near to the A12 Westlink in the area of Barrack Street. This predicted maximum annual mean PM₁₀ concentration in 2028 would be marginally in excess of the proposed 20 µgm⁻³ annual average objective value applicable to district councils, and the 20 µgm⁻³ annual average limit value, applicable to government Departments.
3.25	For PM_{2.5}, Aecom indicated that for the 2028 forward projection year, the highest levels of PM_{2.5} would again occur where local source contributions coincided with elevated background concentrations and that the highest predicted PM_{2.5} annual mean concentration in 2028 at a discrete sensitive receptor location was predicted to be 13.1 µgm⁻³, again near to the A12 Westlink in the area of Barrack Street. This predicted maximum annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration in 2028 would be in excess of both the proposed 10 µgm⁻³ annual average limit value and the 8 µgm⁻³ annual average target value for PM_{2.5}. The Committee is advised, however, that responsibility for achieving the PM_{2.5} limit and target values will fall to government Departments.
3.26	DAERA have also provided an overview of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ annual mean limit, target and objective values in other United Kingdom devolved administrations, and for Ireland, by way of contrast. England and Wales currently apply a 40 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit, whilst Scotland has adopted a stricter 18 µgm⁻³ standard. Ireland, aligning with WHO guidance, has set an interim annual mean target 3 of 30 µgm⁻³ by 2026, 20 µgm⁻³ by 2030, and the WHO Air Quality Guideline of 15 µgm⁻³ by 2040.
3.27	For PM_{2.5}, England has adopted a 12 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value, to be achieved by 2028, and the WHO interim target 4 of 10 µgm⁻³ for 2040. Scotland already applies the WHO interim target 4 of 10 µgm⁻³. Wales currently applies the WHO interim target 2 of 25 µgm⁻³ but has recently consulted on adopting target 4; 10 µgm⁻³ by 2035. Ireland has set staged WHO aligned targets: target 3 - 15 µgm⁻³ by 2026, target 4 - 10 µgm⁻³ by 2030, and the WHO guideline of 5 µgm⁻³ by 2040

3.28	DAERA have advised that the Department will monitor compliance with the proposed revised particulate matter air quality standards through the publication of an annual report covering a range of ambient air pollutants monitored in Northern Ireland, including PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} , adding that this report will highlight details of cases where levels of pollutants have exceeded limit, values, target values and objectives.
3.29	In addition, DAERA have advised that the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 require district councils to periodically review and assess the quality of ambient air within their areas and that the reviews must consider current and future air quality and assess whether air quality objectives are being met or are likely to be achieved within relevant periods.
3.30	DAERA have stated that the Department will ensure that the above-mentioned annual reports will continue to be produced to ensure compliance with the new limits, targets and objectives to inform the public, government, and wider air quality community within Northern Ireland.
3.31	Proposed amendments to annual average particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) standards detailed within The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 are to be brought about via The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026, to be made later in 2026.
3.32	By of consultation response summary, it is considered that Belfast City Council should support DAERA's ambitions to improve ambient air quality across Northern Ireland through the proposed tightening of the various particulate matter standards. However, whilst the Council recognises the importance of good air quality and the associated benefits to human health, we are strongly of the view that the current legislative framework underpinning the Local Air Quality Management regime within Northern Ireland urgently requires additional amendments and changes, alongside the introduction of a clear and ambitions policy direction from key government Departments, to include DAERA, in order to bring about the necessary positive changes. We would reiterate that particulate matter emissions may be transboundary in source and nature, as highlighted within section 3.22 of this paper.
3.33	We would consequentially advocate that the Northern Ireland Assembly should consider designating a lead government Department, tasked with ensuring delivery of necessary Local Air Quality Management functions across government Departments, as it is considered that government Departments are best placed to effect the various policy changes necessary to reduce particulate matter and other emissions from, for example, road transportation and combustion and heating sources for existing and new commercial and private buildings across Northern Ireland. Moreover, it is our strong view that Northern Ireland ambient air quality legislation requires the introduction of a statutory responsibility upon a lead government Department, such as DAERA, to co-ordinate the development and delivery of air quality action plans, alongside the development and implementation of achievable regional policy plans in order to successfully deliver beneficial changes in ambient air quality at a regional level.
3.34	DAERA have invited consultees to respond to a number of questions as an aspect of the consultation process. Belfast City Council Air Quality Officers have considered these questions and provided suggested responses at Appendix 1 to this report.
3.35	<u>Financial and Resource Implications.</u> There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with the council's consultation response concerning DAERA's proposal to tighten annual average particulate

3.36	matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland. Council officers will, however, continue to submit annual applications to the DAERA Local Air Quality Management grant process to support the council's delivery of its statutory local air quality management functions, including in connection with any necessary addition particulate matter monitoring, which currently attracts 100% grant funding for: temporary monitoring, feasibility studies and equipment, in connection with establishing new sites; new enclosures and ancillary works; and new analyser hardware and associated set-up costs. Council officers will additionally continue to provide phased Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) and / or Progress Reports to DAERA on an annual basis in accordance with the reporting timetable established via LAQM.TG(22). These reports will be developed and submitted to DAERA from within existing air quality staff resources. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment.</u> There are no equality or Good Relations / Rural Needs Assessment implications associated with the council's consultation response concerning DAERA's proposal to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 – DAERA consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland.

Air and Environmental Quality Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
1st Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Dear Sir / Madam

Consultation questions:

1. What is your name Siobhan Toland, Director City Services

2. What is your email address? Tolands@belfastcity.gov.uk

3. What is your home postcode? BT2 8BP

4. Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please confirm the name of the organization and you have the authority to respond on behalf of the organisation.

Organisation – Belfast City Council

5. Please indicate if you are happy for your response to be published.

Yes

6. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate if you are content for the name of the organisation to be associated with your response.

Yes - Belfast City Council.

Proposed new annual average limits, targets and objectives for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).

7. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average limit value of 20 µgm⁻³ for PM₁₀?

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question. (1,500 character limit).

Council notes that DAERA propose to adopt an annual mean limit value of 20 µgm⁻³ for PM₁₀ to be achieved by 1 January 2028; equivalent to interim target 4 of the *WHO global air quality guidelines*. Responsibility for achieving the proposed annual mean limit value will fall to government Departments. The WHO annual mean AQG is 15 µgm⁻³ but DAERA have advised that further policy interventions will be required before stricter PM₁₀ standards are introduced. Council further notes that the 20 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value is half of the current 40 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value.

In considering the proposed 20 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value for PM₁₀, Council has referred to Defra background air pollution mapping provided to inform LAQM functions. Defra have clarified that the total concentration of an air pollutant comprises contributions from local emission sources and those transported into an area by wind from further away, adding that if local emission sources are removed, what remains is pollution from further away; *the background*. Referring to Defra background data for 2026, it is noted that background PM₁₀ concentrations within the BCC area may be up to 14.2 µgm⁻³; more typically 10-11 µgm⁻³ in developed areas. Accordingly, in order to achieve the 20 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value, actions will be required by government Departments to address both local and background emission sources, with a likely emphasis on background sources. It is considered, however, that adoption of a 20 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value for PM₁₀ is a pragmatic initial step towards introduction and achievement of the WHO 15 µgm⁻³ annual mean AQG for PM₁₀, in view of contributions from local and background emissions sources to overall PM₁₀ concentrations across the Belfast City Council area.

8. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average objective of 20 µgm⁻³ for PM₁₀?

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share reason for views or any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1,500 character limit).

Further to our response to question 7, Council notes that DAERA are proposing to establish an annual average objective of $20 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ for PM_{10} to be achieved by 1 January 2028; equivalent to interim target 4 of the *2021 WHO global air quality guidelines*. Responsibility for pursuit of this PM_{10} annual mean objective will fall to district councils and competent authorities. The WHO PM_{10} annual mean AQG is $15 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ but DAERA have advised that further policy interventions will be required before stricter PM_{10} standards are introduced. Council notes that the $20 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ PM_{10} annual mean objective is half of the current $40 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ annual mean objective.

Council would reiterate its comments made in response to Q7 concerning the appreciable contribution from background pollution sources to monitored PM_{10} levels in Belfast and as a consequence, Council's, and indeed competent authorities' abilities to mitigate the impact of these distant background sources. In addition, Council would highlight that a detailed assessment for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}), completed during 2023, indicated that for a 2028 forward projection year, the maximum modelled PM_{10} annual mean concentration across the city would be $20.3 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$, at a city centre location, marginally in excess of the proposed $20 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ annual mean objective, and potentially requiring designation of an Air Quality Management Area and associated Action Planning. The Council considers, however, that the adoption of a $20 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ annual mean objective value for PM_{10} is a pragmatic initial step towards eventual introduction of the WHO $15 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ annual mean AQG, in view of contributions of local and background emissions sources to overall PM_{10} concentrations across the Belfast City Council area.

9. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average limit value of $10 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$?

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

Belfast City Council acknowledges the significant health disbenefits associated with $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and therefore welcomes the proposed tightening of the annual mean limit value to $10 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$. Council notes that responsibility for achieving the annual mean limit value will fall to government Departments. Council further notes that the WHO annual average AQG is $5 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ but that DAERA have highlighted that further policy interventions will be needed before stricter PM standards can be introduced.

Council would again highlight the significant contribution from background emission sources to monitored PM_{2.5} concentrations within Belfast. 2026 background PM_{2.5} concentrations have been estimated by Defra to be up to 8.6 µgm⁻³; more typically 6-7 µgm⁻³ in built up areas; a significant proportion of the proposed 10 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value for PM_{2.5}.

Council would additionally highlight that the 2023 detailed air quality assessment indicates that for a forward projection year of 2028, the highest levels of PM_{2.5} are predicted to occur where local emission sources coincide with elevated background concentrations. For 2028, the highest annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration is predicted to be 13.1 µgm⁻³ at a city centre location, and in excess of the proposed 10 µgm⁻³ annual average limit value. By way of comparison, the monitored annual mean concentration for PM_{2.5} at the Belfast Centre AURN urban background site in 2025 was 8 µgm⁻³.

Accordingly, Council considers that adoption of a 10 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value for PM_{2.5} is a pragmatic initial step towards introduction and achievement of the WHO 5 µgm⁻³ annual mean AQG, in view of contributions from local and background emissions sources to monitored PM_{2.5} concentrations within the Belfast City Council area.

10. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average target value of 8 µgm⁻³ for PM_{2.5}?

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

Belfast City Council acknowledges the significant human health disbenefits associated with PM_{2.5} and therefore welcomes the proposed tightening of the PM_{2.5} annual mean target value. Council notes that DAERA have proposed a new annual mean target value of 8 µgm⁻³ for PM_{2.5}; a welcome and significant reduction of 17 µgm⁻³ from the previous annual mean target value of 25 µgm⁻³ and 2 µgm⁻³ less than the proposed 10 µgm⁻³ annual mean limit value; acknowledging that a '*target value*' is a level fixed with the aim of avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on human health and / or the environment as a whole, to be attained where possible over a given period.

Council notes that the annual mean target value is to be achieved by government Departments.

Council would once again refer to its previous comments concerning the contribution of background sources to concentrations of PM_{2.5} across the Belfast City Council area and the impact that such PM_{2.5} background sources may consequently have on the ability of

government Departments to achieve the proposed $8 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ annual mean target value within Belfast.

Belfast City Council considers, however, that the various additional policy and mitigation measures that will be necessary in order to achieve the proposed annual mean target value of $8 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, will additionally contribute towards the introduction and facilitate the achievement of the WHO annual mean AQG of $5 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$.

11. To what extent do you agree with the proposed compliance date of 1 January 2028 for these new limit values, target values and objectives for PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- **Strongly disagree**

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

Council notes that the revised annual average objectives are to be achieved each calendar year, with a first compliance year of 2027. To ensure consistency and a lead in time, annual average standards are to have a compliance date of 1 January 2028. Proposed amendments to the existing particulate matter standards are to be made in late 2026.

As the first compliance year is 2027, with a compliance date of 1 January 2028, DAERA are advised that the first formal assessment of 2027 monitoring data will be via the 2028 Progress Report. It is unclear therefore why DAERA have indicated that a compliance date of 1 January 2028 provides an appropriate 'lead in' time. Moreover, the consultation document highlights that administrations that have adopted strengthened $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ standards have adopted compliance dates of up to 2040.

In setting a $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ target for England, Defra published evidence reports that included trajectories for various target level scenarios. The trajectories were modelled for emission reduction scenarios and a target baseline to provide a timeline for 2025, 2030, 2040 & 2050, which was then used to inform the likely dates for target achievability. It is unclear if DAERA have undertaken a comparable particulate matter achievability assessment for NI. It is recommended, however, that dates for achieving strengthened NI particulate matter standards should be informed by an equivalently robust scientific trajectory assessment.

Council considers, therefore, that 1 January 2028 is an unrealistic compliance date, in terms of strategies and policies that will need to be developed and mitigation actions that may need to be taken by Departments and councils to achieve, or be in pursuit of new limit values, target values and objectives for PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$.

Impact Assessments

12. Do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- **Neutral**
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

N/A

13. Do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the Equality and Disability screening?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- **Neutral**
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

N/A

Additional comments

14. Do you have any additional comments you wish to raise with regards to the draft Regulations or consultation documents? (1,500 character limit).

- Council notes that DAERA consulted on a NI *Clean Air Strategy* in 2020, but no Strategy has yet been published, despite consultation into tightened PM standards.
- In delivering LAQM functions, AQ officers will refer to LAQM.TG22. Assessment tools provided in TG22 may require revisions to reflect the new PM₁₀ annual mean objective. TG22 is also utilised by consultants for assessing PM impacts associated with developments.
- Whilst Council recognises the importance of good air quality and associated benefits to health, we are strongly of the view that the legislative framework underpinning the NI LAQM regime urgently requires additional amendments, alongside the introduction of a clear and ambitious policy direction from key government Departments to deliver necessary positive changes. We would reiterate that PM emissions may be transboundary in source and nature.

We would advocate that the NI Assembly considers designating a lead government Department, tasked with ensuring delivery of necessary LAQM functions across Departments, as such Departments are best placed to effect policy changes necessary to reduce PM emissions from transport and combustion sources for existing / new commercial / private premises. Moreover, our strong view is that NI air quality legislation requires introduction of a statutory responsibility on a lead Department, to coordinate development and delivery of AQ Action Plans, alongside development and implementation of achievable regional policy plans to successfully deliver beneficial changes in AQ at a regional level.

- Tightened PM objectives may mean that additional monitoring is required for Belfast. It is unclear if Departments will seek council assistance with monitoring for their limit / target values.

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Subject:	Review of the dual language street signs policy
Date:	11 th August 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

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report is provided for members to formally agree the start of a review of the Dual Language Street Signs (DLSS) policy. The review will seek to:
1.2	• Fulfil the commitment made on implementation of the policy to review the impact of the policy; • Address requests from and issues raised by Members in relation to various aspects of the policy; and • Review of the issues identified by officers who are administering the policy in practice.
1.3	The review will include the development of a robust consultation and engagement framework to identify any stakeholders whose views should be sought.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider the information provided and agree to the scope of the review of the DLSS policy as set out in the report
2.2	Officers will bring a further report to members outlining the associated timeframe for the review including further information on the consultant appointment for the specific aspects of the review discussed below and details of any proposed stakeholder engagement.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The current DLLS policy was agreed and adopted by BCC in October 2022, following a public consultation and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).
3.2	A commitment was made at implementation in July 2022 to review the impact of the policy and monitoring information currently held will be used to feed into such a review.
3.3	Since Implementation this Committee have agreed various operational aspects of the policy including: - An approach to applications for DLSS on City Centre Streets - An approach to DLSS in the Gaeltacht Quarter - An approach to “long streets” (as defined by the policy).
3.4	Since implementation members have also raised issues and queries regarding application of the policy in practice and these matters have been discussed at the monthly People and Communities Committee and Council meetings.
	Review of Impact of Policy
3.5	Commitments were made, in keeping with those included in the council's Equality Scheme, to review the policy and take into account and remedy any identified adverse impacts.
3.6	It was duly recognised that the process of Section 75 assessment which is attached to each application moves beyond the normal practice of the council in regard to screening (which is typically relating to the process by which decisions are reached rather than each decision). However, it was felt at the time that this was a proportionate safeguard given the sensitivities attaching to this issue.
3.7	The overall policy review will include a consultant led review of the above issues and in

	this regard, officers will make available for such a review the monitoring information that has been collected to assist this process. This information includes but is not limited to: - • Quantitative data relating to the number of applications made, including the breakdown of support by community background at relevant stages of the application process; • Qualitative data regarding comments and feedback received on applications, together with correspondence/media coverage; • Feedback from staff involved in the application process; • Analysis of complaints register. Matters raised by members to be included in review:
3.8	There are several issues that have been raised by members since implementation of the policy. These matters will be considered in the review and include -
3.9	• <u>Calculation of Survey Results</u> The current DLSS policy states that “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”. Officers currently compile all results as a percentage of all occupiers on a street. This approach has been challenged in Committee and Council meetings where it has been suggested that results should be calculated as percentage of only those that have returned a survey rather than all occupiers of the street. A legal opinion has been requested in relation to this matter. Whilst street surveys will continue, processing of survey results and subsequent reporting to Committee has been put on hold awaiting this legal opinion being provided.
3.10	• <u>Streets which do not meet the fifteen percent threshold at survey</u> If the minimum threshold of fifteen percent is not met at street survey, the current DLSS policy states the applicant will be given two weeks to advise the Council of any special circumstances in relation to the application. If none exist, then the application is closed. These applications have been set out on the Council’s website but have not been reported to committee. However, since May 2026 these have been included within the monthly DLSS report for noting with the first such report including all those applications that had failed to date.
3.11	In noting the closure of a number of applications that have not met the 15% threshold at survey, Members have used the residual discretion clause within the policy to reconsider the applications and approve them. Both the reporting of these applications and the decision-making process using residual discretion has been queried by some members and it is proposed that this is also considered by the review.
3.12	• <u>Data collection as part of the survey process including use of the electoral register</u> Officers currently use the electoral list as a basis for street surveys which is the stated policy position. Whilst this matter has been subject to a previous report (May 2026), and a decision was taken by the Committee to maintain the current process it was agreed at Council in June that the matter would be further considered by the review.

3.13	• <u>Dealing with duplicate applications for streets that fail to meet the approval threshold at street survey.</u>
3.14	There are a number of streets that have failed to meet the threshold for approval at street survey. There has been no consensus on how subsequent applications in the same or a different language for streets that have failed to meet the 15% threshold in survey should be dealt with. It is proposed that this matter should be considered as part of the review.
3.15	Other matters to be considered by review
3.16	In addition to the above the review will consider and propose changes to the policy for any matters that have already been approved by members such as the reduction in survey response times from one month to 21 days.
3.17	It will also include a review of operational processes to establish and deal with any issues in application and administration of the policy in practice by officers.
3.18	The stakeholder's perspective will be an important component of the review and in this regard, officers will identify the stakeholders whose views should be sought to determine whether any policy changes may be required.
	Who will carry out the review.
3.19	Council officers will lead the operational review of the practical issues identified by Members and staff who have direct experience of implementing the policy.
3.20	The Business Research and Development Unit (in the Place and Economy departmental policy team) will support all objective elements of the review. This will include the development of a robust consultation and engagement framework to identify the stakeholders whose views should be sought to determine whether any policy changes may be required. This stakeholder engagement will be completed prior to any formal public consultation on proposed changes.
3.21	In line with the commitments made regarding the review of the impacts of the DLLS Policy, the Council will appoint a suitably qualified independent consultant with the necessary expertise to undertake this specific element of the review. This work will assess the policy's impact at both an individual and community level.
3.22	Officers will prepare Terms of Reference for the review, and a further report will be brought before this Committee once the independent consultant has been appointed, setting out the agreed scope and timescales.
3.23	Operational position while the review is ongoing
3.24	During the period the policy is subject to review, applications will continue to be processed, and subject to the impact of the legal opinion being sought into the calculation of the fifteen percent threshold as outlined above survey results brought to Committee in line with the current policy/procedures.
3.25	Duplicate applications for the same second language in any street previously surveyed which did not meet the threshold, or were refused, will be put on hold until the review is complete and a procedure for this matter is agreed. The impact of this is currently limited to 3 streets.

3.26	Officers will continue to use the current process for data collection as agreed at the committee meeting in May 2026 until the review is complete. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.27	Any consultant costs will be included in a future report when a consultant has been appointed.
3.28	There will be significant staff time required both in the operational part of the review and also collating information and working with any consultant which will impact on regular processing tasks. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.29	The implications of any policy change and the revised policy will be assessed for impacts in line with corporate guidelines.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None

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Subject:	Request re Boucher Road Playing Fields - CinePark Limited to host a drive thru cinema during December 2026
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request from CinePark Limited to host a series of outdoor drive thru cinema experiences at Boucher Road Playing Fields during the month of December 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
2.2	Where appropriate negotiate a fee 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;
2.3	Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organiser: I. resolve 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.
2.4	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.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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.
3.2	Details of event
3.3	The event organiser expects between 150-250 cars to attend the event per day split across different showings at different times of the day.
3.4	The event organiser has scheduled a variety of movies to accommodate for a wide audience demographic ranging from families with young children and teenagers, young couples through to a maturer audience. It's likely to be themed very much around Christmas and the festive time of year and will give families something very different to do.
3.5	CinePark Limited will be solely responsible for acquiring and maintaining all appropriate movie licences, rights, etc. for all the titles that will be shown.

3.6	The event organiser will be using a 7X4m LED screen that comes on a trailer platform with a hydraulic system to raise the screen. The platform ensures quick installation and removal as no structure has to be built. A FM radio transmitter will be used to broadcast the audio for the movies directly to each car radio.
3.7	Tickets CinePark Limited will run a ticketing system where one car will need to buy only one ticket regardless of the number of people in the car. Standard tickets will cost £20 and premium tickets will cost £25. All tickets will be sold and managed online via the CinePark website; however they will also take payment on site if required for any drive-ins.
3.8	Vendors The event organisers aim to create a full cinema experience by inviting food vendors and stalls to operate during the event, selling a range of foods including popcorn, confectionary, drinks and slushies.
3.9	Event Management Plans
3.10	The event organiser has submitted initial plans to Belfast City Council outlining consideration for toilet provision, waste management, site security, first aid provision and traffic management.
3.11	This proposed event will be the first time that CinePark Limited has held an event with Belfast City Council so Council officers will carry out additional due-diligence when planning and regulating this event.
3.12	Officers have already carried out checks with Companies House and early meetings and site visits with the organisers have been very constructive.
3.13	Members are aware of the SP&R decision to return Boucher Road Playing Fields to full playing pitch provision. Whilst the work to develop the site is ongoing all decisions around current use of the playing fields will be taken on a case-by-case basis.
3.14	<u>Event Times</u> Monday – Friday: 2pm - midnight Saturdays: 11am - midnight Sundays: 11am – midnight
3.15	<u>Key Dates for set up and de-rig are:</u> Thursday 10 December 2026 Arrival on site at 8am. Thursday 31 December 2026 Dismantle and De-rig by 12pm
3.16	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Council will collect a fee for the hire of Boucher Road Playing fields. The promotor shall further pay to the Council a Social Contribution Fee which shall equate to 10% of the overall site fee received. The Council will use this Social Contribution Fee by way of investment back into the local community.

3.17	A reinstatement bond will be required to be paid to the council before the event to cover any reinstatement of grounds after the event. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet, Open Space & Streetscene

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 ☐ - Information relating to any individual. - Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) - Information in connection with any labour relations matter - Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. - 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. - Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime									
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? <table> <tr> <td>After Committee Decision</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	☐	After Council Decision	☐	Sometime in the future	☐	Never	☐
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After Council Decision	☐								
Sometime in the future	☐								
Never	☐								



Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast Parks. • North Belfast Lantern Parade – Alexandra Park • Tiny Lights Walk - Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park • Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
2.2	Where appropriate negotiate a fee 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.
2.3	Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organisers: I. resolve 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.
2.4	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.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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.
3.2	<u>North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park – Friday 30 October 2026</u>
3.3	Belfast City Council has received a request from New Lodge Arts to host their Annual Lantern Parade. The event is designed to promote good relations in the shared space of Alexandra Park with a fee of £2 per person being charged for those wishing to attend.
3.4	The event will include art and crafts workshops, interactive music, dance and theatre show, inflatables, walk about acts and an interactive bubble show. The event will then finish with a live Firework display taking place in the park. New Lodge Arts will be responsible for providing all necessary documentation for the firework display to go ahead.
3.5	The event organiser has been advised that, should Alexandra Park be closed to facilitate the planned refurbishment works, the venue will not be available for the proposed event. In those circumstances, the organiser would be required either to cancel the event or relocate it to an alternative suitable park.
3.6	The Key Dates are as follows.
3.7	Set up – Thursday 29 October 2026 – 8am onwards Events – Friday 30 October 2026 – 12pm to 3pm & 5pm to 8.30pm De Rig – Saturday 31 October 2026 – 3pm
3.8	<u>TinyLights for Baby Loss Awareness Week - Sir Thomas & Lady Park</u>
3.9	Belfast City Council has received a request from Tiny Life to host their annual Tiny Lights walk at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park to light up little lives lost during Baby Loss Awareness Week and is designed to provide a safe and supportive opportunity for families who have experienced the loss of a baby to come together, reflect, and remember their babies alongside others with similar experiences.

3.10	The event is expected to attract approximately 30 participants who will walk a designated route through the park carrying battery operated lights in memory of babies who have been lost. The walk aims to provide comfort and support bereaved families during baby loss awareness week. Attendance at the event will be managed through a ticket registration process. A registration fee of £10 will be charged to participants, with all proceeds being retained by Tiny Life to support its charitable activities.
3.11	The Key dates for the request are: Main Event – 6.30pm pm to 9.00pm on Thursday 15 October 2026
3.12	<u>Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne – Saturday 26 September 2026</u>
3.13	Belfast City Council has received a request from 26 extreme to host their annual Twilight Walk at Barnetts Demesne on Saturday 26 th September 2026. The walk will be a circular route, starting and ending at the Belfast Activity Centre. After the walk ends, there will be music with food available to buy for the participants, the radio station U105 will be in attendance and a gazebo, all within the grounds of the Belfast Activity Centre. At the end of the evening there will be a speech by a Marie Curie nurse, and a firework display the fire work display will go over the grounds of Barnetts Demesne with the event coming to a close at 10pm.
3.14	The event organisers are anticipating around 1000-1500 walkers for this event, passing down past Malone House to the Lagan towpath, then back towards Mary Peters' Track, up around Queens' University's playing fields and back to the Belfast Activity Centre.
3.15	There is no formal charity collection on site, but Marie Curie will put out collection buckets should participants want to donate on the night. There is also a fee of £20 per person for participants in the walk. Marie Curie will pre-register participants for the walk, and registration will also be available on the night. This event has happened in previous years with no issues occurring due to this.
3.16	The Key Dates are as follows. Set up– Saturday 26 September– 8am Event– Friday 27 September – 5pm to 10.00pm De-Rig– Friday 27 September – 11pm

3.17	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u> There are no known implications.
3.18	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
	None

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Subject:	European City of Sport Update
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development 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.

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues									
1.1	This paper provides members with an update on the activities undertaken and planned around the European City of Sport.									
2.0	Recommendation									
2.1	Members are asked to: - Note the supported activity to date - Note the ongoing and upcoming programme of activity for the remaining 5 months of the year. - Approve the expenditure relating to the Coaching Conference to be held in October 2026 and expenditure associated with production of a final report in line with the required guidelines.									
3.0	Main Report									
3.1	Background Information Members are aware Belfast was designated as a European City of Sport for 2026 following a bid process and successful ACES delegation visit in November 2025. As a designated European City of Sport Belfast must comply with the general regulations as set out by ACES for successful cities.									
3.2	Members will recall that at committee in May 2026, approval was given for a budget of £220,000 under European City of Sport. In addition, a reprofiling of funds became available from Active Belfast to support small activity grants of up to £1000 available to clubs and community organisations. The profile of the current allocation is shown in Table 1 below. Table 1. European City of Sport budget allocation <table><tr><td>Programme</td><td>Budget</td><td>Awarded to date</td></tr><tr><td>Grass Roots Grants</td><td>£70,000 (Active Belfast reprofile)</td><td> • 55 Applications received totalling £44,137 • 21 BCC Community Centres totalling £10,500 • Rolling application programme until October or funding exhausted </td></tr><tr><td>Showcase Events</td><td>£100,000</td><td> • £50,000 Commonwealth Games Boxing holding Camp • £8,000 Athletics International events celebrating 50 Years of Mary Peters Track • £20,000 Cricket Internationals Ireland vs India & Afghanistan • £2,000 Para-Bowls Irish Championships </td></tr></table>	Programme	Budget	Awarded to date	Grass Roots Grants	£70,000 (Active Belfast reprofile)	• 55 Applications received totalling £44,137 • 21 BCC Community Centres totalling £10,500 • Rolling application programme until October or funding exhausted	Showcase Events	£100,000	• £50,000 Commonwealth Games Boxing holding Camp • £8,000 Athletics International events celebrating 50 Years of Mary Peters Track • £20,000 Cricket Internationals Ireland vs India & Afghanistan • £2,000 Para-Bowls Irish Championships
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3.3	Governing Body	£120,000	Applications close Monday 3rd August up to a maximum of £10,000. Applications ringfenced for Governing Body bid partners
	Grass Roots Programmes		
	Total	£290,000	
3.3	Events supported over the first 6 months To date, two well received quarterly reports have been made to ACES with the third to be submitted at the start of October. Some highlighted participation events over the first six months include; - Primary Schools Cross Country - Friendship Four Series Ice Hockey - Spar Craic10K - British Isles Indoor Bowls - GLL Easter Activity Programme - Active and Able Disability Programme - Golf Now Belfast Sports Awards 19 Awards - Belfast City Marathon - GAA Tailteann Cup & Joe McDonagh Cup - Mary Peters 50th Anniversary Track Celebrations - Learn to Cycle Programme - UEFA U17 Euros - NI Power Lifting Competition - Ride on Belfast City - Teenage Kicks at Ulster Hall - NI Masters Athletics event at the Mary Peters Track - T20 International Ireland Vs India - Commonwealth Games Holding Camp – 18 Countries acclimatising in Belfast		
	3.4 Planned Events from August – December - GLL holiday programmes - Boxing International Multi Nations Challenge - IFA Coaching excellence programme - Atlantic Rim Bowling Championships - Belfast City Half Marathon - NI and Ulster combined events championships - European Week of Sport		

	• Coaching Conference • Coach Education Month • Halloween Box Cup International • Primary School Relay event • Friendship Four Men's Ice Hockey • Ulster Elite Boxing Championships • Final Celebration of the Year of Sport
3.5	Request for approval <u>Showcase Events</u> Officers are seeking approval under the City of Sport showcase element to host a Coaching Conference in partnership with our bid partners GLL. The event will take place in October during the annual month of Coach Education. The conference will address the City of Sport requirement for developing skills and championing leadership also aligning with the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy 2026 to work with Governing Bodies of sport and develop long-term sustainable participation. It is estimated that an impactful conference would cost up to £10,000 and would include topics around sports role in ending violence against women and girls, barriers to participation, sharing best practice and inspire coaches across all sports and levels including those based in local communities.
3.6	Reporting Obligations As a designated European City of Sport Belfast must comply with the general regulations as set out by ACES for successful cities these in summary include: Quarterly reporting submission of reports to ACES including: • A summary of the activities carried out, • Photographic material • Media coverage and press impact • A final year report
3.7	In keeping with the ACES regulations, a final year report must be submitted in January 2027 and in keeping with the original bid document, it is expected that this report should be of similar quality and contain a range of high-quality photographs and video footage

	documenting the relevant events throughout the year. These must also contain the obligatory publicity materials on display at the supported events. Officers anticipate that a budget of up to £10,000 from underspends in the budget. would cover the above to ensure we meet the requirements while ensuring the focus of the funding remains on participation.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications within this report as funding is contained within existing budgets as identified.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices
	None

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Advice Funding 2026/27

Subject:	Advice Funding 2026/27
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

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.

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																
1.1	The main purpose of this report is to: Seek members approval to make the second 50% payment to organisations funded through Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face funding.																
2.0	Recommendation																
2.1	Members are asked to; - Consider the contents of the report and - Give approval for officers to progress second 50% grant payments for Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Extension Face to Face for the period 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027 following due diligence on Interim Monitoring for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026.																
3.0	Main Report																
3.1	Background information Members will be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) provides an annual grant to Council through its Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer. This funding provides an element of the budget towards a range of funding programmes including generalist advice and CSP large grants. The CSP also provides 100% funding for other elements of activity such as Social Supermarkets, Welfare Reform Mitigations and Integrated Advice Partnership Fund. Table 1 below shows the financial award for Generalist Advice and Welfare Reform Mitigation Extension 2026/27. Table 1: <table><tr><th>Fund</th><th>DfC Allocation</th><th>BCC Allocation</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Advice Grant</td><td>£727,984.03</td><td>£497,031.61</td><td>£1,225,015.64</td></tr><tr><td>Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice (067983)</td><td>£268,704.00</td><td>£0</td><td>£268,704.00</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£996,688.03</td><td>£497,031.61</td><td>£1,493,719.64</td></tr></table>	Fund	DfC Allocation	BCC Allocation	Total	Advice Grant	£727,984.03	£497,031.61	£1,225,015.64	Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Advice (067983)	£268,704.00	£0	£268,704.00	Total	£996,688.03	£497,031.61	£1,493,719.64
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Total	£996,688.03	£497,031.61	£1,493,719.64														
3.2	<u>Generalist Advice Provision</u> Members will be aware that Council provides funding for generalist advice provision to 5 Advice Consortia covering: Central, East, North, South and West Belfast. The funding is allocated to the consortia using a funding model based on population and multiple deprivation indicators. The list of advice organisations and consortium funding allocation is contained in Appendix 1. In March members agreed to make an initial payment of 50% funding towards the provision of Generalist Advice and second 50% payments pending Council receiving the CSP LoO for 26/27 based on 25/26 allocations. Council Received the 26/27 LoO in April 2026 which provides the same level of funding as 25/26. Funding Agreements were issued to the Advice Providers based on Council’s agreement to issue the payment of 50%.																

3.3	Based on legal advice, Funding Agreements for 2026/27 will contain a condition that the second payment may vary due to the level of funding received from DfC. If an additional in year allocation is received from DfC, members are asked to approve that it will be allocated on a pro rata basis to funded organisations. <u>Welfare Reform Mitigation Face to Face</u> The Welfare Reform Extension Face to Face allocation is 100% funded by DfC and does not require financial contribution from Council. The funded organisations and their allocation are determined by DfC. DfC has allocated £268,704.81 for 2026/27. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the allocation. Table 2 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th><th>Allocation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Advice Space- Central and Citywide</td><td>£125,585.24</td></tr> <tr> <td>Advice Space (EBIAC)-East</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>Falls Community Council (NDA)- West</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ballynafeigh Community Development Association-South</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)- North</td><td>£35,779.89</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Allocation	Advice Space- Central and Citywide	£125,585.24	Advice Space (EBIAC)-East	£35,779.89	Falls Community Council (NDA)- West	£35,779.89	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association-South	£35,779.89	North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)- North	£35,779.89
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North Belfast Advice Partnership (LIA)- North	£35,779.89												
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications of the activity outlined in this report.												
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Any reduction in the available budget has the potential to impact on service delivery which may have equality, good relations or rural needs implications for Belfast City Council.												
6.0	Appendices												
6.1	Appendix 1 – Generalist Advice Funding Allocation 2026/27												

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Appendix 1
Proposed Generalist Advice Funding Allocation 2026/27 (Based on 25/26
agreed by Committee August 2025)

Consortium	Members	Proposed Allocation
Central	Advice Space (Central)	£75,998.63
	Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC)	£32,570.84
	TOTAL Central	£108,569.47
East	Advice Space (East)	£88,516.65
	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	£88,516.65
	TOTAL East	£177,033.30
North	The Vine Centre	£123,314.84
	Ardoyne Association	£45,482.59
	Ballysillan Community Forum	£22,616.55
	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£9,837.50
	Tar Isteach	£29,019.47
	Advice Space (North)	£86,753.15
	TOTAL North	£317,024.10
South	Ballynaveigh Com Dev. Association (BCDA)	£101,521.88
	Southcity Resource & Development Centre	£76,047.10
	Advice Space	£11,133.45
	TOTAL South	£188,702.44
West	Falls Community Council (FCC)	£63,394.24
	Advice Space – Andersonstown	£67,630.00
	Advice Space – Shankill	£60,838.58
	Advice Space - Springfield	£42,857.03
	Neighbourhood Dev Assoc (NDA)	£56,658.04
	Springfield Charitable Assoc (SCA)	£77,704.79
	Upper Springfield Dev Trust (USDT)	£64,603.68
	TOTAL West	£433,686.36
	TOTAL Advice Funding	£1,225,015.64

Organisations highlighted are the lead partners in each consortia area

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Sport NI Grants - Get Active NI
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☒

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide members with an overview of a funding opportunity from Sport NI through their Get Active NI programme 2026/27 and seek approval for the proposed approach.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to: • Approve the funding application approach recommended and note the application to Sport NI will be submitted before full approval by Council, given deadline of 21 August 2026 • Approve maximum funding allocation per organisation/site under delegated authority to £5,000 and that should reallocation between delivery groups be required, this can also be undertaken through delegated authority. • Authorise officers to work up an application and monitoring process in line with council funding procedures
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background In June 2026, Sport NI launched “Get Active NI”, a funding stream aligned to the approved Community Plans in each of the 11 District Councils. The programme is matched funded by London Marathon totalling £500,000 and focuses on increasing participation in sport and physical activity and aims to reduce inequality and strengthen collaboration between sport, health, and the community and voluntary sectors.
3.2	A key priority is to target and support the least active sections of the population, ensuring those who face the greatest barriers to participation are provided with opportunities to take part.
3.3	• Children and young people • Women and girls • Communities experiencing high social need • People living in rural areas, and • People with a disability

3.4	The funding allocation model is based on the latest NISRA population data and recognises the demographic profile within each District Council area. The maximum funding allocation for Belfast is £103,000. Projects must be delivered by the 31 March 2027.
3.5	To avail of this funding allocation, Council has to submit a proposal to Sport NI by 21 August 2026 detailing their approach for delivery of the funding and how this approach will meet the requirements detailed under 3.1. A focus of the funding is to strengthen collaboration between sport, health, and the community and voluntary sectors.
3.6	Members will be aware that there are a number of funding streams being overseen by the Leisure Development Unit which are currently open for local sports clubs and organisations. These include the European City of Sport and the recently approved funding process to support sports teams and individuals traveling to represent Belfast. In addition, the Support for Sport Grants will reopen in October for programmes running from April 2027.
3.7	Officers also explored the possibility of an open call for this funding through the Central Grants Unit but given the timescales involved and administrative requirements as well as lead in time, it would not be feasible for groups to deliver within the allocated timeline.
3.8	Therefore, in light of the short delivery timeframe and the requirement to utilise the funding within the current financial year, officers propose a targeted delivery model through a number of established delivery partners. Preliminary engagement with these organisations has confirmed both a clear demand for the proposed interventions and their readiness to mobilise programmes quickly to reach the relevant target populations. These partners also have a proven track record of programme delivery and are well placed to provide robust monitoring and evaluation information to demonstrate outcomes and impact.
3.9	The proposed funding allocations are based on the delivery capacity indicated by each partner and their ability to implement successful programmes within the required timescales.
3.10	The recommended approach includes; • All BCC Community and Play Centres and Independently Managed Community Centres to be invited to develop an activity programme up to £5,000 targeting one or more of the identified groups i.e. children and young people, women and girls; Communities experiencing high social need and -people with a disability. Anticipated allocation of £30,000

	• GLL to be invited to develop additional centre based programmes for target groups including extension of the Active and Able programme for children with disabilities up to a maximum of £5000 per programme/site. Anticipated allocation of £30,000. • Through the Age Friendly Programme, invite their associated older people's forums to apply for up to £5,000 for activity programmes across Belfast targeting one or more of the identified groups. Anticipated allocation of £20,000. • To work with the Equality and Diversity Unit to develop a programme of activity based events around Disability Month in December 2026. Anticipated allocation of £5,000. • Area Working Groups to agree groups in need of funding or innovative neighbourhood activity programmes focussed on the target groups. Including cross community sport, female only swimming provision for ethnic minorities etc. Anticipated allocation of £5 k per area group - £20,000.
3.11	The above allocation gives a total of £105,000. If one delivery group does not take up the full allocation as outlined below, Officers would ask that the remaining funds can be reallocated to another under delegated authority of the Director of Neighbourhood Services.
3.12	Anticipated Timeline It is anticipated that Sport NI will advise of the outcome of the application by mid-September with invitations for proposals sent to the organisations agreed within the report by the end of September for delivery from mid-October – 31 March 2027.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications contained within the approach outlined within this report.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report. The programme is intended to promote participation among groups who experience barriers to physical activity. Equality and accessibility considerations will be incorporated into programme design and allocation processes.
6.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Resources and Fleet – Abandoned Bins Protocol and Improvements to Bulky Waste Collections
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director (Operational) CNS
Contact Officer:	Peadar Doyle (Logistics Manager) R&F

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update committee on the development of an abandoned bins protocol, improvements to the council's domestic bulky waste collection service and plans to consider the issue of bagged waste raised at it's June meeting.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Abandoned Bins Protocol The council currently provides all domestic recycling and food waste containers free of charge to remove barriers to recycling. Black/General Waste Bins Black bins are also provided but incur a charge depending on the size of the bin. Whilst the council does supply most householders' bins, householders can procure them privately online or through established providers such as hardware stores.
3.2	Black general waste bins remain the legal property of residents and cannot simply be removed without their consent or knowledge. All recycling bins and containers provided by the council, remain the property of the council and as such, are straightforward to remove/uplift. The council continues to provide recycling containers free of charge, so residents are never negatively impacted financially if a recycling container needs to be replaced. The opposite is true of general waste containers if they are removed or disappear without warning, householders will incur a cost in the replacement of that container.
3.3	Currently, Waste Management issue "Bring Your Bin Home" (BYBH) letters to areas where multiple containers are left out for periods of time obstructing public pavements, public entry heads, or the street. This function previously sat with Enforcement but was transferred to the Resource Advisor team in 2021. Resource Advisors issue letters containing relevant information, sign posting and collection information specific to their property. This informs residents to remove their bin to their property and when their next scheduled collections are due.
3.4	The issue of abandoned bins is more common in densely populated urban areas and is often associated with entries and communal collection points which can sometimes involve non-domestic premises. While the standard BYBH approach is effective in some areas, persistent hot spots show repeated non-compliance and complaints from residents in areas where abandoned containers are a problem. Some of the abandoned bins encountered are damaged or without a lid, factors that can encourage owners of the bins to abandon them in the first place. It can also cause the bins to attract pests as the waste is more accessible if the bin is damaged.

3.5	A strengthened and more robust response is required to address persistent issues, ensure compliance, and support long term behavioral change and improvements to the environment in those areas is outlined in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 are sample BYBH stage 1 and stage 2 letters issued to households. The stickers required to support the protocol are in development with Corporate Comms and should be in hand and operationally deployable in September 2026. Bulky waste collection service
3.6	Belfast City Council offers a free bulky waste collection service for households, facilitating residents to dispose of unwanted household items.
3.7	The service is not available for businesses. Residents can book collections up to three months in advance, and the council will confirm the collection date within two working days. Collections run Monday to Friday, excluding bank and public holidays, and reminders are sent via email or text the day before collection to residents who have provided a mobile number or e-mail address. More detail on the service provided and how to access it are included in Appendix 4.
3.8	Bulky Waste collections are managed through the council's Priority Waste team.
3.9	Current bulky waste collection vehicles include: – • 3 x Compact vehicles – disposes of items that can be ‘compacted’ in the back of this vehicle i.e. Sofas, armchairs, mattresses, cabinets etc • 3 x Open vehicles – these vehicles have a tail lift, which aids with the collection of ‘white goods’ i.e. Fridge freezers, washing machines, TVs etc • 1 x HIAB vehicle – this vehicle has a large crane that assists with the collection of bulkier items such as American fridge freezers, pianos, oil tanks etc
3.10	Bulky Waste collections are planned and managed through a route optimization software application called Elogii. The Elogii systems sequence the running order for collections, which has improved efficiency and removed the need for daily manual route planning by the driver. The system also sends out a reminder notification to the resident a day before their scheduled collection. The collections plan in terms of split of vehicles and territories is outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Bulky Waste Collection plan

Vehicle	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Compact 1	West	West	North & Central	West	North
HIAB	West	N/A	North	East, South & Central	N/A
Open 1	West	North	North	East	South & Central
Open 2	North	East & South	South	West	Central
Compact 2	East	South	North	East	North
Compact 3	*SR's	East	*SR's	*SR's	East

- 3.11 Reports of longer lead times for bulky services in East Belfast were raised with officers earlier this year. On reviewing these officers identified that the response time in the East was significantly higher than in other areas of the city. Additional bulky waste slots were added in June 2026 to improve performance in the East. East Belfast is one of the more densely populated quadrants of the city and as such, demand is higher, so this adjustment should serve to better meet that demand and reduce lead times. Lead times before implementing this change are highlighted in Table 2 and lead times after the additional capacity was added in June 2026 are shown in Table 3.

Table 2 – lead times before changes were made

Pre Additional Capacity						
Average Lead Time - 12/01/26 to 10/06/26 (prior to additional capacity)						
Area	Comp1	Comp2	Hiab1	Open1	Open2	Area Avg
Central	5.04		5.67		4.91	5.21
East		17.82	18.85	4.65	5.79	11.78
North	4.4	4.25	9.29	5.48	6.05	5.89
South		7.96	18.7	3.84	4.37	8.72
West	5.23		6.03	6.57	7.25	6.27
Veh Avg	4.89	10.01	11.71	5.14	5.67	

Table 3 – lead times after changes were made

Post Additional Capacity							
Average Lead Time - 11/06/26 to 05/08/26 (after additional capacity added)							
Area	Comp1	Comp2	Comp3	Hiab1	Open1	Open2	Area Avg
Central	5.53			6.85		5.08	5.82
East		9.41	8.67	5.75	5.03	6.11	6.99
North	4.2	4.14		13.05	4.96	5.87	6.44
South		7.73		8.35	3.33	3.87	5.82
West	4.5			6.5	8.15	8.64	6.95
Veh Avg	4.74	7.09	8.67	8.10	5.37	5.91	

3.12	These steps have improved response times in the east and balanced performance across each of the four quadrants. This has led to a slight increase in collection times in some quadrants of the city. Officers are keeping this under review. The current domestic bulky waste collection service will be decanted to Whitespace and Incab functionality after the introduction of Incab to the council's domestic routes, which will present an opportunity for a broader review of bulky waste service provision and will look to improve even further collection times across the city. This will also feed into the wider Transformation and efficiency review of Waste Services. Collection of bagged waste
3.13	At last month's meeting an issue was raised in advance regarding bagged waste been left out for collection on pavements. Officers will undertake to look at this practice as part of the Transformation and efficiency programme and reports will be brought back to members for their consideration. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.14	None – drawn from existing resources and budgets. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.15	None
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Abandoned Bins Protocol Appendix 2 – BYBH 1 Sample Letter Appendix 3 – BYBH 2 Sample Letter Appendix 4 – Bulky Waste Additional Information.

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Management of Abandoned Waste Containers Protocol

1. Main Purpose

This protocol sets out the council's approach for managing abandoned domestic waste containers left in public streets, adopted entries, and public communal collection points. The objective of the protocol is to respond to residents' needs and prevent obstructions, improve street cleanliness, and ensure a consistent approach to managing the issue is taking across the city.

2. Background

Black bins remain the legal property of residents and cannot be removed without their consent. All recycling bins and containers provided by the council remain the property of the council and as such, are easy to remove/uplift as property of the council.

Currently, Waste Management issues "Bring Your Bin Home" (BYBH) letters to areas where containers are left obstructing public pavements, public entry heads or the street. This function previously sat with Enforcement but was transferred to the Resource Advisor team in 2021.

The issue of abandoned bins is specific to urban areas and is often associated with entries and communal collection points which can sometimes involve non-domestic premises. While the standard BYBH approach is effective in some areas, persistent hot spots show repeated non-compliance and complaints from residents in areas where abandoned containers are a problem.

A strengthened and more robust response is required to address persistent issues, ensure compliance, and support long term behavioral change and improvements to the environment in those areas. The protocol is required to establish that a general waste container is "abandoned" to address the impacts of the abandoned bin.

3. Three-Level Response Framework

On receipt of a request for service via the customer hub the following will occur:

Level 1 Response – Standard Approach (Waste Management)

- Continue issuing BYBH letters in areas where non-compliance occurs infrequently. (Sample letter attached as appendix One)
- Includes all relevant collection information specific to that property/area.
- No additional enforcement actions unless repeat issues are identified.
- Continue to document where these reminders are being issued to inform stages 2 and 3 where applicable.

Level 2 Response – Persistent Non-Compliance (Waste Management/OSS)

- BYBH letter issued as normal by Resource Team – communicating that bins not brought in will be removed. (See appendix Two)
- Dated warning stickers are applied to offending bins at the same time by Resource Advisors.
- The sticker instructs the bin owner to return the container to within their property lines within 7 calendar days from the date the sticker/letter is issued.
- Bins still left in the street/entry after 7 days will be considered abandoned and removed by OSS, including general waste bins.

Level 3 Response – High-Complexity mixed use areas (Waste Management & Enforcement)

- Applies to locations where entries serve both commercial and domestic properties (e.g., lower Lisburn Road, Malone Road, Stranmillis Village).
- Domestic properties receive Level 2 actions.
- Enforcement issues Article 22 notices to non-compliant commercial premises as appropriate by enforcement officers.

4. Removal and Processing of Abandoned Containers

- Offending bins not on property boundaries after 7 days will be removed by OSS.
- Suitable containers will be transported to Duncrue and stored for up to 6 weeks (storage area to be identified).
- During the holding period, bins will be emptied, inspected and cleansed by the contractor. Quality bins will be re-used; damaged or unsuitable containers will be recycled.
- Salvageable general waste bins can be reconditioned (markings removed) and can be sold as “pre-loved” containers at a cost-neutral price of £10 (outlet/mechanism to be determined). Should this approach around re-use not be feasible, alternatives can be explored (e.g. bulk sale/disposal to other waste providers/LAs).
- The pre-loved price covers delivery and supports affordability for residents, particularly those in areas of multiple deprivation.
- Food waste and recycling containers remain fully subsidized by the council.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Reduction of bins left permanently in entries and streets and associated service requests to resolve them.
- Clear staged mechanisms to deter non-compliance.
- Cleaner and safer neighborhoods. Bins are often linked to ASB, especially in densely populated areas.
- Support circular economy principles through reuse of containers.
- Lower financial barriers for residents needing replacement bins – mechanism for issue required.
- Consideration should be given to the impact of the ASB bin replacement process i.e. that this mechanism is not used by residents whose bin has been uplifted due to being considered abandoned. The reporting of ASB will be in “in person” and via telephone/direct contact.

6. Resource Requirements

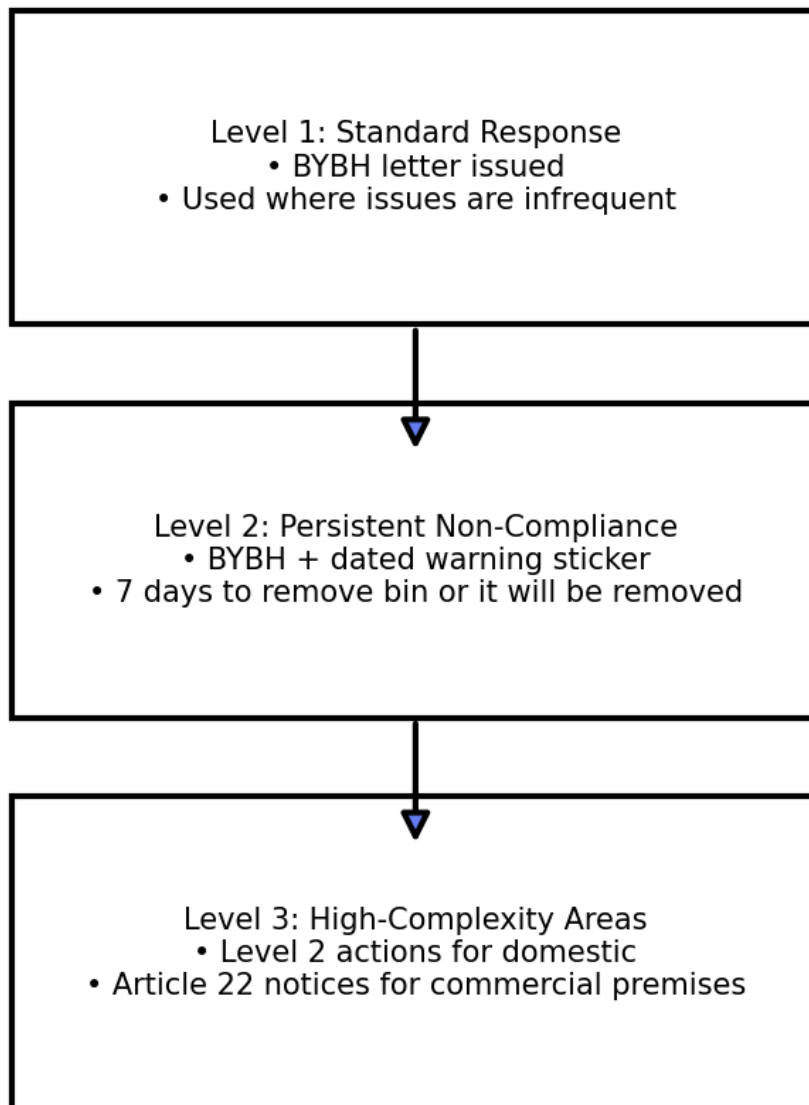
- Dedicated storage capacity at Duncrue for abandoned reuseable bins.
- Staff time across Waste Management, Enforcement, OSS, and Customer Hub.
- FAQs and support for hub and operations.
- Stickers for bins/leaflet for householders.

7. Stakeholders

Leads: Waste Management, OSS

Supporting: Customer Hub, Enforcement, Contractor.

Three-Level Response Flowchart



City & Neighbourhood Services Department

City Service – Resources & Fleet



Belfast
City Council

Your reference: BYBH 2

Our reference: Melrose Avenue

Date: As Posted

Dear Resident,

RE: bring your bins home

Following up on our previous letter to residents, all bins and containers must be stored within your property boundary at all times, except on scheduled collection days. Please be advised that any bins left remaining on public land outside of collection days **will be removed**.

Offending bins have been assessed by a member of staff, logged and stickered with the date of the assessment. Should the bin continue to sit out for more than 7 days, we will arrange for our Street Cleansing teams to remove the bin and contents.

In the case of general waste bins, we will retain these for up to 6 weeks, after which the bin will be refurbished and re-used or recycled, depending on its condition. Residents who have had their bin removed will need to purchase a replacement black bin at your own expense.

Your black bin, recycling boxes and food waste bin should always be kept on your property, with the exception of your collection days. Bins should not be left permanently on the street.

Your black bin is collected every two weeks on a **(insert day)**. Your next scheduled black bin collection is **(insert date)**.

Black general waste bin	Recycling boxes and food waste
• Collected from the kerbside every two weeks on a (Day). • Bins should be kept on your property except on your collection day. Bins should not permanently be left on the street. • No food waste please. We will not collect black bins containing food waste. • Please ensure the lid is closed when your black bin is presented.	• Collected from the kerbside every week on a (Day). • Keep containers on your property except on your collection day. • Containers should have lids to prevent spillage. • No broken glass please (operatives sort these materials by hand). • If you need more food waste bags, please tie a bag to the handle of your food waste bin or collect a roll from our Household Recycling Centres.

If you require recycling boxes or a food waste bin, please get in touch. You can order these online www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins or call 0800 032 8100 and they will be delivered to your property, free of charge. General waste bins can also be purchased online or via our Customer Hub team.

Please think about your waste and what you do with it. Recycling is important for Belfast. It saves money, provides local jobs and helps protect our environment and changing climate. Food waste, for example, is processed in Belfast to become compost which is then sold throughout Northern Ireland supporting both local jobs and the economy.

Kind regards,

The Waste Management Team.

Kind Regards,
The Waste Management Team

City & Neighbourhood Services Department

City Service – Resources & Fleet



Belfast
City Council

Your reference: NJ/BM

Our reference: Melrose Avenue

Date: As Posted

Dear Resident, **RE: bring your bins home**

Your property is part of Belfast's urban recycling scheme which enables residents to recycle most of their waste weekly from the kerbside. Every property should have a black bin, and our crews will only collect 1 black bin per property unless you have been approved for additional bins. If you rent your property, your landlord is obliged to provide you with a black bin.

Your black bin, recycling boxes and food waste bin should always be kept on your property, with the exception of your collection days. Bins should not be left permanently on the street.

A number of black bins are continually being left on the pavement, blocking access for pedestrians and other residents in the area. We would ask that residents bring their bins back to their property after collection.

Your black bin is collected every two weeks on a **Thursday**. Your next scheduled black bin collection is **Thursday 30 April 2026**.

Black general waste bin	Recycling boxes and food waste
- Collected from the kerbside every two weeks on a Thursday. - Bins should be kept on your property except on your collection day. Bins should not permanently be left on the street. No food waste please. We will not collect black bins containing food waste. - Please ensure the lid is closed when your black bin is presented.	- Collected from the kerbside every week on a Thursday. - Keep containers on your property except on your collection day. - Containers should have lids to prevent spillage. - No broken glass please (operatives sort these materials by hand). - If you need more food waste bags, please tie a bag to the handle of your food waste bin or collect a roll from our Household Recycling Centres.

If you have questions regarding your bin or recycling collections or to request a free bulky waste collection for large items such as furniture and mattresses, call 02890 270230.

We have a policy of no food waste in black bins, so please recycle your food waste in your food waste bin. Black bins found to contain food waste can be tagged and not collected so it is important to recycle all your food waste. If you require recycling boxes or a food waste bin, please get in touch. You can order these online www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins or call 0800 032 8100 and they will be delivered to your property, free of charge.

Please think about your waste and what you do with it. Recycling is important for Belfast. It saves money, provides local jobs and helps protect our environment and changing climate. Food waste, for example, is processed in Belfast to become compost which is then sold throughout Northern Ireland supporting both local jobs and the economy.

Kind regards,

The Waste Management Team.

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Appendix 4 - Belfast City Council Bulky Waste Service Additional Information

The council collects a variety of household items, including:

Bedroom furniture: bed frames, headboards, wardrobes, bedside cabinets, chest of drawers, mattresses (must be covered to keep dry), sofa beds with metal frames.

Kitchen appliances: fridges, freezers (must be emptied), cookers, hobs, extractor fans, range cookers, washing machines

Living room items: sofas and armchairs (cover to keep dry), chairs, tables (tape glass), carpets (cover to keep dry), display cabinets, bookcases, lino and vinyl floor pieces, mirrors (tape glass), pianos, reclining sofas and armchairs

Other items: mains-powered electrical equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, treadmills), small electrical appliances, TVs (tape glass), oil tanks (empty and cut in half before collection),

Items not collected include bathroom suites, kitchen units, radiators, built-in wardrobes, large amounts of garden waste, gas cylinders, hospital equipment, liquid waste, and windows. These may be taken to recycling centres or civic amenity sites

To ensure collection residents are requested to :

- Only put out items that have been booked.
- Place items by 7am on the day of collection at the location where your general waste bin is collected (front or rear kerbside, or open space with vehicular access).
- Cover absorbent items like mattresses, sofas, and carpets to keep them dry.
- Dismantle and bundle wooden items where possible.
- Remove protruding screws and nails.
- Tape up glass on TVs, mirrors, or cabinets.
- Remove all food and drink from fridges and freezers

Bulky Waste Collection bookings can be made:

- Online via the Belfast City Council website.
- By email: wastecollections@belfastcity.gov.uk
- By phone: 028 9027 0230 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm),

Changes or cancels

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Subject:	Alleygating Programme Review
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director Neighbourhood Services Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety
Contact Officer:	Pól Hamilton – Lead Officer Community Safety

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number ☐	
1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the following report is to update members on the review of Councils Alleygating Programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members to note the content of the report and the proposed scope of the review.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Belfast City Council have delivered an alleygating programme for approximately 20 years, through five separate phases of delivery.
3.2	Phase 5 of the alleygating programme has now concluded, with no further budget identified for any new phase of alleygating. With the conclusion of phase 5, the fencing contract has now also concluded. Ongoing maintenance of existing Alleygates is covered through Councils Property Maintenance team in conjunction with the Community Safety Unit.
3.3	To date, there has been no comprehensive review of the overall programme.
3.4	A report presented to committee in February 2020 recommended undertaking a review of phases 1 – 4 of the alleygating programmes, which was anticipated to begin in 2020/2021.
3.5	The covid pandemic resulted in a pause to this review being undertaken, and subsequently members, following the end of the pandemic, approved further funding for the delivery of phase 5 of the alleygating programme across the city.
3.6	Delivery of phase 5 of the alleygating programme meant that the committee decision to carry out a review would not be practical during the delivery of a new phase, therefore a decision was taken to postpone the review until phase 5 was completed to ensure a comprehensive review could take place of all phases.
3.7	Delivery of phase 5 has now completed and a contractor from Ulster University has been appointed to undertake the review of the alleygating programme.
3.8	The review methodology will involve desk-based research on alleygating alongside fieldwork involving interviews with elected members, council officers, partner agencies and community and resident groups to ensure maximum input from across Belfast.

3.9	Review Aim <i>Belfast City Council has recently completed Phase 5 of the Alleygating Programme. As no comprehensive review of the programme has been undertaken to date, this provides an opportunity to assess its effectiveness and reflect on whether the objectives of each phase have been achieved, including reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving community safety, enhancing the local environment and perceptions of security, reduce environmental nuisance, and support the regeneration of residential neighbourhoods. The review will also explore the internal processes around the selection of sites for alley gates across the city.</i>
3.10	Methodology • <i>A review of the documents, statistics, papers and reports relating to the different phases of the Councils Alleygating programme which has been in operation since 2005</i> • <i>A series of interviews with stakeholders</i> • <i>A brief analysis of evaluations of similar city alleygating programmes from across Ireland and the United Kingdom</i>
3.11	Financial Implications Costs associated with the review will come from existing department budgets, with support from Council officers provided to ensure efficient use of resources.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendices 1 – Scope of review

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Appendices 1

Scope of the Review for external contractor will explore the following:

- the benefits of the scheme within neighbourhoods and how the overall scheme performs against CIPTED principles
- to review the current selection process and identify potential future options for selection of alleygate locations taking into account what has worked well and what could be improved to date.
- To consider the merit in amending the current eligibility criteria to give equal consideration and scoring to the efforts of communities to develop and maintain their alleyways as is currently given to crime-reduction and anti-social behaviour concerns
- to examine if there has been any reduction in crime / return for investment in areas where there has been intense alleygate installation
- to examine whether there have been any long-term impacts or reduction in crime within gated areas in general
- to identify opportunities to maximise the benefits of alleygating by working closer with other partners in the context of wider neighbourhood regeneration
- to make recommendations about how to maximise the benefits and opportunities from the Alleygate Project, taking into consideration other Council work streams and external strategies
- to consider the longer-term impact of the continuous alleygating investment (Phase 1 to Phase 5) to date in the city
- Consideration of alternative interventions to alleygating like Alleyway Transformation schemes and funding to improve the standard and condition of un-adopted alleyways. Linking with other partners to secure funding for both etc.

The completion of the review and its findings will be used to and provide recommendations to committee which will inform any future alleygating schemes.

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