

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DRAFT COMBINED PACK (18/08/26)

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 21st August, 2026 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Presentation**

- (a) Ulster University Job Cuts- Vice Chancellor (Prof. Bartholomew)

3. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Area-based Community Planning and Community Wealth Building (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) EVAWG: Local and Regional Change Fund 2026/2027 (Pages 9 - 66)
- (c) Local Growth Fund (Report to follow)

- (d) Update on Employees on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 67 - 82)
- (e) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 83 - 88)
- (f) Scottish Cities Alliance (Withdrawn - moved to 5c)
- (g) TEO Rapid Response Funding (Pages 89 - 94)
- (h) 2026-27 Quarter 1 Finance Report (Pages 95 - 116)
- (i) An Droichead - Stabilisation Support (Pages 117 - 120)
- (j) Outcome of Structural Review - Northern Ireland Houses of Multiple Occupancy (NIHMO) Service, City and Neighbourhood Services Department (Pages 121 - 128)
- (k) Waste Specialist (Pages 129 - 144)
- (l) 5-year Service Level Agreement for the management of 11 chargers across 5 Council depots, installed via the Depot Charging Scheme (Pages 145 - 154)
- (m) Belfast Hills Partnership - Request for increase to annual funding (Pages 155 - 184)

4. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

- (a) Correspondence received - Removal of Ring-fenced Protection for Youth Service Funding - Department of Education (Pages 185 - 188)
- (b) Correspondence received - Pre Accession Assistance - EU Commission (Pages 189 - 192)
- (c) Motion Correspondence received - Tackling Anti-Social Scrambler and E-Scooter Use in Belfast - Department of Justice (Pages 193 - 198)
- (d) Motion Correspondence received - Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder- DoH and PHA (Pages 199 - 206)

5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Belfast Region City Deal - Update (Pages 207 - 230)
- (b) Independently Managed Community Centres (IMCC's) (Pages 231 - 236)
- (c) Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition (Report to follow)
- (d) Planning Update (Pages 237 - 258)
- (e) Performance Improvement Plan (Pages 259 - 330)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 331 - 340)

- (b) Asset Management (Pages 341 - 346)
- (c) Physical Programmes - SEUPB Grant Funding Increase Request for Additional Activity (Pages 347 - 350)

7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 351 - 362)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting of 12th August 2026 (Pages 363 - 406)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 407 - 412)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall (Pages 413 - 418)
- (c) Request for use of City Hall grounds for two events in Autumn 2026 (Pages 419 - 422)
- (d) Minutes of the Disability Working Group of 14th August 2026 (Report to follow)
- (e) Request for Illumination of City Hall to mark International Safe Abortion Day 2026 (Pages 423 - 428)

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Subject:	Correspondence received – Department of Education – Removal of Ring-fenced Protection for Youth Service Funding
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

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: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department of Education in relation to the removal of ring-fenced protection for youth service funding within the Education Authority.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 24th April, 2026, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Education in relation to the removal of ring-fenced protection for youth service funding within the Education Authority to request that the Minister reconsiders this decision and engages with the Education Authority to ensure that youth services were properly resourced.
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the Department of Education on the issues which had been raised, and a response has been received for consideration at Appendix 1.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from the Department of Education

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Eilish McGoldrick
Belfast City Council

Email: McGoldrickE@BelfastCity.gov.uk



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

private.office@education-ni.gov.uk

16 July 2026

COR-0974-2026

Dear Eilish

Thank you for your letter of 7 July, raising concerns regarding the decision to move the youth service budget into the Education Authority Wider block grant.

While a final budget allocation for 2026-27 has yet to be agreed by the Executive, I have approved the issue of an Interim full-year budget to the EA which includes a composite block grant budget allocation for both schools and youth services.

It may be helpful if I explain that this brings youth funding into line with other established education budget processes and gives the EA the flexibility to make appropriate, evidence-based decisions, while all spending remains subject to policy, legislation and Departmental oversight.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

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Subject:	Correspondence received - Pre Accession Assistance – EU Commission Response
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the EU Commission in relation to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 22nd May, 2026, the Committee agreed to write to the EU Commission and the British and Irish Governments to request that Northern Ireland be granted access to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the ability to draw down on the available funding.
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the European Commission on the issues which had been raised, and the following response has been received via email for consideration: <i>“Dear Ms McGoldrick</i> <i>Thank you for contacting the Europe Direct Contact Centre.</i> <i>The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) supports countries that are formally recognised as EU candidate or potential candidate countries in preparing for EU membership. It is not intended for regions within Member States or third countries outside the enlargement framework. Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, is therefore not eligible for IPA funding.</i> <i>For more information, please refer to the following page:</i> <i>https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-technical-assistance/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en</i> <i>We hope you find this information useful. Please contact us again if you have any further questions about the European Union, its activities or institutions.</i>
3.3	An additional update will be provided to the Committee once further responses have been received.

3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Correspondence received – Department of Justice – Tackling Anti-Social Scrambler and E-Scooter Use in Belfast Response
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department of Justice expressing concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the City.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 5th May 2026, Belfast City Council passed the following motion which had been proposed by Alderman McCullough and seconded by Councillor Ruth Brooks: <i>“Belfast City Council expresses serious concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the city, which has caused significant distress to residents, poses a clear risk to public safety and, in some cases, has resulted in serious injury and loss of life.</i> <i>The Council recognises that, when used responsibly and in appropriate settings, such vehicles can have legitimate recreational value; however, their misuse in residential areas, parks and public spaces is causing serious and growing concern across Belfast.</i> <i>The Council notes ongoing enforcement challenges and the need for stronger, more effective interventions to tackle dangerous use and repeat offending.</i> <i>Accordingly, the Council agrees to:</i> • <i>write to the Minister of Justice calling for strengthened powers for the PSNI to seize and, where appropriate, retain or dispose of vehicles being used in a dangerous or antisocial manner;</i> • <i>call for the introduction of mandatory registration of scramblers and e-scooters at the point of sale;</i> • <i>support the provision of additional enforcement tools, including the use of drone technology and dedicated resources to assist in identifying and tackling offenders;</i> • <i>request a detailed briefing from the PSNI — open to all Members — on enforcement activity, hotspot areas, and barriers to effective action within Belfast; and</i>

	• <i>support the development of community-led intervention schemes, aligned with the justice system and delivered in partnership with local schools, youth centres, community organisations and statutory agencies, alongside the exploration of dedicated, safe and properly managed sites for scrambler use, recognising that similar targeted programmes have shown significant reductions of dangerous and antisocial use by engaging young people directly and providing safer, structured alternatives.”</i>
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the Department of Justice on the issues which had been raised, and a response has been received for consideration at Appendix 1.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from the Department of Justice

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

Minister's Office Block C,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: COR-0468-2026

Craig Mealey
By email: mealeyc@belfastcity.gov.uk

28 July 2026

Dear Craig,

Re: Tackling Anti-Social Scrambler and E-Scooter Use in Belfast

Thank you for your email dated 26 May 2026 regarding the Belfast City Council motion expressing concern at the growing impact of antisocial scrambler and e-scooter use across the city. I share the concerns of local residents and recognise the significant distress that can be caused by the antisocial use of these vehicles.

You may be aware of an amendment to the Justice Bill, which was passed by the Assembly on 30 June. I am grateful to Nuala McAllister MLA, Paul Frew MLA and Patsy McGlone MLA for their work on it. When implemented, the amendment will strengthen police powers to seize vehicles and retain or dispose of these vehicles being used in a dangerous or antisocial manner, removing the necessity for the PSNI to provide a warning before removing the vehicle.

However, as you also correctly highlight in your correspondence, enforcement powers alone are not sufficient to address this issue, and a cross-departmental approach is vital

to ensure an adequate response from the whole Executive. As part of this approach, I fully support the development of community-led intervention schemes and recognise the impact that targeted programmes have had in reducing these behaviours. It is also vitally important that recreational initiatives are developed to ensure that there are adequate opportunities for these vehicles to be used safely within the community.

Therefore, I have written to the Chief Constable, the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Infrastructure to propose a meeting to a cross-departmental approach to tackling the issue of antisocial use of e-scooters and scramblers. As part of these discussions, any decision to introduce mandatory registration of scramblers and e-scooters would be a matter for the Department for Infrastructure. Similarly, the provision of additional enforcement tools to identify offenders would be an operational matter for the PSNI.

I am committed to working with all of my Executive Colleagues, and the Chief Constable, to ensure that a comprehensive response is developed to adequately respond to this issue.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.



Subject:	Correspondence received – Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) Awareness - Department of Health and Public Health Agency Responses
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

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After Council Decision									
Sometime in the future									
Never									

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

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department of Health and Public Health Agency in relation to Notice of Motion on Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) Awareness.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> At its meeting on 5th May 2026, Belfast City Council passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Áine Groogan and seconded by Councillor Jenna Maghie: <i>“This Council recognises that April is PMDD Awareness Month. PMDD stands for Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder, which is an endocrine disorder and is the abnormal reaction to fluctuations in hormones.</i> <i>This Council notes that PMDD affects 1 in 20 women and those assigned female at birth and has serious impacts on their mental and physical health. Symptoms can be emotional, physical and psychological including mood swings, fatigue, pain and suicidal ideations, and can affect those with the conditions for up to two weeks of every month. 34% of those with the condition have attempted to take their own life, yet despite how serious the condition can be there is a lack of training and awareness of the condition throughout GPs and medical practitioners. It can take twelve years to get a diagnosis and it can often be misdiagnosed and therefore mistreated as bipolar disorder.</i> <i>This Council will write to the Department of Health to ask them what training and awareness campaigns they provide for medical practitioners of the symptoms of PMDD and will also write to the Public Health Agency to ask them to launch a public campaign to highlight the condition and how to track the symptoms.</i> <i>This Council will work with the PMDD Project to hold workshops for councillors and all council staff to provide more awareness and information of how to get help for the condition.”</i>
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the Department of Health and Public Health Agency and responses have been received at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
3.3	The Committee is asked to consider the responses.

3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from the Department of Health Appendix 2 – Response from Public Health Agency

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**From the Interim Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Craig Mealey

mealeyc@belfastcity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 90 520559

Email: mike.farrar@health-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: SCORR-0117-2026

Date: 16 June 2026

Dear Craig

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2026, advising that a motion relating to Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) has been passed and asking for any comments I have in relation to this.

I welcome the Council's recognition of PMDD Awareness Month and the important issues highlighted. PMDD is a serious and often debilitating condition, and increased awareness and understanding are essential to improving outcomes for all affected.

The General Practitioner training programme, delivered by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) on the Department's behalf, covers premenstrual disorders in line with the Royal College of General Practitioners curriculum. This is delivered through tutorials, case-based discussions, clinical learning, and relevant hospital placements, with additional resources available via the GPNI website.

Within other medical specialty training programmes, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists curriculum covers both PMDD and Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) under the Non-emergency Gynaecology and Early Pregnancy core skill. Trainees are required to demonstrate competency in diagnosis via symptom diaries, implementing multi-step treatment, and managing psychiatric associations. Understanding of this area may be assessed as part of membership exams.

While PMDD is addressed within current training frameworks, I recognise that there remains scope for further engagement and awareness in order to strengthen understanding and visibility of this disorder. Awareness campaigns, such as that run in April, are welcome in heightening professional, and public, understanding of the condition.

Yours sincerely



MIKE FARRAR

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BY EMAIL

Mr Craig Mealey
Committee Services Office
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

*Tel: 0300 555 0114
Website:
www.publichealth.hscni.net*

MealeyC@belfastcity.gov.uk

1 June 2026

Our Ref: CEx-02-06

Dear Craig

MOTION ON PREMENSTRUAL DYSPHORIC DISORDER (PMDD) AWARENESS

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the motion passed by Belfast City Council on 26th May 2026 in relation to Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD).

The Public Health Agency (PHA) welcomes the Council's commitment to raising awareness of PMDD and recognises the significant impact this condition can have on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of those affected. We also acknowledge the importance of improving understanding, supporting timely diagnosis, and ensuring appropriate access to care.

The PHA remains committed to promoting population health and reducing health inequalities across Northern Ireland. Our work is guided by the priorities set out in our current Corporate Plan, which focuses our resources on a number of key public health areas where we can have the greatest impact at this time.

While we appreciate the importance of increasing awareness of PMDD, we regret that we are not in a position to undertake or resource a dedicated public awareness campaign on this issue at present, due to existing commitments and priority areas aligned with our Corporate Plan.

Notwithstanding this, we would be happy to explore opportunities to support awareness-raising through existing channels where feasible, and to continue engagement with partners, including the Department of Health and relevant stakeholders, to consider how best to support improved understanding of PMDD within current frameworks.

We note and welcome the Council's intention to work with the PMDD Project to support awareness and education initiatives locally.

Thank you again for bringing this important matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aidan Dawson'.

Aidan Dawson, HMFPH
Chief Executive





Subject:	Belfast Region City Deal – update
Date:	21 st August 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services

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Never	☐								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide an update to Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and seek approval for the BRCD Annual Report 2025/26 and for Belfast City Council to commence work on the AI Adoption Programme on behalf of BRCD.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the BRCD Annual Report for 2025/26 • Approve the commencement of work on a £4.6 million AI Adoption programme on behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners (subject to DfE business case approval).
3.0	Main report
	Annual Report 2025/26
3.1	The agreed reporting arrangements for all City and Growth Deals requires both the production of an Annual Report and a meeting with the Northern Ireland Delivery Board in order to discuss deal progress as part of an 'Annual Conversation' which is scheduled for 25 th August 2026.
3.2	A high level, outward focused Annual Report has now been produced for 2025/26 to outline the progress made at programme level. A number of notable achievements are included in this reporting year. To date at Programme level: • 22 projects with Outline Business Cases and 5 with Full Business Cases approved. • More than £674m investment committed to the BRCD in signed Contracts for Funding. • More than £86m paid out to partners for the projects. • 22 contracts - with an estimated value of £158m - initiated across the Programme. Together these contracts have committed more than 15,000 in social value points. • Two projects now have their Operators appointed, 3 are at Fit Out stage, 3 more at construction stage and 12 are at design stage. • Further information on emerging benefits and real world impacts can be found in section 3 of the report. During the year at project level: • Construction was completed at AMIC's Factory of the Future in Newtownabbey. • The first productions were filmed and broadcast at Studio Ulster. • Construction continued at iREACH Health and Momentum One Zero and planning permission was granted for CDHT. • An operator was appointed for I4C Innovation and Cleantech centre. • The UK Digital Twin Centre completed its first Industry Accelerator. • A funding agreement was signed for the £4.4m Regional Contracts for Innovation and a £2m BRCD Innovation Centre Collaborative Grants Programme was approved. In addition an OBC was approved for the Enabling Infrastructure Fund.

	• DFI approved the OBC for BRT2 and procurement for a contractor for the Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge is underway. Newry Southern Relief Road awaits a decision on the need for a public enquiry before it can be further progressed. • Belfast Stories OBC was approved and progress is continuing on Bangor Waterfront, and Destination Royal Hillsborough. • Construction for the theatre and conference element of Newry Regeneration was scheduled to commence in June and engagement continues at Carrickfergus Regeneration. • An additional cross deals skills assessment was completed for the Life and Health Sciences sector – bringing the total completed to 5 – and engagement is underway to strengthen the contribution projects make to inclusive growth particularly through skills.
3.3	The Annual Report, which was approved by the BRCD Executive Board in June, is attached at Appendix 1 for Members’ consideration. The individual BRCD partners will also be seeking approval for the Annual Report through their own governance structures. The report will be formally published after all approvals have been secured.
3.4	The report will then be shared with the Department of Finance and used to inform the Annual Conversation.
3.5	Moving into Year 5 (2026/27) we will see significant progress across the programme with: • Construction due to commence on CDHT and Newry Regeneration Theatre and Conference Centre and continuing for iREACH Health and Momentum One Zero. • Design Teams will be appointed for Bangor Waterfront Urban Waterfront and Public Realm and Marina. • Belfast Stories Contract for Funding will be signed, the planning application submitted and a Contractor appointed. • Carrickfergus Regeneration planning applications will be submitted and the Supply Team Contract packages will be issued to market. • The BRCD Regional Contracts for Innovation programme and the BRCD Innovation Centres Collaborative Grants programme will be launched. • Further business cases to support adoption of innovative projects utilising advanced wireless and AI technologies will be submitted and approved. • The OBC Addendums for Destination Royal Hillsborough, i4c Innovation & Cleantech Centre and The Gobbins Phase II will be approved, enabling design development and submission of planning applications. • Our final Skills Assessment on Tourism and Hospitality will be produced.

	Financial and Implementation Plan
3.6	The overarching deal document is supported by a Financial and Implementation Plan and the annual submission for 2025/26 sits alongside the Annual Report.
3.7	As the programme is now firmly in delivery phase this year's financial and implementation plan has again been combined into one document. The document includes the expenditure profile of all the projects broken down annually and the high level project milestones based on the Quarter 4 financial and performance returns. The PMO engaged closely with partners and following consideration by the Finance Directors' Group and the Executive Board it was formally submitted to the Department of Finance at the end of June as required by the governance and assurance arrangements.
3.8	During 2025/26 a further £46.2m was drawn down from both the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities demonstrating the positive progress being made across the programme. Up to 31 st March 2026, claims totalling £87m have been processed by Programme Management Office (£46m in FY25-26).
3.9	Belfast Region AI Adoption programme Belfast City Council, on behalf of Belfast Region City Deal partners, has submitted a business case proposal to the Department for the Economy (DfE) to deliver a £4.6 million AI Adoption programme across the region.
3.10	The new programme will provide rounds of competitive grants of between approximately £20,000 to £100,000 to support organisations in the innovative adoption of AI in ways that contribute to increased productivity and improved service delivery. The programme will also offer expert guidance to organisations during the bid development phase and afterwards during the implementation of those projects that are awarded funding.
3.11	The AI Adoption programme will directly contribute to the growth ambitions of the Belfast Region City Deal Digital pillar and it also aligns well with a key recommendation of the recent NI Science Panel AI report to ' <i>establish new programmes of support for established companies-integrating AI into their organisations and operations</i> '.
3.12	Subject to DfE approval of the business case, which is expected imminently, Members are asked to approve the commencement of work on the programme by Belfast City Council. The business case includes funding to Belfast City Council for staffing and programme costs. It also includes funding for the Council to commission technical third-party support, approval for which is included in this month's Contracts Report.

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Document is Restricted

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Subject:	Independently Managed Community Centres (IMCC's)
Date:	21 ST August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director, 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.	
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 this report is to;

	- advise committee of correspondence received from Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre on 23 July 26 and seek their view on the request for additional funding for 26/27. - Provide an update on actions agreed at SP&R committee in March 26.																																
2.0	Recommendation																																
2.1	That the Committee consider the request for additional funding contained in the correspondence and the update on recent and planned activity in relation to IMCCs.																																
3.0	Main Report																																
	Key Issues 3.1 Members will recall Council has long standing arrangements in place to provide financial support to 7 Council community centres that are managed independently by the community sector. 3.2 In March 2026, following a written request from 4 IMCCs, SP&R agreed to double the annual award to these facilities so that they received an uplift of £74,000 each (totalling £296,000) for 25/26 financial year. 3.3 In July this year, Council received a further request from these 4 facilities to pay the same uplift in the 26/27 year. Members are asked to consider this and whether they wish to approve an additional payment. Detail of this request can be found in Appendix I. 3.4 The table below shows the individual allocations to IMCCs for 26/27. To date 50% of these awards have been issued. An annual CPI increase of 2.8 % for 26/27 will be included with the second payment which will be paid in October 2026. The 4 organisations requesting the increase are highlighted. <table><tr><th>Independently Managed Centres</th><th>Amount</th><th>CPI Increase</th><th>Total 26/27</th></tr><tr><td>Shaftesbury Recreation Centre</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Grosvenor Recreation Centre</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Denmark Street Community Centre</td><td>£25,680.28</td><td>£719.04.</td><td>£26,399.32</td></tr><tr><td>Carrick Hill Community Centre</td><td>£40,867.01</td><td>£1,144.27</td><td>£42,011.28</td></tr><tr><td>Sally Gardens</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Hanwood Trust</td><td>£74,056.80</td><td>£2,073.59</td><td>£76,130.39</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£362,774.49</td><td></td><td>£372,932.15</td></tr></table>	Independently Managed Centres	Amount	CPI Increase	Total 26/27	Shaftesbury Recreation Centre	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Grosvenor Recreation Centre	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Denmark Street Community Centre	£25,680.28	£719.04.	£26,399.32	Carrick Hill Community Centre	£40,867.01	£1,144.27	£42,011.28	Sally Gardens	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Hanwood Trust	£74,056.80	£2,073.59	£76,130.39	Total	£362,774.49		£372,932.15
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3.5	In March 26, when considering the request for additional funding, SP&R agreed that a number of actions would be completed by council officers. An update on these is provided below: Agreed that a report would be brought back to the committee which would provide members with options on proceeding with standard Legal Agreements outlining Terms and Conditions for all IMCCs at a future meeting.
3.6	Officers have been working on a cross departmental basis to gather this information for all IMCCs and are working with IMCCs to gather information that will inform a consistent approach in relation to legal agreements, funding levels and capture of activity and outcomes delivered by IMCCs.
3.7	At its meeting on 11 August P&C committee agreed that an elected member workshop on Community Services would be held at 5.15pm on 26th October. An update on the outcome of the work above and options for a consistent approach to IMCC funding and legal agreements will form part of the agenda for this workshop. All elected members will be invited to attend. Agreed that a condition survey would be undertaken across all Independently Managed Community Centres.
3.8	This work is underway by Property & Projects Department and is due for completion in the Autumn.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.9	Annual awards to IMCC's including CPI increases are contained within approved budgets and factored into future budgeting/forecasting processes. There is no available departmental budget to pay the additional funding of £296,000 in the 26/27 financial year that has been requested.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.10	This will be considered throughout and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing arrangements will be considered in the context of any Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs considerations.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from Shaftesbury Community Recreation Centre to Belfast City Council

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SHAFTESBURY
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE



Mr John Walsh

CEO Belfast City Council,

23rd July 2026

Dear Mr Walsh

Firstly, we hope you are keeping well and we wish to thank Belfast City Council for the ongoing relationship in place with the Independent Centres at,

-  Grosvenor Community Centre
-  Shaftesbury Healthy Living Centre
-  Sally Gardens
-  Hanwood

We wish to thank you Chief Executive, the senior team and departmental senior officers, as well as councillors for recognising the value of the centres and the historic issues related to lack of inflationary increases applied to the independent facilities.

As you know, the ask had been “for an **in-year** increase to the running cost grant support provided. As well as **urgent** actions to enable reasonable recurring support from 2026/2027 and thereafter, which is cognisant of the unique context and scale of the 4 independent centres”.

Further to this, there was council agreement for a review of the models and agreements across the independent centres and condition surveys of facilities.

We recognise that officers have a large portfolio of work this year, particularly with Fleadh Cheoil, leisure transformation, the community support plan and delivering the aspirations of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

As such, we fully accept that the independent centres reviews are unlikely to be completed in financial year 2026/2027.

For that reason, we would ask that the initial request for increase in 2025/2026 is applied again and in year to the support for 2026/2027, until a final appropriate rate is agreed linked to review completion.

Further, we would ask that this increase is considered in light of any in year departmental underspends, if appropriate.

We are happy to forward supporting reports, media, OBA data, numerical information and programming overviews across the sites if required.



SHAFTESBURY
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE



By way of background again, the centres represent thriving hubs of **community development, good relations work, community sports, safety, health and wellbeing**. The facilities are large in scale, have secured excellent cultural inclusion at Belfast City Council owned premises and consistently demonstrate some of the highest participation rates across the existing BCC Leisure estate. The independent centres encompass former full size leisure centre facilities (all dry), with high operational, 'open door' costs versus smaller community centre settings. The facilities have **measurable, evidenced high footfall numbers** and have come to represent quality examples of community asset transfer. Including being cited as 'models of good practice' in the DTNI community asset transfer report commissioned by Belfast City Council in 2014. The centres have been beacons of cultural inclusion including during **high tension periods, including in 2026**.

The facilities have represented a **cost saving to Belfast City Council** and the bespoke models of management have ensured that centres, which were at risk of participation decline, have thrived in usage and impact terms. The organisations each have unique selling points, from 7 day opening, central arenas for cultural inclusion, OBA Health programming and advancers of community sports.

The centres have, **to date, not been included in leisure transformation schemes** and as such face historic infrastructure issues linked to insulation and outdated heating systems. It is hoped that the centres may be included in Leisure Transformation future initiatives. In the interim, officers have instructed condition reports be undertaken which are very welcome.

To conclude, we ask that the same support agreed in 2025/2026 is applied in 2026/2027 (in year), to recognise the scale of operations across the 4 sites. Further that this request is considered as part of in year underspends. Once again, we sincerely thank Belfast City Council for the partnership and vision in community asset transfer. We believe this vision has been borne out in the 4 independent facilities becoming successful examples of community and council working together.

Thank you again sincerely for all the help, support, guidance and faith in our organisations.

Yours sincerely

Maura Millen

Chairperson



Subject:	Planning Information
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

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%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	☐	After Council Decision	☐	Sometime in the future	☐	Never	☐
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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The report is for notation.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Committee received an update on Planning Performance at its meeting on the 27 th August 2024. At that meeting and previously, the Committee sought a regular update on Major applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee, especially those where a Decision Notice has yet to be issued.
3.2	All Major applications must be determined by the Planning Committee. The Key Performance Indicator (given in weeks) is calculated from when an application is considered to be valid to when the Decision Notice ("Green Form") is issued. This means that any delays either pre- or post- committee will impact on the KPI. The target for determining a Major application is 30 weeks.
	<u>Major applications</u>
3.3	Appendix 1 sets out the Major applications that are currently with the Council to determine. Details are given on the location, proposal, the validation date and target date for determination (using the 30 week target set out in the Key Performance Indicator) as well as a status update.
	<u>Applications determined by Committee</u>
3.4	Appendix 2 sets out the applications that have been determined by Committee since February 2022 which are yet to issue. For completeness information is also given on those applications determined by Committee which have had their Decision Notice issued. Details are given on the time taken (in weeks) to bring the applications before Committee and where decisions are yet to be issued, information is given relating to the main reason for the delay.
3.5	Following further discussion at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2025, this table has now been amended to include a new non statutory target date and to give more detailed reasons for any delays in determination.
	<u>Conclusion</u>
3.6	This report will be brought to each Planning Committee and to each Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for information on an ongoing basis.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at August 2026 Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at August 2026
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Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 11.08.26

Number	Application No.	Category	Location	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date	Status
1	LA04/2023/3799/F	Major	Vacant lands (partial site of the former Wolfhill Flax Spinning Mill) located to the south, of Wolfhill Manor, north of Wolfhill Grove and west of Mill Avenue, Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8NR	New single storey 10-class based primary school, separate nursery school accommodation and school meals accommodation to facilitate the relocation of St. Vincent De Paul Primary School and Nursery from existing site on Ligoniel Road, Belfast. Proposal includes new pedestrian and vehicular accesses onto Mill Avenue, car parking, covered cycle storage area and hard play areas. Hard and soft landscaping including wildlife walkway, fencing, retaining walls, underground drainage system to include the reinstatement of underground storm sewer and headwall into adjacent DFI River wayleave. Includes temporary contractors compound and all associated site works.	09-Oct-23	06-May-24	Under Consideration
2	LA04/2023/4181/F	Major	Lands comprising the existing Sydenham Wastewater Pumping Station west of Park Avenue, Connswater River and King George V Playing Fields, to the south of the Sydenham By-Pass, east of The Oval football stadium, north and east of Parkgate Gardens and north of Parkgate Crescent, Parkgate Parade and Mersey Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS) with reinstatement of site as a landscaped area. Construction of a replacement WwPS including associated control building and hardstanding, the raising of site levels, in-channel works, provision of new rising main, other ancillary buildings, the creation of an access road on lands within the King George V Playing Fields to serve the facility, landscaping and other ancillary works. Provision of a temporary working area on lands within the King George V Playing Fields, the creation of a temporary access road from Mersey Street to facilitate construction traffic on lands to the rear of 1-35 Parkgate Gardens, the creation of a temporary footway adjacent to 88 Park Avenue and other ancillary development and landscaping restoration works.	14-Nov-23	11-Jun-24	Under Consideration
3 Page 241	LA04/2024/0910/F	Major	70 Whitewell Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7ES Site at Hazelwood Integrated College	Redevelopment of Hazelwood Integrated College to include demolition of existing building and development of new school campus, new sports pitch, outdoor play areas, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and retention and refurbishment of the Listed Building (Graymount House) and other associated site works including a temporary mobile village during the construction process.	23-May-24	19-Dec-24	Under Consideration
	LA04/2024/2024/RM	Major	Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, the Kings Hall, 488-516 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GW	41no. retirement living apartments at Plot 6, parking and landscaping in accordance with outline planning permission LA04/2020/0845/O, seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping details	18-Dec-24	16-Jul-25	Under Consideration

5	LA04/2025/0012/F	Major	Lands at the Waterworks Park, located off the Cavehill Road; and lands at Alexandra Park, located between Castleton Gardens and Deacon Street; extending along Castleton Gardens and Camberwell Terrace to the road junction approximately 30 metres to the north west of 347 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2HF	Refurbishment and safety work to the Waterworks upper and lower reservoirs, and Alexandra Park Lake reservoir, to be complemented with wider environmental, landscape and connectivity improvements. The reservoir works comprise of a new overflow structure with reinforcement and protection of the return embankment parallel to the by-wash channel at Waterworks Upper reservoir. Repairs to the upstream face of Waterworks Lower reservoir with the addition of wetland planting to reduce the overall capacity of the reservoir. Removal of an existing parapet wall and embankment reinforcement at the Alexandra Park Lake reservoir. Improvements at Waterworks Park comprise the demolition of the existing Waterworks Bothy and replacement with a new building to include public toilets, Changing facilities, multi-purpose community room and kitchenette. Extension to existing Cavehill Road gatehouse building. Entrance improvements, new events space including multipurpose decking; resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; a dog park; replacement platforms and viewing area. New 3-on-3 basketball court; replacement surface to existing small sided 3G pitch; and upgrades to existing Queen Mary's playground. Improvements at Alexandra Park include the resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; new reinforced grass event space; new lake viewing area; new public toilets and changing places; entrance improvements. 2no existing bridges replaced; new pedestrian entrance; reimagined peace wall; new multi-sport synthetic surface with cover; and upgrades to existing play parks. Streetscape improvements along Camberwell Terrace and Castleton Gardens include resurfacing of footways with new kerbs; resurfaced carriageways and new tactile paving at pedestrian crossings; and all associated works.	20-Dec-24	18-Jul-25	Under Consideration
6	LA04/2024/2134/F	Major	Site of the former Dunmurry Cricket Club, Ashley Park, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0QQ, located north of 1-10 Ashley Park and south of 1-20 Areema Grove and Areema Drive, Dunmurry.	Mixed use scheme for new community recreational facilities, including basketball court, parkland and residential development comprising 37no social/affordable housing units with landscaping and associated works.	21-Dec-24	19-Jul-25	Under Consideration
7	LA04/2024/2145/F	Major	Lands at North Foreshore / Giant's Park Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9LZ	Creation of a new Adventure Park comprising a community / visitor hub building including café, creche, flexible exhibition / community space, ancillary office space and maintenance yard. Development includes community gardens, bmx track, crazy golf, dog park, walking/running/cycle paths, outdoor amphitheatre, bio diversity zones, and recreational facilities. Associated landscaping and infrastructure (drainage, lighting, car / coach parking, WC block etc).	15-Jan-25	13-Aug-25	Under Consideration
8	LA04/2025/0184/O	Major	38-52 Lisburn Road, Malone Lower, Belfast, BT9 6AA	Seven storey building (39.3m AOD) mixed use development comprising of Use Class B1 (c): Business, Research & Development and Use Class, D1: Community and Cultural Uses, including landscaping, and servicing (Amended Description).	10-Feb-25	08-Sep-25	Under Consideration
9	LA04/2025/0088/F	Major	Lands adjacent and south west of Monagh By-pass, north west of Nos. 17, 19 and 22 Black Ridge Gardens and c.150 metres south east of Nos. 38 to 70 (evens) Black Ridge View (part of the wider Glenmona mixed-use development), Belfast	Proposed mixed use development (in lieu of the previously approved employment zone under LA04/2020/0804/F) comprising a three storey building of 36 no. Category 1 (over 55's) social housing apartments and 7 no. single storey Class B1/B2 Business/Light Industrial Units. Development includes 2 no. access points, car parking, landscaping and all associated site works	17-Feb-25	15-Sep-25	Under Consideration

10	LA04/2025/0974/F	Major	Site to the south of the former Knockbreda High School. Lands bounded by the A55 Upper Knockbreda Road to the south and south-east, Wynchurch Road to the north-east, Knockbreda Primary School to the north and Knockbreda Park to the west.	Development of a new primary school building for Forge Integrated Primary School. including development of a nursery unit, hard and soft play areas, landscaping, car parking, internal drop-off areas and new access arrangements onto the A55 Knockbreda Road via a new signalised junction; demolition of no. 138a Knockbreda Park and associated site works	04-Jun-25	31-Dec-25	Under Consideration
11	LA04/2025/2018/F	Major	Lands at Donegall Quay, Tomb St. to north of Albert Square, Gamble St. to south of Corporation Sq, Little Patrick St. to east of Nelson St. & under the M3 bridge at Donegall Quay and Corporation St., Belfast, BT1 1AA	Public realm and road improvements including development of urban recreation space below the M3 flyover at Corporation Street / Tomb Street and new public space below the M3 flyover at Donegall Quay.	19-Nov-25	17-Jun-26	Under Consideration
12	LA04/2026/0007/F	Major	Lands at Belfast YMCA, Knightsbridge Park, Stranmillis, Belfast. To the east of Nos. 15; 17; 19; 25; 27; 29; and 35 Knightsbridge Manor. South of Nos. 26 to 34 (evens) Knightsbridge Manor, Nos. 65; 66; and 68 Vauxhall Park, and Nos. 15 and 17 Marylebone Park. West of Nos. 35 and 38 Sharman Drive, and Nos. 39 and 42 Sharman Park, Belfast	Proposed mixed-use development comprising 3G playing pitch with floodlighting; Children's Play Area; Trim Trail; Car Parking; and 24 No. Dwelling Units including a mix of detached, semi-detached and apartment house types. The development also includes site access, internal roads, landscaping and pumping station and all other associated site and access works.	17-Dec-25	15-Jul-26	Under Consideration
Page 243	LA04/2025/2210/O	Major	Lands to the east of Corporation Street, north of Donegall Quay, west and south of Clarendon Dock, south, east and south west of Pilot Street, and south and south east of Corry Road, Belfast (amended address)	Hybrid planning permission is being sought for the following development: Outline Planning Application (no matters reserved) for Plots A & B to provide 456No. residential units (apartments) and 1,600sqm of ground floor commercial uses including retail (Class A1), Financial and Professional (Class A2), Community and Cultural Uses (Class D1), Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), and café, bar and restaurant uses, landscaping, open space, play equipment, public realm improvements and all associated site and access works including servicing from Corporation Street. Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved) for Plots C, D, E and F for a mixed-use development comprising residential (apartments and dwellings), a Hotel/Apart Hotel, ground floor commercial uses including retail (Class A1), Financial and Professional (Class A2), Community and Cultural Uses (Class D1), Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), and café, bar and restaurant uses, the change of use (principle only) to the listed Clarendon Building, Furnace House and Pump House (to include cafe and restaurant uses), re-purposing of Clarendon Dock for leisure uses and all associated site, access and infrastructure works.	27-Jan-26	25-Aug-26	Under Consideration
14	LA04/2026/0282/F	Major	29-33 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ	Renewal of application reference LA04/2020/0659/F - Refurbishment of existing four storey terrace including alteration, extension to rear, partial demolition and reinstatement. Part change of use from art galleries to two cafes at ground floor. Retention of offices within existing building at second, third and fourth floor. Erection of new 13 storey aparthotel building to rear and associated works including public realm improvements	13-Feb-26	11-Sep-26	Under Consideration
15	LA04/2026/0496/F	Major	Lands at 3-9 Dalton Street, (bordered by Middlepath Street and Bridge End), Belfast, BT5 4BA	Proposed construction of 325no. apartments, residents' gym and 4no. retail units with associated car parking and landscaping (amendment to previously approved application LA04/2018/2649/F).	19-Mar-26	15-Oct-26	Under Consideration
16	LA04/2026/0515/F	Major	All Saints College Glen Road, Belfast and lands to the rear of Hamill Park and Nos 151 to 165A Glen Road (former Cross & Passion school site).	Proposed construction of a new post-primary school campus on the former Cross & Passion site, with associated landscaping, play areas, new access road, parking and all other associated works. The proposal also includes the demolition of the existing All Saints Glen Road Campus buildings and redevelopment of the site to include new playing fields, changing pavilion and associated parking.	20-Mar-26	16-Oct-26	Under Consideration

17	LA04/2026/0442/F	Major	Land at D3 adjacent to the RSPB Reserve Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9DY	Revisions to terrestrial elements of Planning Permission ref. LA04/2016/0421/F (Construction of a new multi-purpose berthing facility at D3) comprising upgrade of existing access track along northeastern boundary of site and installation of associated street lighting/parking area; additional security hut; relocation and extension of main cruise terminal building and associated parking/drop-off areas with covered walkways; additional baggage building; and other associated site works in respect of lighting, landscaping and ancillary infrastructure. Retention of approved cruise quay with minor relocation of mooring dolphins, 25m wide piled relieving slab along quay length, associated hardstanding on hinterland, tower lights (with one to be relocated), security hut, access road adjacent to RSPB lands and other ancillary works.	24-Mar-26	20-Oct-26	Under Consideration
18	LA04/2025/2140/F	Major	Harberton North Special School 29a Fortwilliam Park, Belfast, BT15 4AP	Partial demolition of existing school buildings. Refurbishment of existing building and part single, part two storey extension to front and rear. New parking and drop off areas, play areas and landscaping.	28-Apr-26	24-Nov-26	Under Consideration
19	LA04/2026/0814/F	Major	Nos 128, 128C, 130, 132, 134, 136-138, & 140-144 Kingsway, Dunmurry, Belfast, BT17 9NP	Demolition of existing commercial units, erection of discount foodstore, alterations to car parking layout, alterations to access on Dunmurry Lane, landscaping and associated site works	01-May-26	27-Nov-26	Under Consideration
20	LA04/2026/0701/F	Major	Land adjacent to and south of the junction of London Road and Lismore Street, Belfast	Residential development of 24no. apartments in 8no. blocks, 44no. semi-detached houses and 1no. detached house (69no. units in total) and associated ancillary works	07-May-26	03-Dec-26	Under Consideration
21	LA04/2026/0909/F	Major	Centre House 69-87 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4JE	Proposed change of use from offices to hotel at 1st to 7th floor and construction of a two-storey extension to the Chichester Street elevation to provide 176no. bedrooms, breakfast room/dining room, bar, kitchen, gym and business suite. Proposed partial change of use of ground floor from café to retail unit and ancillary space for hotel. Construction of additional plant room and elevational changes (amendment to previously approved application LA04/2022/2216/F).	05-Jun-26	01-Jan-27	Under Consideration
22	LA04/2026/0978/O	Major	Lands at former Sirocco Works, Short Strand and adjacent to Bridge End and River Lagan, Belfast	Renewal of outline planning permission LA04/2018/0811/O. Mixed use development comprising offices, residential apartments (including affordable), hotel and serviced apartments, retail and professional services, community and cultural, leisure uses, cafes, bars, restaurants, with associated car parking, circulation and servicing arrangements; public realm works, landscaping, replacement of existing pedestrian bridge fixed to railway bridge and associated access works to Short Strand and Bridge End with other infrastructural works, and demolition of existing structures including boundary walls.	24-Jun-26	20-Jan-27	Under Consideration
23	LA04/2026/1224/F	Major	City Link Business Park Albert Street, Belfast, BT12 4HQ	Erection of residential development comprising of 2 No. Apartment buildings comprised of 202 apartments, car parking, open space and all ancillary development and 1 No. social/affordable apartment building comprised of 51 apartments, car parking, open space and all ancillary development.	24-Jun-26	20-Jan-27	Under Consideration
24	LA04/2026/1226/F	Major	123 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AB	Proposed use of 388 no. Student rooms as short term let accommodation outside of term time (July & August).	01-Jul-26	27-Jan-27	Under Consideration
25	LA04/2026/1262/F	Major	AMIC Harbour Building, 5 Airport Road, Belfast, BT3 9EF	Demolition of buildings to south-west of main building, erection of double height extension on south-west side facing Airport Road (18.08m height) with triple height extension (21.85m height) to rear on south-west side, erection of double height extension (12.07m height) on north-east side (total additional 6,754m² floorspace Use Class (B1)(c)). PV panels, access from Airport Road, car parking, cycle parking, boundary fencing and all other associated works.	09-Jul-26	04-Feb-27	Under Consideration
26	LA04/2026/1250/F	Major	Lands on the site of the former Ballygolan Primary School, located adjacent / south of no. 45 Voltaire Gardens and 1 Serpentine Parade; and adjacent / west of no. 39 Vandyck Gardens and 39 Serpentine Road, Belfast	Residential development including 73 apartments (over 55s Category 1), communal spaces, mobility scooter storage areas, landscaped open space, car parking, bin stores and associated site works	23-Jul-26	18-Feb-27	Under Consideration

Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 11 Aug 2026

Decision Description	Totals												
	23												
Application Withdrawn													
Consent Granted	3												
Consent Refused													
Permission Granted	12												
Permission Refused	1												
Total	39												
Application No.	Location	Proposal	Category	Date Valid	Statutory Target Date	Statutory Target Weeks	Current number of Weeks	Committee Date	Weeks between Valid date and Comm date	Weeks Since Committee	Previous New Non-statutory Target Date	New Non-statutory Target Date	Reason decision not issued
LA04/2022/2059/F	Lands south of 56 Highcairn Drive Belfast BT13 3RU Site located at junction between Highcairn Drive and Dunboyne Park Belfast.	Social Housing Development comprising of 12 no. 3p/2b semi-detached dwelling houses with incurtilage parking and associated site works. (amended description and site location plan)	LOC	04-Nov-22	17-Feb-23	15	197	29/06/2023	33	162	31/05/2026	Unknown	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement - land ownership issue resolved but now issue with status of the applicant
LA04/2024/1036/F	Lands to the east of the River Lagan located between Lagan Gateway Phase 1 and Belvoir Park Forest, running adjacent to the west of Belvoir Park Golf Club and approximately 120 metres to the east of Newtownbreda Water Treatment Plant, Galwally Ave, Belfast BT8 7YA.	Lagan Gateway Phase 2 – Proposed greenway connection extending between Lagan Gateway Phase 1 at Annadale Embankment to Belvoir Forest Park. Comprising compacted gravel paths; a new elevated (4-5 meter high) timber boardwalk (approximately 85m long); landscaping works, new cycle stands, bollards, seats and bins; and all associated works	LOC	10-May-24	23-Aug-24	15	118	17/06/2025	57	60	Unknown	Unknown	Further information received from applicant following request from DAERA NIEA and NIEA reconsulted

LA04/2025/0535/F	Lands West of Monagh By-Pass South of Upper Springfield Road & 30-34 Upper Springfield Road & West of Aitnamona Crescent & St Theresa's Primary School. North and East of 2-22 Old Brewery Lane, Glanaulin, 137-143a Glen Road & Airfield Heights & St Mary's CBG School Belfast	Variation of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 36, 37 and 41 of approval LA04/2023/2390/F and LA04/2020/0804/F to facilitate removal of 31 previously approved dwellings and retaining structure along northern boundary of site adjacent to Upper Springfield Road. Retention of existing sloping ground levels and landscaping at this location.	MAJ	27-May-25	23-Dec-25	30	63	17/06/2025	3	60	31/07/2026	30/09/2026	Awaiting conclusion of S77 agreement (amendment to S76 agreement). Further information submitted following request from DfI Roads and DfI Roads reconsulted
LA04/2024/1865/O	Land between No 22 Squires View and Nos 57 & 59 Squires Hill Road, Belfast.	3no. detached dwellings part 2 storey part 3 storey (amended plans)	LOC	28-Oct-24	10-Feb-25	15	93	12/08/2025	41	52	31/08/2026	30/09/2026	Late objections received. Additional information received from applicant regarding land stability issue. New objection from Shared Environmental Services being considered. To be reported back to Committee
LA04/2025/0605/F	341-345 Albertbridge Road, Ballymacarret, Belfast, BT5 4PY	Erection of a four storey building to create 29no. short-term let accommodation units with ancillary roof-mounted solar panels	LOC	09-Apr-25	23-Jul-25	15	70	17/02/2026	44	25	TBC	TBC	Application considered at February 2026 Committee following site visit
LA04/2025/1003/F	81-107 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AT	Proposed use of 300 No. Student Bedrooms/Studios as Short Term Let Accommodation outside of term time (July and August).	LOC	16-Jun-25	29-Sep-25	15	60	10/03/2026	38	22			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1002/F	24 Rutherglen Street, Belfast, BT13 3LS	Change of use from 4 bed residential dwelling (C1) to 5 bedroom HMO (suis generis) with occupancy for 5 people	LOC	17-Jul-25	30-Oct-25	15	56	10/03/2026	33	22	N/A	To be reconsidered	Deferred for Site Visit. Consulting NIW

LA04/2025/0574/F	Surface level car park at lands to east of Lanyon Place Station Mays Meadow, Belfast, BT1 3NR	Erection of eight storey building comprising seven floors of grade A office accommodation, ground floor retail / business units together with car parking (15 no. spaces), cycle parking and plant areas: and public realm improvements including dedicated drop-off area to front of building	MAJ	17-Apr-25	13-Nov-25	30	69	10/03/2026	46	22	30/06/2026	30/09/2026	Applicant to address issues raised by DfI Roads
LA04/2025/0594/F	163 Ballygomartin Road, Belfast, BT13 3NA	Change of use from 4 bedroom residential property (C1) with to 5 bed HMO with occupancy of 5 (Sui Generis)	LOC	30-Apr-25	13-Aug-25	15	67	10/03/2026	44	22	N/A	To be reconsidered	Deferred for Site Visit. Consulting NIW
LA04/2025/0463/F	Decco Ltd 1-5 Redcar Street, Belfast, BT6 9BP	Proposed change of use of Vacant Warehouse to indoor Padel Court Facility to include, Cafe, Changing rooms, Gym, Picklecourts and ancillary site development works	LOC	26-Mar-25	09-Jul-25	15	72	10/03/2026	49	22	Unknown	Unknown	Delegated authority sought to resolve final response from NIW. Discussions ongoing
LA04/2021/2839/F	29-32 College Gardens Belfast BT9 6BT	Proposed change of use from offices to 17no. 1 bedroom and 2no. 2 bedroom apartments with alterations to rear facade and dormers.	LOC	13-Dec-21	28-Mar-22	15	243	21/04/2026	227	16			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1350/F	29 GLENCAIRN STREET EDENDERRY BELFAST BT13 3LT	Change of Use from 3 bed Dwelling (Class C1) to 5-bed, 5-person HMO (sui generis)	LOC	24-Jul-25	06-Nov-25	15	55	21/04/2026	38	16	30/06/2026	31/08/2026	Drafting refusal reasons
LA04/2025/2096/F	Land adjacent to Quay Gate House 15 Scrabo Street Belfast BT5 4D: footpaths and public realm at Scrabo Street Station Street and Middlepath Street.	Variation of Condition 5 of Planning Permission LA04/2019/2387/F relating to Noise Impact Assessment.	MAJ	04-Dec-25	02-Jul-26	30	36	21/04/2026	19	16			Permission Granted
LA04/2022/0071/LBC	29-32 College Gardens Belfast BT9 6BT	Proposed change of use from offices to 17no. 1 bedroom and 2no. 2 bedroom apartments with alterations to rear facade and dormers.	LOC	14-Dec-21	29-Mar-22	15	243	21/04/2026	227	16			Consent Granted

LA04/2026/0393/F	Lands at the Titanic Quarter, between Hamilton Road, Queens Road and Sydenham Road. Immediately NE, E and SE of Belfast Metropolitan College, approximately 150m SE of Titanic Hotel, 8 Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9DT.	Temporary planning approval for a caravan / campervan / motorhome site, with ancillary facilities including communal recreational spaces, toilets, showers, waste disposal points, food and drink area, site office, waste collection, lights, storage areas and all associated temporary structures and works	MAJ	06-Mar-26	02-Oct-26	30	23	19/05/2026	10	12			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/2090/F	38 Hillhead Avenue, Belfast, BT11 9GD	Creation of hardstanding and widening of vehicular access to front of dwelling. (Retrospective)	LOC	04-Dec-25	19-Mar-26	15	36	19/05/2026	23	12			Permission Granted
LA04/2025/1661/F	River bank approximately 150m north east of Shaws Bridge Car Park, Belfast, BT9 5YN	Installation of a new floating pontoon to replace the existing wooden jetty.	LOC	27-Oct-25	09-Feb-26	15	41	19/05/2026	29	12			Permission Granted
LA04/2024/1646/F	46-50 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast, BT5 7DG	Demolition of existing dwelling (no. 50 Gilnahirk Road) to facilitate proposed extension and alterations to existing petrol filling station including extension of retail floor space, extension and realignment of carpark to provide 9 no. additional car parking spaces and pedestrian access, cycle parking, construction of retaining wall and associated landscaping	LOC	01-Oct-24	14-Jan-25	15	97	19/05/2026	85	12			Permission Refused

LA04/2025/1991/F	Makro, 97 Kingsway, Belfast, BT17 9NS	Subdivision of the existing cash and carry building and the change of use of 4,750 sq,m gross floorspace for use as a Class A1 retail; erection of new loading bay in service yard; minor external alterations to building; reconfiguration of car park.	MAJ	03-Dec-25	01-Jul-26	30	36	16/06/2026	26	9	N/A	30/09/2026	Awaiting consultation responses from DfI Roads and SES
LA04/2025/2013/F Page 249	Netherleigh House, 1 Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP	Change of use of Netherleigh House and existing office blocks (Class B1) to provide residential and nursing care facilities (Class C3 (a) and (b)). Extensions to existing office block including a fourth storey floor, eastern and western gable extension and two front projections from the northern elevation. Erection of 36 no. assisted living apartments over two four storey blocks. Site parking, landscaped amenity areas, woodland trails and all associated site works	MAJ	18-Nov-25	16-Jun-26	30	38	16/06/2026	30	8	N/A	30/09/2026	Further information required by DAERA NIEA. Awaiting consultation responses from SES and BCC Economic Development Unit

LA04/2025/2015/LBC	Netherleigh House, 1 Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP	Change of use of Netherleigh House and existing office blocks (Class B1) to provide residential and nursing care facilities (Class C3 (a) and (b)). Extensions to existing office block including a fourth storey floor, eastern and western gable extension and two front projections from the northern elevation. Erection of 36 no. assisted living apartments over two four storey blocks. Site parking, landscaped amenity areas, woodland trails and all associated site works	LOC	18-Nov-25	03-Mar-26	15	38	16/06/2026	30	alber	N/A	30/09/2026	Awaiting resolution of outstanding issues for associated planning application LA04/2025/2013 /F
Page 250 LA04/2025/2215/F	Halifax Building, 24 Cromac Place, Building, BT7 2JB	Proposed change of use from offices to nursing home comprising 156 no. bedrooms, ancillary scanning unit and all associated accommodation including dining/ café areas, day rooms and lounges, hairdressers, cinema rooms, treatment rooms and internal courtyard. The proposal also includes ancillary offices, landscaping, cycle parking, external alterations and all other site and associated works.	MAJ	19-Dec-25	17-Jul-26	30	34	16/06/2026	25				Permission Granted

LA04/2026/0021/F	Former Good Shepherd Centre at lands at Nos. 511 and 511a Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 3GS	Conversion of former convent to 28no. apartments (1, 2 & 3 bed) involving internal and external refurbishment/retention and re-configuration. Provision of ground floor extension with partial demolition and provision of new stairwell and lift. Provision of dormers, rooflights and extension to first, second floor and attic levels regarding new stairwell and lift. External layout reconfigurations to include construction of new access from Ormeau Road, amended parking layout, provision of cycle parking, bin stores, landscaping, substation and associated works.	LOC	22-Jan-26	07-May-26	15	29	16/06/2026	20	8	N/A	31/08/2026	DfC HED recommended conditions to deal with late archaeological issues raised by objector. Resolving exploration of dedicated accessible parking spaces
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LA04/2026/0022/LBC	Former Good Shepherd Centre at lands at Nos. 511 and 511a Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 3GS	Conversion of former convent to 28no. apartments (1, 2 & 3 bed) involving internal and external refurbishment/retention and re-configuration. Provision of ground floor extension with partial demolition and provision of new stairwell and lift. Provision of dormers, rooflights and extension to first, second floor and attic levels regarding new stairwell and lift. External layout reconfigurations to include construction of new access from Ormeau Road, amended parking layout, provision of cycle parking, bin stores, landscaping, substation and associated works.	LOC	05-Jan-26	20-Apr-26	15	31	16/06/2026	23	8	N/A	31/08/2026	Awaiting resolution of outstanding issues for associated planning application LA04/2026/0021 /F
LA04/2026/0066/F	Existing soccer pitches at Wedderburn Park Playing Fields (approx. 20m east of Orpen Ave. and 10m west of Wedderburn Gdns), Belfast, BT10 0BT	Erection of 2.4m high perimeter fencing around 1 No. existing soccer pitch and internal 1.2m high spectator rail. Additional tree planting (Amended proposal)	LOC	21-Jan-26	06-May-26	15	29	16/06/2026	20	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2026/0340/F	The Edge, 1 Frederick Street, Belfast, BT1 2LW (formally 48-52 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AS)	Proposed change of use of 144 no. PBMSA units to short term let accommodation outside of term time only.	LOC	30-Mar-26	13-Jul-26	15	19	16/06/2026	11	8	N/A	31/08/2026	Awaiting finalisation of s76 planning agreement

LA04/2026/0306/F	140 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2FJ	Section 54 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 for non-compliance with planning conditions 15 and 16 of planning permission LA04/2021/0516/F (relating to junction improvements and provision of disabled parking spaces)	MAJ	19-Feb-26	17-Sep-26	30	25	16/06/2026	16	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2026/0505/LBC	2 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DA	Fenestration changes to include insertion of new windows at first floor level on north facing elevation, creation of new access door and new windows at ground floor level on north elevation and internal alterations.	LOC	15-Apr-26	29-Jul-26	15	17	16/06/2026	8	8			Consent Granted
Page 255 LA04/2026/0659/F	2 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DA	Fenestration changes to include insertion of new windows at first floor level on north facing elevation and creation of new access door and new windows at ground floor level on north elevation.	LOC	15-Apr-26	29-Jul-26	15	17	16/06/2026	8	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2026/0716/F	Alma Place, 16 Library Street, Belfast, BT1 2JB	Proposed change of use of 342 no. Student rooms to short term let accommodation outside of term time (July & August).	LOC	13-Apr-26	27-Jul-26	15	17	16/06/2026	9	8			Permission Granted
LA04/2026/0787/LBC	Bandstand, Ormeau Park, Ormeau Rd, Belfast, BT7 3GG	Proposed remedial works to the bandstand	LOC	15-May-26	28-Aug-26	15	13	16/06/2026	4	8			Consent Granted

LA04/2024/1195/F	Lands south of nos. 7-14 Wolfhill Manor, east of no.42 Mill Avenue and west and north west of 100 Mill Avenue, Ligoniel, Belfast, BT14 8EL.	Proposed residential development comprising 20 no. dwelling units, including 8 no. semi-detached 2 storey dwellings, 1 no. detached 2 storey dwelling, 2 no. 3-bed apartments (2 storey building) and 9 no. 2-bed apartments (3 storey building) with associated car parking, landscaping and associated works.	LOC	04-Jul-24	17-Oct-24	15	110	16/06/2026	101	8	N/A	31/08/2026	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2025/1651/F	20 Rosemary Street, Belfast, BT1 1QD	Retention, conversion, refurbishment and change of use of existing office building (Class A2) and 2 no. vacant retails units (Class A1) to hotel accommodation and associated facilities, including bar and restaurant (sui generis) and extension of 5th floor (30no. hotel bedrooms in total)	LOC	30-Sep-25	13-Jan-26	15	45	16/06/2026	37	8	N/A	30/09/2026	Awaiting consultation response from NI Water. SES requires satisfactory Waste Water Impact Assessment to be submitted to NI Water

LA04/2025/1839/F	Lindsay House, 8 - 14 Callender Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN	Change of use from fast food unit, restaurant, retail and office to hotel with associated restaurant/bar areas, lobby/reception area and other areas ancillary to hotel use at ground floor level, 76no. bedrooms on 1st to 4th floor level and ancillary rooftop store. Includes demolition of all internal walls and partitions at ground floor level and demolition of sections of building at the rear, replacement of windows, reconfiguration and replacement of shopfronts, creation of new openings for windows and removal of rooflights.	LOC	31-Oct-25	13-Feb-26	15	41	16/06/2026	32	8	N/A	30/09/2026	Awaiting consultation response from NI Water. SES requires satisfactory Waste Water Impact Assessment to be submitted to NI Water
LA04/2025/1841/DCA	Lindsay House 8 - 14 Callender Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN	Change of use from fast food unit, restaurant, retail and office to hotel with associated restaurant/bar areas, lobby/reception area and other areas ancillary to hotel use at ground floor level, 76no. bedrooms on 1st to 4th floor level and ancillary rooftop store. Includes demolition of all internal walls and partitions at ground floor level and demolition of sections of building at the rear, replacement of windows, reconfiguration and replacement of shopfronts, creation of new openings for windows and removal of rooflights.	LOC	31-Oct-25	13-Feb-26	15	41	16/06/2026	32	8	N/A	30/09/2026	Awaiting resolution of outstanding issues for associated planning application LA04/2025/1839 /F

LA04/2025/0288/F	Existing taxi passenger terminal and former retail unit located within 35a King Street, Belfast, BT1 1HU.	Retrospective change of use from ground floor taxi passenger terminal, cafe, office and newsagent to a Homeless Centre, Category D1(B). The centre will provide meals, washing and changing facilities and an internal social amenity area for users. The centre will operate Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 4:00 pm up until 10:00 pm (Amended Description)	LOC	11-Mar-25	24-Jun-25	15	74	16/06/2026	66	8			Permission Granted
04/2024/0570/F Page 256	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP	Change of use of an existing hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space.	MAJ	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	30	123	16/06/2026	114	8	N/A	N/A	Application considered at June 2026 Committee

LA04/2024/0569/O	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castlevue Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and rear of 160 Barnetts Road, Belfast (amended address)	Outline planning permission with all matter reserved for independent living (Use Class C1) units and up to 62no. assisted living units (Use Class C3), associated internal access roads, communal open space, revised access from Castlevue Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping and demolition of dwellings at Castlevue Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30) and Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22) (amended description).	MAJ	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	30	123	16/06/2026	114	8	N/A	N/A	Application considered at June 2026 Committee
Page 257 LA04/2022/0809/F	Lands to the south and west of Woodland Grange to the north of Blacks Gate and to the east of Moor Park Mews Belfast.	Amendments to approved schemes ref. Z/2008/0993/F (erection of 53 No. dwellings) & ref. Z/2013/0120/F (erection of 46 No. dwellings); to reduce overall density from 99 No. dwellings to 92 No. dwellings and associated and ancillary works.	MAJ	21-Apr-22	17-Nov-22	30	225	16/06/2026	216	8	N/A	N/A	Awaiting resolution of cycle-foopath design issues raised by DfI Roads. Completion of s76 planning agreement

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 Belfast City Council		STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Subject:	Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26	
Date:	21 August 2026	
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy	
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Karen Anderson-Gillespie, Strategic Performance 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 - 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	☐
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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present the 2025-2026 Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report for consideration and approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i. approve the draft Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26 (Appendix 1) ii. authorise its publication on the council's website by the statutory deadline of 30 September (subject to any minor updates required, including the receipt of outstanding data detailed in section 3.3 and formal ratification by full council on 1 September).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act requires councils to agree improvement objectives on an annual basis and publish these in the form of a Performance Improvement Plan, by 30 June. The Act also requires that progress is regularly monitored against the improvement objectives and reported in an annual Self-Assessment of Performance, to be published by 30 September. Committee will be aware that in the 2025-26 Performance Improvement Plan, agreed by SP&R on the 23 May 2025, we committed to monitoring progress and providing quarterly performance reports to the CMT, the AAB, the ARP, SP&R Committee, and the full council.
3.2	<u>Performance Improvement Self-Assessment 2025-26</u> A draft 2025-2026 Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report is attached at Appendix 1. In total there are 33 actions and 57 key performance indicators (KPIs) (i.e., 7 statutory and 50 self-imposed), of these: • All 6 improvement objectives have been achieved, and this has been consistently the case for the preceding 3 years. Performance improved in 2025-2026 compared with 2024-2025 in the sense that the proportion of KPIs on target increased from 82.0% to 84.2%, while KPIs showing positive change increased from 80% to 91%, indicating strong overall performance despite a lower number of actions. • 100% of the 33 actions were either achieved/completed or partially achieved. • Out of the 57 KPIs: ▪ 48 (84.2%) KPIs were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better) – 4 statutory, 44 self-imposed. ▪ 2 (3.5%) were slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%) - 1 statutory, 1 self-imposed.

	▪ 1 (1.8%) had no data available and will be reported in 2026-2027 following completion of Phase 2: i. Collected an additional 650 tonnes of glass. ▪ 6 (10.5%) were adrift of target (more than 5%) – 2 statutory, 4 self-imposed: i. Achieving the 30-week target for average processing time for major planning applications (statutory indicator). ii. Achieving the 15-week target for average processing time for local planning applications (statutory indicator). iii. Achieving less than 12 weeks average processing time for householder applications and advertisement consent applications. iv. Completing 1 Asset Management Strategy. v. Progressing 19 short-term council Corporate Climate Action Plan priorities. vi. Supporting 75% of participants to move into a positive outcome from an Employment or Upskilling Academy. ▪ 52 (91%) KPIs showed positive change (5 statutory, 47 self-imposed) ▪ 4 (7%) KPIs showed negative change (2 statutory, 2 self-imposed): i. Achieving the 30-week target for average processing time for major planning applications (statutory indicator). ii. Achieving less than six weeks average processing time of tree works applications and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). iii. Completing 325 business plans to promote business start-up and job promotion (statutory indicator). iv. Supporting 75% of participants to move into a positive outcome from an Employment or Upskilling Academy.
3.3	Committee should note that due to data availability timescales we are awaiting final, verified data for the following and that Appendix 1 will be subject to minor update once received: • Planning and waste data from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). • Comparative absence data for all councils from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).
3.4	A rationale has been provided within Appendix 1 where targets have not been met or there has been no improvement. Where targets have not been achieved or there has been no improvement, these will be monitored via the 2026-2027 Performance Improvement Plan, 2026-2027 Corporate Delivery Plan or at a departmental level.

3.5	<u>Next steps</u> Subject to consideration and agreement by the Committee, the proposed next steps include: i. 21 August: Full Council ratification of PIP Self-Assessment report ii. 11 September: Audit and Risk Panel Performance Update iii. 30 September: Submission of PIP Self-Assessment report to NIAO and published online
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or human resource implications arising directly from this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26.

Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report 2025-2026

Page 263

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Belfast
City Council



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Contents

1. Foreword	3
2. Performance improvement duty.....	4
Performance improvement under the Local Government Act 2014	4
What is improvement?	4
Arrangements to secure continuous improvement	5
Council's improvement framework	5
Measuring performance and improvement	6
3. Identifying our 2025-2026 improvement objectives	8
4. How we have performed – review of performance	10
5. Overall performance of the improvement plan 2025-2026..	11
Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026 self-assessment.....	11
Summary of key achievements from our Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026	13
6. Self-assessment of improvement objectives	14
Objective 1: Our services.....	16
Objective 2: Our people and communities	27
Objective 3: Our place.....	34
Objective 4: Our planet	39
Objective 5: Our economy.....	48
Objective 6: Compassionate city.....	56
7. Corporate performance 2025-2026	61
8. Financial performance 2025-2026	66

1. Foreword

Welcome to our Performance Improvement Self-Assessment



I am pleased to present Belfast City Council's Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report for 2025-2026. The report explains how we have improved our services and delivered better outcomes for the people of Belfast. It highlights what we achieved during the year and shows how we measured our performance against the objectives set out in our Performance Improvement Plan.

Some highlights from the year include:

- More than **3.6 million visits** to our leisure centres, helping more people to be active and improve their health.
- The extension of **kerbside glass collection to 23,000 additional households**, making recycling easier for residents.
- Engagement with **7,297 children and young people** through our Ending Violence Against Women and Girls programme.
- **Progressed 220 and completed 39 capital projects** across the city, including community facilities, cultural venues and visitor attractions that benefit residents and support the local economy.

These achievements demonstrate our commitment to improving services, supporting communities and investing in the future of Belfast.

We will continue to place improvement at the heart of everything we do. We welcome feedback and ideas from residents, businesses and community groups. If you have suggestions on how we can improve, please contact us at performance@belfastcity.gov.uk or visit our [Performance and Improvement YourSay page](#).

John Walsh, Chief Executive

We continue to work in a challenging environment. Rising living costs, increasing demand for services and wider economic uncertainty continue to affect our residents, businesses and communities. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to providing high-quality services and delivering value for our ratepayers.

This year, we launched our Corporate Plan 2025-2028. The plan reflects on our recent achievements, sets out our priorities and explains how we will continue improving services over the coming years. It also supports the long-term ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, our community plan for the city.

I am delighted to report that we achieved all six of our improvement objectives during 2025-2026. All improvement actions were either completed or progressed, and 88% of our performance indicators met or exceeded their targets.

2. Performance improvement duty

Performance improvement under the Local Government Act 2014

Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides the framework to support continuous improvement for all councils. The Act requires councils to measure how well services perform and publish an annual report showing progress against agreed self-imposed and statutory targets.

The Act also requires the council to keep improving the way it delivers services. This is known as our ‘Duty to Improve’ and is set out within our annual Improvement Plan. The Act states that council must publish an annual Self-Assessment Report by 30 September each year and include:

1. An assessment of its performance during a financial year:

- In discharging its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement;
- In meeting its improvement objectives which are applicable to that year; and
- By reference to the statutory performance indicators and self-imposed indicators which are applicable to that year.

2. An assessment of its performance in exercising its functions during a financial year as compared with:

- Its performance in previous financial years; and
- So far as reasonably practicable, the performance during that and previous financial years of other councils.

What is improvement?

In accordance with the Act and accompanying guidance, for us “improvement” is about *continuously improving* over time - *enhancing the sustainable quality of life and environment for ratepayers and communities* rather than limited to gains in service output or efficiencies.

We regularly review our improvement objectives to make sure they reflect local needs, priorities, and available resources. We align our improvement objectives to bring about improvement in at least one of the specified aspects of improvement as defined in section 86 of the Act:



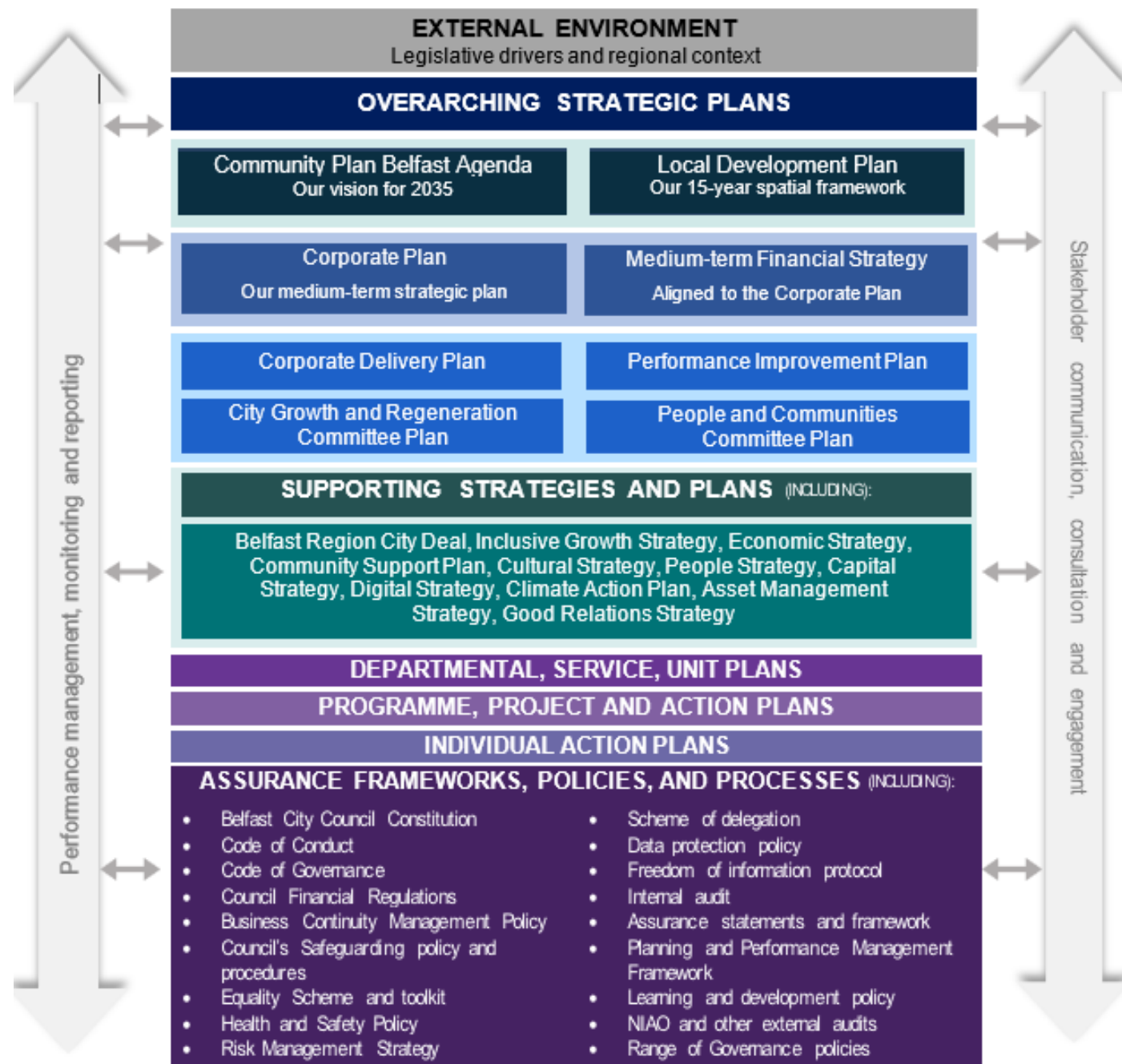
Arrangements to secure continuous improvement

Council's improvement framework

The council has clear processes in place to help us improve services and monitor performance, summarised in figure 1.

The council's improvement framework sets out the various components of how the council works, bringing together the specific priorities, ambitions, and outcomes for Belfast. It links the overarching strategic outcomes, ambitions and priorities of key strategies and plans to the annual individual works plans of our employees, making clear the contribution that individuals make towards achieving city and strategic outcomes.

It helps ensure that all parts of the council work toward the same priorities and goals, known as the 'golden thread'. Our improvement framework is kept under review to support our 'Duty to improve'.



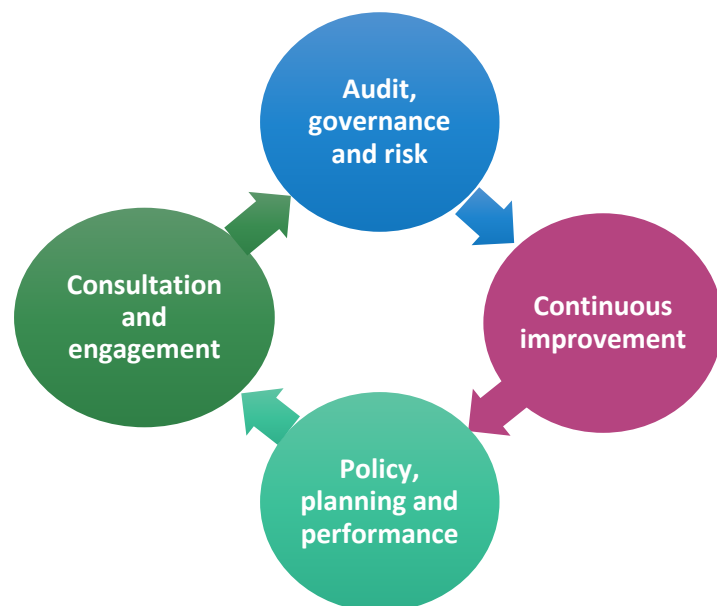
*The diagram above illustrates the need for connections between all levels. The components listed are illustrative and are not an exhaustive list.

Figure 1: Council's improvement framework.

Measuring performance and improvement

The council continues to enhance, implement, and embed arrangements to secure continuous improvement, in the exercise of our functions, through:

Figure 2: Performance and improvement arrangements



Audit governance and risk

Our performance is audited externally by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and proposals for improvement implemented. Performance is also monitored by the council's Corporate Management Team (CMT), Audit Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel as well as being considered by our own internal audit service, committee, and the full council.

An annual council audit plan is agreed and actions arising to improve our internal control environment are monitored through the Audit and Risk Panel.

Risks that could impact on the delivery of our objectives are monitored and managed through the council Risk Management Strategy. Risks are monitored at a strategic, operational and project level and we act as necessary to amend ways of working and ensure continued service delivery.

Continuous improvement

We have a dedicated continuous improvement team who lead and support improvement projects and programmes as well as wider organisational change and service re-design.

Policy, planning and performance

Corporate policies and programmes are developed across the organisation in response to emerging priorities. These are monitored and reported through cross-departmental groups, management teams and boards, and regularly to the relevant committee.

Progress against our key strategies and plans is monitored through regular reports to CMT and to relevant committees. Our performance is assessed and evaluated in the form of published documents such as the Annual Accounts, Annual Audit Letter, Annual Performance Assessment and Annual Statement of Governance.

We are in the process of finalising our corporate planning and performance management framework to enhance our continuous improvement journey.

Stakeholder communication, consultation, and engagement

The council uses multiple communication methods to engage with our stakeholders, to seek views on our key plans and priorities and keep them informed about our services and initiatives.

Monitoring, reporting and governance arrangements

Our monitoring and reporting arrangements help us manage performance, make informed decisions, and remain accountable, providing our management teams and elected members with assurances that our governance arrangements are robust. This helps us remain open, accountable, and focused on improving services. The council's governance framework is a traditional committee structure with full council and eight standing committees. The full council, which consists of all 60 elected representatives, is the overarching decision-making body, overseeing the work of the council. In addition to the committee structure a range of working groups, forums and boards have also been established to ensure the effective monitoring and reporting of performance and drive continuous improvement. A new planning and performance management framework is currently being developed which will refresh the current arrangements, provide a co-ordinated focus and a clear framework to enhance our continuous improvement journey.

1. Community Plan (The Belfast Agenda)	
Reports to:	Frequency:
Delivery boards	Quarterly
Community Planning Partnership	Bi-annually
Strategy, Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee & full council	As appropriate
Department for Communities (DfC)	Every two years and four years

4. Performance Improvement Plan	
Reports to:	Frequency:
CMT	Quarterly (from Q2 onwards)
Audit and Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel	Quarterly
SP&R committee	Quarterly
Full council	Quarterly
DfC	Bi-annually

2. Corporate plan (2025-2028) and Annual Corporate Delivery Plan	
Reports to:	Frequency:
Corporate Management Team (CMT)	Quarterly (from Q2 onwards)
SP&R committee	Annual
Full council	Annual

5. Supporting strategies and plans	
Reports to:	Frequency:
Corporate, departmental and service management teams	As appropriate
Working groups and boards	As appropriate
Relevant committee	As appropriate
Full council	As appropriate

3. Committee plans	
Reports to:	Frequency:
CMT	Bi-annual and annual
Relevant committee	Bi-annual and annual
Full council	Bi-annual and annual

6. Departmental and business plans	
Reports to:	Frequency:
Service management teams (SMT)	Monthly
Department management teams (DMT)	Quarterly
Working groups and boards	As appropriate

3. Identifying our 2025-2026 improvement objectives

Three-phase process

All our key strategies and plans are informed and developed by listening to our residents, businesses, partners, staff, and elected members. Our 2025-2026 performance improvement objectives were developed through a three-phase process. In phase one we reviewed the evidence base, in phase two, we engaged internally and in phase three, we carried out public consultation. The rich and diverse analysis and feedback we received throughout the process was shaped into the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026. The objectives agreed were aligned to the priorities of the draft Community Plan (the Belfast Agenda).

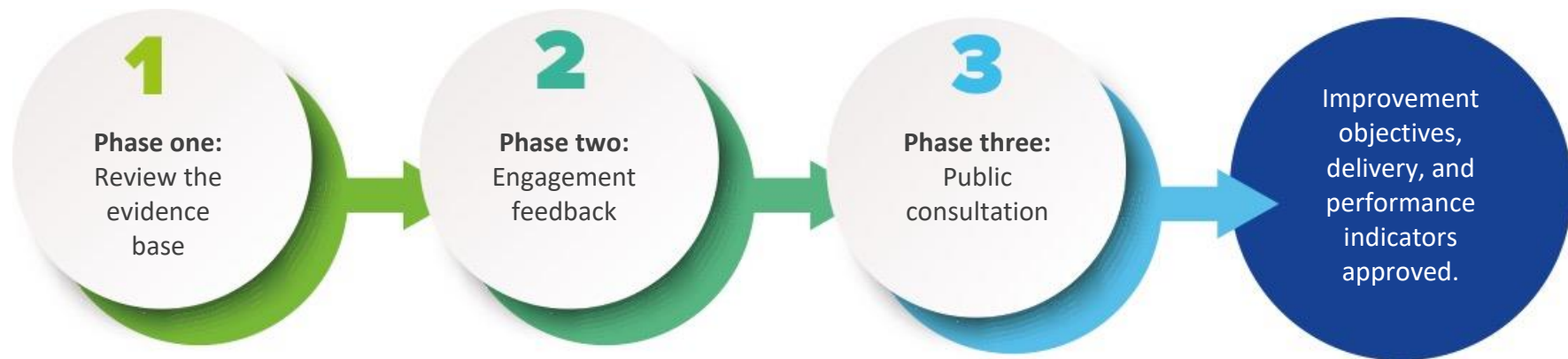


Figure 3: Three-phase process

Our Improvement Objectives 2025-2026

The council published its Improvement Plan for 2025-2026, which contained six improvement objectives, as set out below:

Page 271

Our services	• We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.
Our people and communities	• We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.
Our place	• We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).
Our planet	• We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.
Our economy	• We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.
Compassionate city	• We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe and inclusive city.

4. How we have performed – review of performance

The Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026 does not detail every improvement we intended to make but focused on some of the key areas identified for improvement through our community and corporate planning processes, stakeholder engagement and research analysis.

We use a wide variety of actions, key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets to measure and monitor the progress and delivery of all our plans, as well as comparing our performance in relation to other councils and relevant organisations where data is available. The following sections will set out how the council has performed in 2025-2026 in four key areas, providing a holistic review of council performance:

- i. Overall performance of the Improvement Plan 2025-2026.
- ii. Self-assessment of improvement objectives – Improvement Plan 2025-2026.
- iii. Corporate performance 2025-2026; and
- iv. Financial performance 2025-2026.

We have outlined our progress using the following self-assessment key:

Year-end reporting - PI and action progress status and trend key					
Actions		Performance indicator target		Performance indicator trend	
R	Not achieved	R	Adrift of target (5% or more)		Worsening trend
A	Partially achieved*	A	Slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%)		No significant change
G	Achieved/completed	G	On target or exceeded target (within 1% or better)		Improving trend
	Data not available		Data not available		Data not available

*Actions where work commenced or was progressed but the project or activity spans more than one financial year.

5. Overall performance of the improvement plan 2025-2026

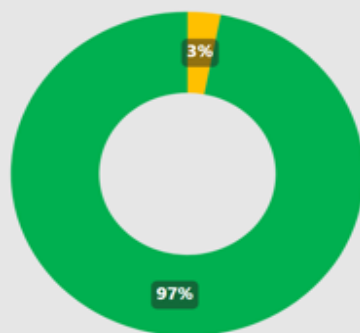
For each of our six 2025-2026 improvement objectives, we identified improvement actions which set out what we wanted to deliver, as well as KPIs and targets, which would enable us to measure our success. This section provides an overall performance assessment and a summary of key achievements from our Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026.

Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026 self-assessment

Our overall annual performance against achieving our improvement objectives 2025-2026 is summarised below. We have outlined our progress against our 33 actions and 57 performance indicators (seven statutory and 50 self-imposed).

Page 273

33 Actions

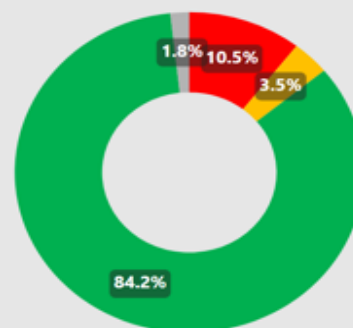


100% of actions were either achieved/completed or partially achieved

32 (97%) were achieved/complete*

1 (3%) was partially achieved

57 Performance Indicators (Target)



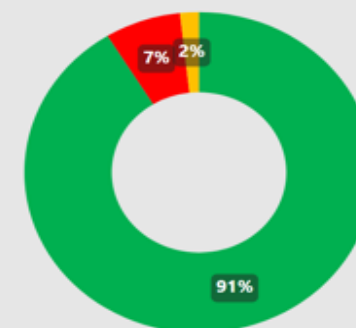
48 (84.2%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better) (4 statutory, 44 self-imposed)

2 (3.5%) were slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%) (1 statutory, 1 self-imposed)

6 (10.5%) were adrift of target (more than 5%) (2 statutory, 4 self-imposed)

1 (1.8%) had no data available.

57 Performance Indicators (Trend)



52 (91%) showed positive change (5 statutory and 47 self-imposed)

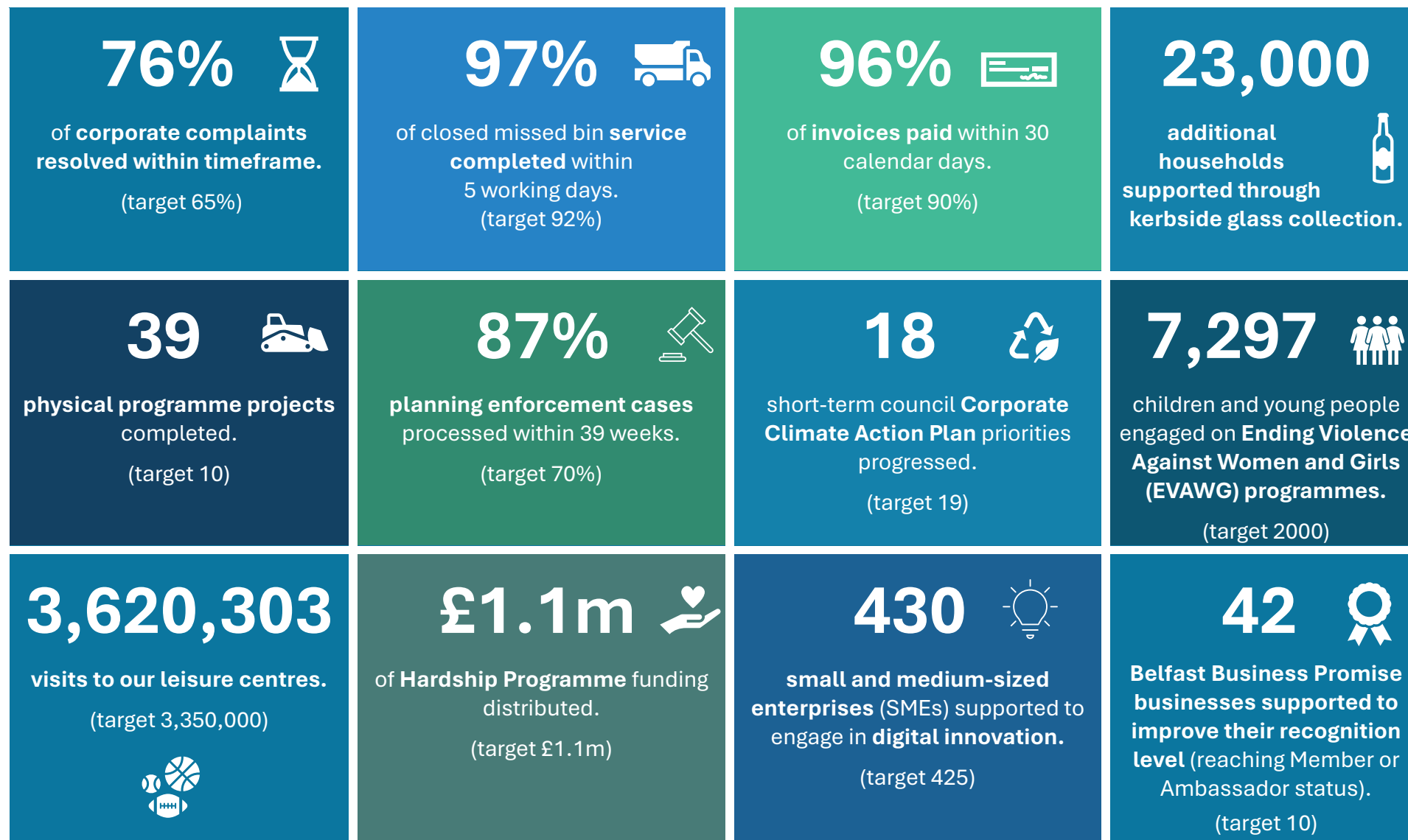
1 (2%) showed no significant change (1 self-imposed)

4 (7%) showed negative change (2 statutory, 2 self-imposed)

Actions were *partially achieved when work commenced or was progressed during 2025-2026 but the project or activity spans more than one financial year. A rationale and detailed analysis have been provided in Section 5 where targets (both actions and KPIs) have not been achieved and this broadly includes regional issues and delays, council resource constraints as well as dependency on external factors including market forces and regulatory changes.

Summary of key achievements from our Performance Improvement Plan 2025-2026

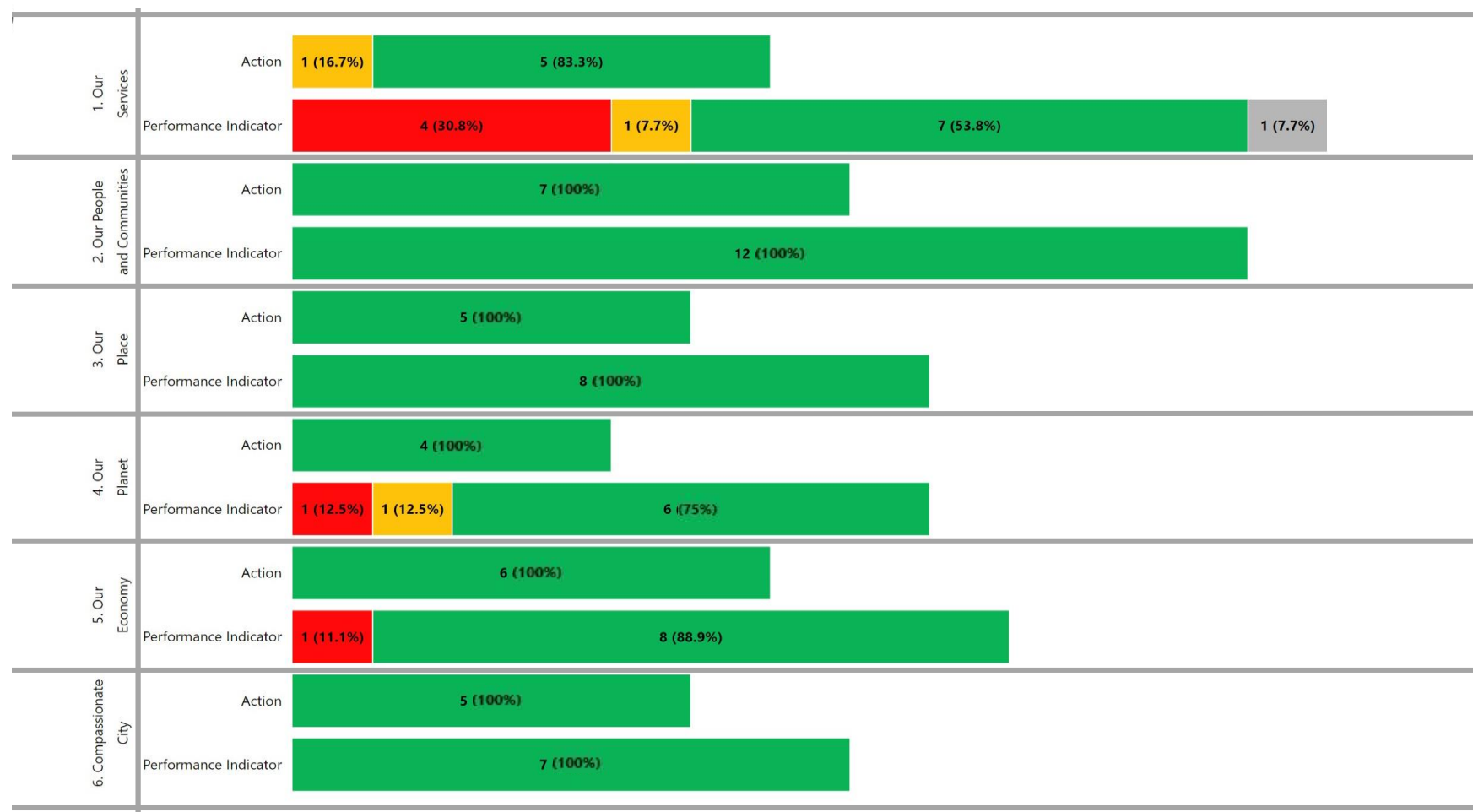
A snapshot of some of the key achievements and performance improvement across all six improvement objectives, is illustrated below.



6. Self-assessment of improvement objectives

When agreeing the six improvement objectives for 2025-2026, council identified actions and associated KPIs to ensure achievement of the objectives and improvements that benefit residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. This section of the report firstly provides a summary of performance across the six improvement objectives, in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Summary of performance across the six improvement objectives.



This is followed by a self-assessment of each improvement objective providing a progress update on the following areas:

- i. the achievement of the improvement objective.
- ii. the achievement of improvement actions.
- iii. how we performed – KPIs (self-imposed and statutory), target and trends.
- iv. how we compared – performance benchmarking (where relevant and available).
- v. additional evidence of performance improvement, including impact reports; and
- vi. next steps.

We have assessed each of the 2025-2026 improvement objectives and consider that they all met the following statutory aspects of improvement:

						
General duty/ continuous improvement	Strategic effectiveness	Service quality and availability	Fairness	Sustainability	Efficiency	Innovation
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Self-assessment through our community plan (the Belfast Agenda)

Our community plan (the Belfast Agenda) sets out long-term outcomes and ambitions for improving the long-term social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Belfast as well as immediate priorities. Progress against the Belfast Agenda is monitored and reported through regular reports to Community Planning Partnership Boards and the Strategic Policy and Resources committee (SP&R). Council publishes a report every two years, assessing progress towards achieving outcomes and demonstrating the impact on the outcomes for citizens. Progress reports can be accessed online: [Belfast Agenda Progress Reports | Your say Belfast \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfast-agenda-progress-reports-your-say-belfast). In doing so, we provided evidence of meeting the general duty to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of our functions and addressing multiple complex community needs. Our role in leading the community planning process in Belfast has been pivotal in demonstrating improvement by contributing to working collaboratively with cross-sector partners to understand and improve the sustainability of our areas¹.

¹ Section 16 [Circular LG 26/15 - Guidance for local government performance improvement | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/circular-lg-2615)

Objective 1: Our services

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?

Achieved – we continued to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.

Belfast Agenda outcome

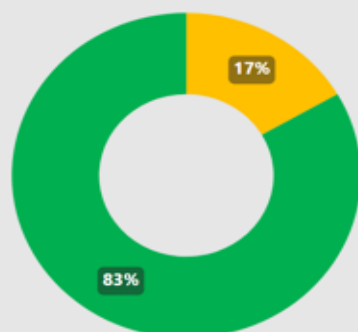
Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city.

Corporate Plan themes and priorities

- Our services – Delivering effective and efficient services.
- Foundations for success - Creating a fit for purpose organisation

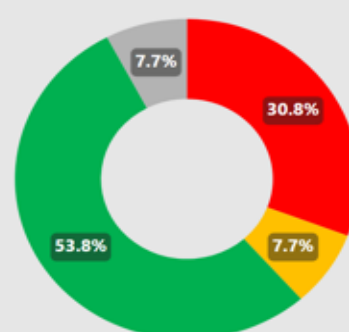
Page 278

6 Actions



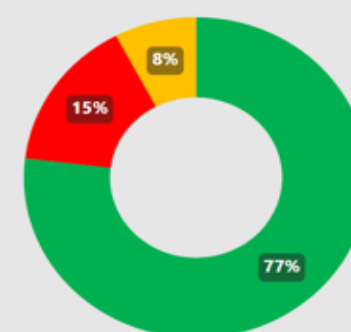
100% of actions were either achieved/completed or partially achieved
5 (83%) were achieved/complete
1 (17%) was partially achieved

13 Performance Indicators (Target)



7 (53.8%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better)
1 (7.7%) was slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%)
4 (30.8%) were adrift of target (more than 5%)
1 (7.7%) had no data available.

13 Performance Indicators (Trend)



10 (76.9%) showed positive change
1 (7.7%) showed no significant change
2 (15.4%) showed negative change

What did we do?

- ✓ Delivered the **Customer Focus Programme** to build organisational capacity to enhance our services and customer experience.
- ✓ Continued to **deliver the Planning Service Improvement Plan**.
- ✓ Delivered a **street cleansing programme** to create a cleaner and greener city.
- ✓ **Operated daily bin collections of household and commercial waste** through the deployment of adequate and efficient resources.
- ✓ Delivered **phase two of the kerbside glass expansion programme** to enhance customer service and improve recycling rates.
- ✓ Initiated the development of an **overarching Asset Management Strategy** to set out how council owned and managed land and property assets will be used to support service delivery and the delivery of objectives in the Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023-2024 year-end actual	2024-2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Resolving 65% of corporate complaints within timeframe.	72%	72%	65%	64%	65%	76%	↑	Exceeded target by 16.92% and resolved more corporate complaints within timeframe than previous year.
Introducing improvement actions for 80% of corporate complaints.	N/A	N/A	64%	72%	80%	82%	↑	Exceeded target by 2.5% and introduced more improvement actions for corporate complaints than previous year.
Deliver Customer Service Training qualification to a cohort of staff.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 cohort	1	↑	Successfully completed the Customer Engagement and Design training cohort in quarter 3, with four members of the Customer Focus Team achieving the ICS qualification.

Achieving the 30-week target for average processing time for major planning applications (statutory indicator).	31.0	57.2	64.4	53.2	30 weeks	53		This has been affected by a large number of "legacy" cases of two years or greater, the quality of applications, delays from consultees and the new Section 76 planning agreements not taking effect until February 2025 with a lag time until their benefits are fully felt. Also, the Planning Service's commitment to working with customers to achieve a planning permission with quality outcomes, rather than refusing permission within the 30-week target Note, these are provisional year-end figures - the verified figures will be provided over the Summer.
Achieving the 15-week target for average processing time for local planning applications (statutory indicator).	31.0	19.8	20.6	17.3	15 weeks	18.2		This has been adversely affected by resourcing over Summer 2025 as well as variability in the timeliness and quality of consultee responses. Note, these are provisional year-end figures - the verified figures will be provided over the Summer.
Processing 70% of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks (statutory indicator).	83%	88.8%	88.6%	76.8%	70%	87%		Exceeded target by 24.29% and processed more enforcement cases within 39 weeks than same quarter last year. This is despite a significant increase in

								complaints received relating to short-term lets. Note, these are provisional year-end figures - the verified figures will be provided over Summer.
Work continues at a regional level to improve the NI planning system and to develop a new Regional Performance Framework. It is believed that Belfast is the first council to introduce its own performance framework based on this regional work. The council took a lead role in the Regional Planning Improvement Programme (PIP), and this is now moving to "Phase 2". The NI Audit Office and NI Assembly Public Accounts committee are aware of the systemic issues with the operation of the NI planning system. Performance continued to be impacted by the backlog of legacy applications, the Section 76 process where process improvements are not expected to take effect until 2026-2027, as well as delayed consultation responses from statutory consultees. At a local level we: - Introduced new procedures in February 2025 to streamline the Section 76 process. - Published the council's new "Planning Application Validation Checklist" in April 2025, which sets mandatory information requirements for planning applications on submission as well as continuing the roll-out of the Planning Service's new streamlined Pre-Application Discussion process – both of which are expected to have a positive impact on the quality of planning applications received. For 2026-2027, we are: - Implementing our new Planning Service Performance Framework. - Rolling out a new and comprehensive approach to staff training and development. - Publishing a new internal "Development Management Manual" to capture complex processes and procedures. - Reviewing our Planning Service Improvement Plan. - Implementing further process improvements following formal reporting on the lean systems redesign experimentation undertake between 2022 and 2024.								
Achieving less than 12 weeks average processing time for householder applications and advertisement consent applications.	31	19.8	20.6	17.3	12 weeks	17.8 weeks		Performance for year end is an average processing time of 17.75 weeks, substantially below the 12-week target. This has been adversely affected by resourcing over Summer 2025.

Achieving less than six weeks average processing time of tree works applications and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).	-	2.04	7.70	3.07	6 weeks	3.3 weeks		Target exceeded by 45%
Completing 75% of service requests for open spaces and street scene within five working days.	59%	57%	62.41%	TBC	75%	73%		Target missed by 2.73%. The handling and closure of service requests is being reviewed.
Completing 92% of service requests for missed bins within five working days.	89%	79%	92%	91.93%	92%	97%		Target exceeded by 4.97% Increase on previous year.
Providing 23,000 additional households with kerbside glass collections.	N/A	N/A	N/A	23,000	23,000	23,000		23,000 households provided with kerbside glass collections.
Collecting an additional 650 tonnes of glass.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	650			619 tonnes of kerbside glass were collected during Phase 1 which was delivered during 2025-2026. Phase 2 kerbside glass collection commenced March/April 2026 so tonnage will be reported next year.
Completing the Asset Management Strategy.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0		Work is ongoing on development of a Strategy. A new single integrated Asset Management System linked to the Strategy is being procured to better facilitate management of various assets.

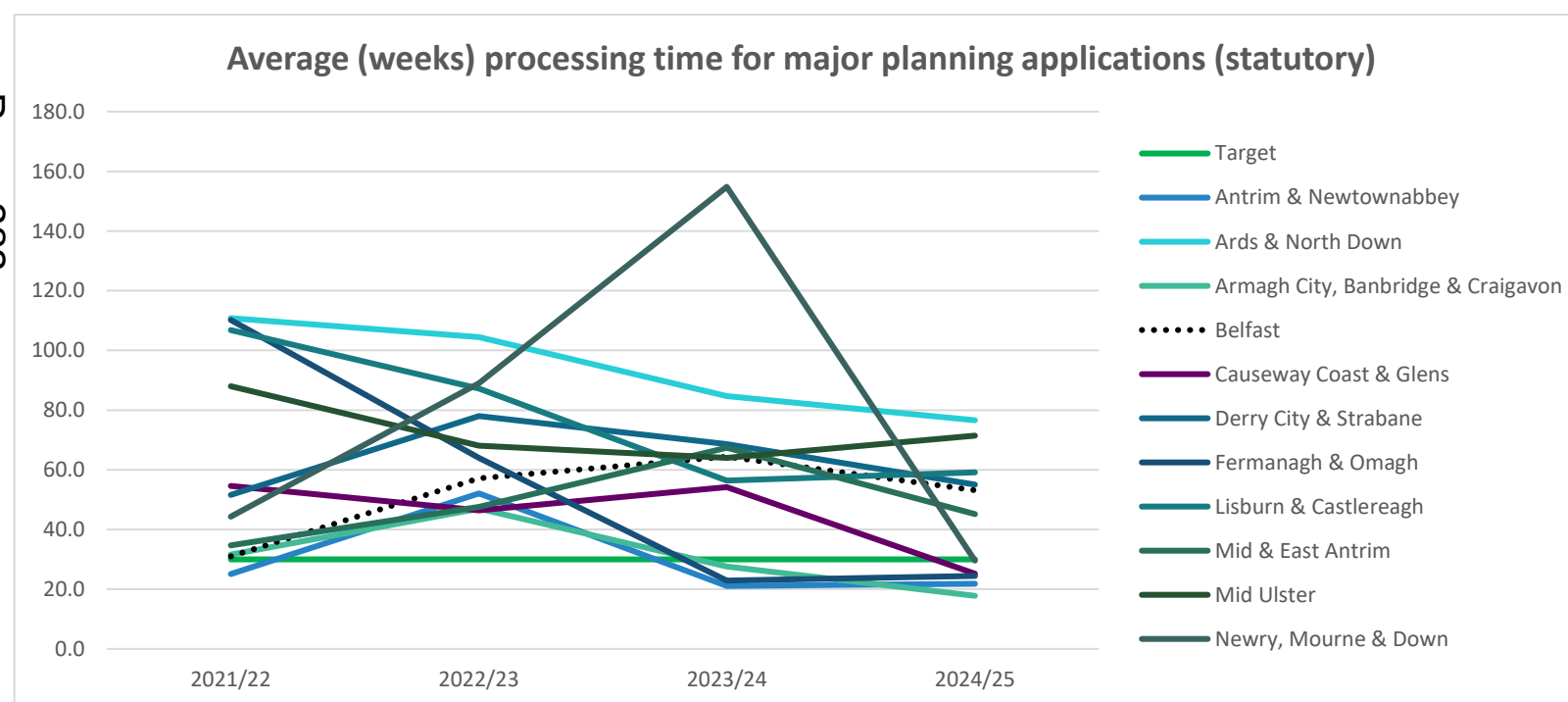
How do we compare?

The volume of all planning applications processed by all councils in 2024-2025 was the lowest since Local Government Reform in 2015-2016 and from records began in 2002-2003. Belfast processed 13.34% (1,296) of all Northern Ireland planning applications in 2024-2025 and 14.02% (1,302) of all planning decisions across Northern Ireland. Our performance in relation to other councils is set out on the following page.

Major planning applications

Major planning applications are of economic, environmental, and social importance. Since 2017-2018, Belfast has processed on average 30 major planning applications a year. In 2024-2025, the majority (6 out of 11) of councils did not meet 30-week target, including Belfast who ranked seventh out of 11 councils.

Page 283

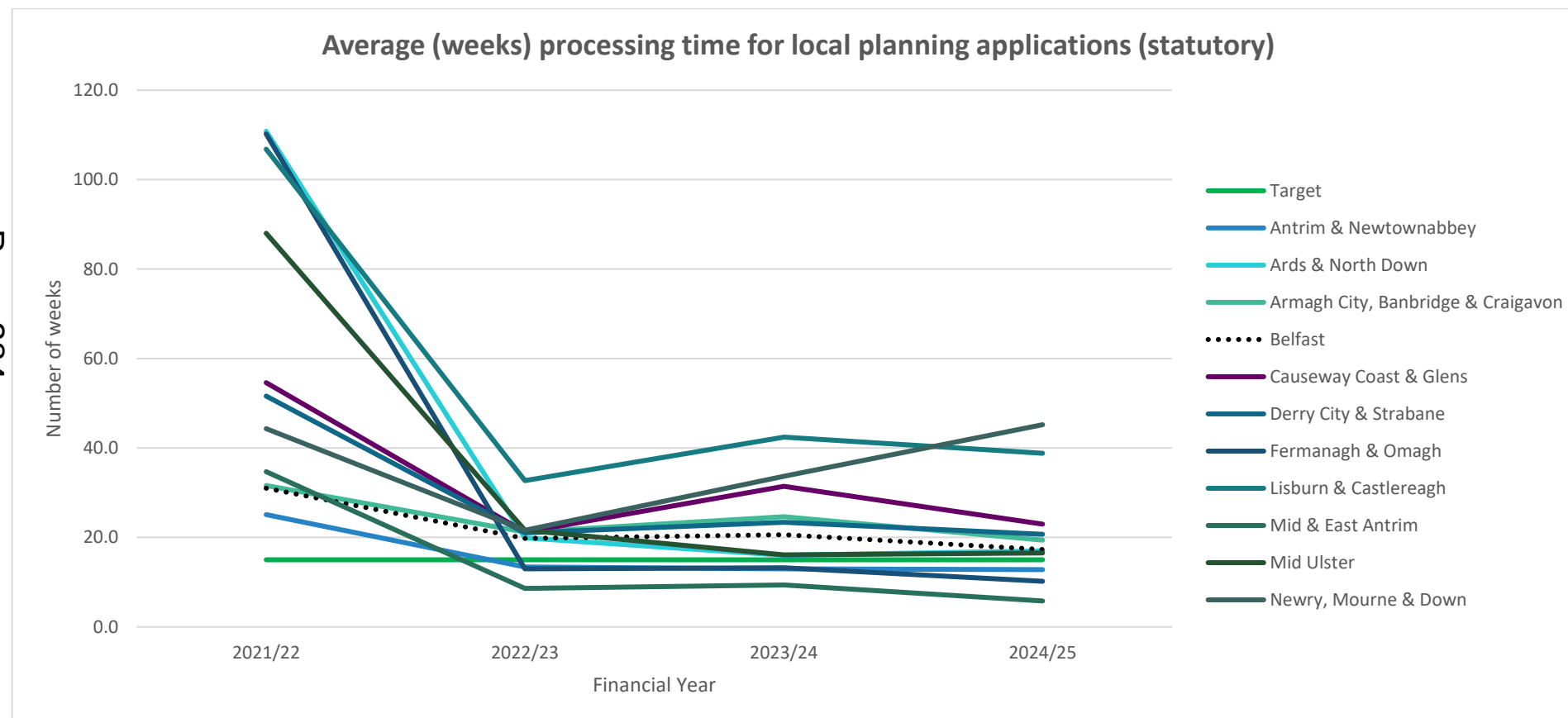


Source: DfI Planning Statistics, [Planning activity statistics | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/), Table 3.2.6 - Major development applications processing times by council

Local planning applications

Local planning applications are normally residential and smaller commercial applications. In 2024-2025, the majority (10 out of 11) of councils did not meet the 15-week target, including Belfast who ranked third out of 11 councils. We processed local planning applications more quickly in 2024-2025 than in 2023-2024. We have improved in the sense that we have more than halved the average number of weeks it takes to process local planning applications since 2018-2019, despite the ongoing issues with the Regional Planning IT systems outlined earlier.

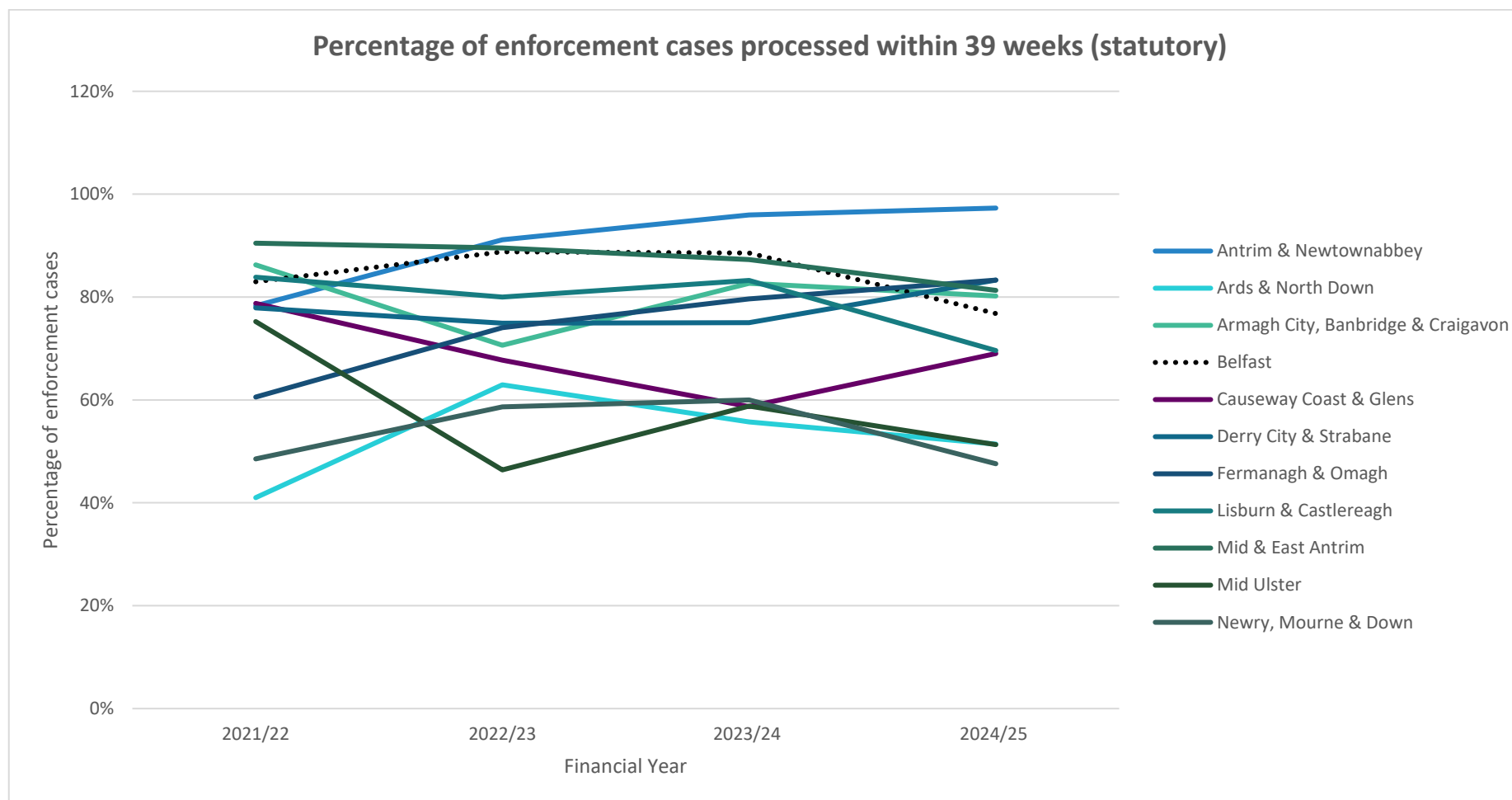
Page 284



Source: DfI Planning Statistics, [Planning activity statistics | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#), Table 4.2.6 - Local development applications processing times by council

Planning enforcement

The number of enforcement cases opened and closed during 2024-2025 across Northern Ireland was the lowest since 2015-2016. Most councils exceeded the 70% target in 2024-2025, with Belfast ranked sixth out of 11 councils.



Source: DfI Planning Statistics, [Planning activity statistics | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#), Table 6.2.5 - Enforcement cases conclusion times by planning authority.

What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Achieved **81% customer satisfaction** with the (Customer Hub*).
- ✓ Achieved a **4.2 overall customer satisfaction rate** (out of five) in Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) customer satisfaction survey and won the **Excellence in Contribution to the Community** at the Belfast Business Awards.
- ✓ Achieved the **UK Quality Accreditation for Sport and Leisure (Quest)** in 14 leisure centres.
- ✓ Managed more than **4,000 community safety issues** across the city via the newly launched Community Safety Report It App, supporting a coordinated response to a wide range of community safety issues, including drug misuse, antisocial behaviour and welfare check for some of the city's most vulnerable residents.
- ✓ **Embraced AI** to modernise service delivery by:
 - Agreeing our **Generative AI Policy**
 - Progressing **the £5 million AI adoption programme** for the six Belfast Regional City Deal (BRCD) councils.
- ✓ **Invested £75,000 to introduce Belfast Zoo's new hop-on, hop-off accessible train** to improve inclusivity at the venue.
- ✓ Commenced a **Transformation and Efficiency Programme** to ensure the most efficient use of council resources, minimise the rates burden on householders and businesses and create a sustainable medium term financial strategy.
- ✓ Implemented numerous **customer service improvements** as a result of customer complaints.
- ✓ Identified and implemented several **risk actions and audit recommendations** to mitigate the impact or likelihood of risks transpiring that may interrupt delivery.
- ✓ Delivered a range of **service and human resources (HR) improvement projects** through our dedicated Continuous Improvement Unit.
- ✓ Undertook a **variety of consultations** via the council's engagement platform [Your Say Belfast](#) to establish areas for action and improvement, including tackling dog fouling and transforming alleyways.

**The Customer Hub handles approximately 70% of all calls to the council and approximately 60% of all customer contacts including email and web forms. It's the main point of contact for the following services: Resources and Fleet Waste Collections, Resources and Fleet Waste Management, Open Spaces and Street Scene, complaints, general enquiries and switchboard.*

What impact did we have?

Our Services

Reliable services, delivered daily.

99.8%

bin collection rate

10 million

bin and box
collections

**62,000+
tonnes**
of materials
recycled

564 tonnes
of waste
landfilled - our lowest
level to date

97%

closed missed bin service
requests completed within 5
working days
(up from 92% in 2024/25)



13 smart compactor bins installed across the city that hold up to five times more waste, alert staff when bins are full, boosts recycling, and cuts fuel use and emissions by reducing collection journeys by over 80%.

- Secured funding for **two additional narrow access vehicles to improve access** to areas that standard vehicles cannot reach
- Approved a **Single Use Plastic Policy** and action plan to support the avoidance, reduction and replacement of single-use plastics
- Rolled out a **city-wide bin tagging system** to help households use the right bins and prevent overflowing

- Piloted a **dog-fouling** hotspot project that saw a reduction in reports of dog fouling
- Secured **£757,522** for enhanced power-washing
- **Four additional Resource Advisors** to be recruited to assist residents with managing their waste and improve recycling



ISO9001, 14001 and 45001 integrated management systems for waste management maintained

66% city centre cleanliness index

“ Overall, the process of implementing improvement actions arising from complaints is driving real benefits. It is helping to reduce repeat complaints, tackle recurring service issues, and embed more sustainable long-term improvement. It is also strengthening governance, audit assurance, and operational efficiency by helping services learn from customer feedback and act on it. *Customer Focus Programme* ”

“ Our team who collect from us in BT9 are brilliant - a really friendly crew. We can't fault them in any way, so thank you to our bin collection team. *Customer* ”

**What
next?**

This improvement objective is included in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027 as:

- We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.

Improving our services is identified as a key priority in the [2025 – 2028 Corporate Plan](#) as:

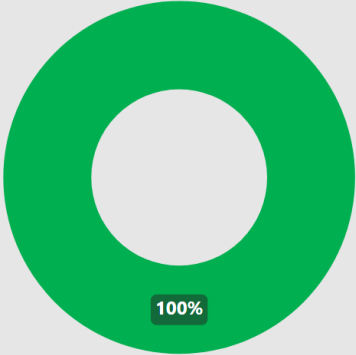
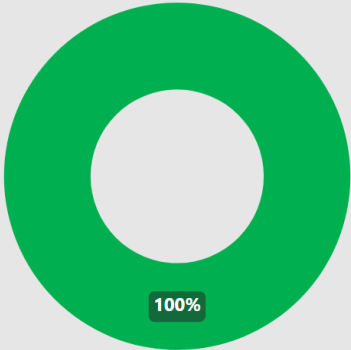
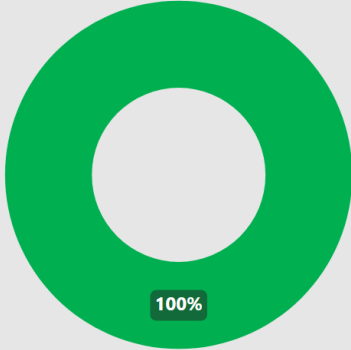
- Our services – Delivering effective and efficient services.
- Foundations for success - creating a fit for purpose organisation.

Objective 2: Our people and communities

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?	Achieved – we improved our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.
Belfast Agenda outcome	Belfast will be a city where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.
Corporate Plan themes and priorities	- Our people and communities – Making life better for all our residents. - Health inequalities and community and neighbourhood

Page 289

7 Actions	12 Performance Indicators (Target)	12 Performance Indicators (Trend)
		
100% of actions were achieved/completed	12 (100%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better)	12 (100%) showed positive change

What did we do?

- ✓ **Enhanced our playgrounds**, to ensure that we continue to provide high-quality facilities and equipment across the city.
- ✓ **Increased the number of people using our leisure centres**, to participate in sport and physical activity.
- ✓ **Delivered animation and outreach activities** in community, play and leisure development programmes.
- ✓ **Delivered and facilitated a range of events and community programmes** within our parks and open spaces.
- ✓ **Delivered improvements to parks and open spaces** to improve people's health and wellbeing through multimillion pound transformational schemes.
- ✓ **Progressed the development of capital projects** aligned to the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and Pitches Strategy to enhance the quality and accessibility of sports and physical activity provision in Belfast.
- ✓ **Progressed the development and delivery of the council's Physical Programme** to enable needs led investment across the city.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023-2024 year-end actual	2024-2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Investing £580k and delivering the annual playground improvement programme.	N/A	N/A	£580,000	£580,000	£580,000	£580,000	↑	White Rise, and Ohio Street Playgrounds complete. Finroy Street nearly complete. Fencing work has commenced at Rodden Crescent and playground refurbishment to commence on site in Q1 2026-2027.
Increasing the number of people to our leisure centres to 3.35million.	2,810,202	3,100,000	3,108,894	3,168,967	3,350,000	3,620,303	↑	Target exceeded by 8%. 451,336 more leisure centre visits than previous year.
Increasing the number of community, play and leisure outreach programmes delivered to 200.	-	-	-	-	200	266	↑	Target exceeded by 33%. Provisional data.
Increasing the number of outdoor leisure bookings (pitches, bowling greens) to 16,000.	8,876	10,859	14,470	16,153	16,000	18,190	↑	Target exceeded by 13.69% 2,676 more bookings than previous year.
Increasing the numbers attending events in our parks to 180,000.	16,755	195,640	175,620	203,654	180,000	181,665	↑	Target exceeded by 0.93%. Hosted 413 events in our parks.
Progressing major improvements to three parks (Ballysillan Playing Fields, Waterworks and Alexandra Park).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	↑	Improvement works to all three parks continue to progress.
Progressing major improvements to one open space (Cathedral Gardens).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	Progressing well on site and due to complete winter/spring 2027.

Commencing development work on three selected sites (aligned to the Leisure Programme, Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and Pitches Strategy).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	↑	Prioritised list agreed - Shankill, Whiterock and Girdwood. Pitches Strategy presented to SP&R Committee in April 2026.
Completing 10 projects under the Physical Programme.	N/A	N/A	N/A	26	10	39	↑	Target was achieved in Q3. Additional 29 projects completed.
Developing 100 projects under the Physical Programme.	N/A	N/A	N/A	128	100	220	↑	Exceeded target. 220 live projects at various stages reported in Physical Programme Dashboard. 26 projects on ground i.e. on site or contractor appointed. 70 underway - design stage, planning. Remainder at different stages e.g. development work ongoing, surveys etc.
Supporting 20 organisations under the £10.28m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF) programme.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	20	↑	Continuing to support 20 organisations at Stage 3. Four projects on site. One building purchase complete in 2025-2026 and funding expended - Market Heritage Hub project.
Completing one project under NRF.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	One building purchase complete in 2025-2026 and funding expended - Market Heritage Hub project. Four other projects on site and due to complete in 2026-2027 - Belfast Orange Hall refurb, Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre, ACT Visitor Centre, Solas. NRF funded element of Michael Davitt's completed in March 2026, Heritage funded aspect being delivered by group and to complete by summer 2026.

What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Opened a **new Dog Park at Ormeau Park**, providing a safe and welcoming space for dogs and their owners.
- ✓ **Supported 135 people who are impacted by, or at risk of, chronic homelessness (target 50)** through the Complex Lives Programme.
- ✓ Invested £170k to install **98 communication boards at all playgrounds** across the city.
- ✓ Supported **23 schools and 20 youth organisations to achieve Take 5 accreditation** which recognizes the steps that they take to support positive mental health.
- ✓ Engaged over **1500 older people** in activities to help enhance the quality of life for people as they age.
- ✓ Delivered a **Living Library event** to promote good relations, inclusion and community understanding across the city.
- ✓ Unveiled the **first legal street art wall** at Little Patrick Street which supports local artists and help deter graffiti and tagging.
- ✓ Delivered the **Belfast Canvas programme**, which has transformed over 130 utility and junction boxes across the city into vibrant public artworks created by local, national and international artists.
- ✓ Funded a range of creative community projects across the whole city through our **‘Bank of Ideas’ participatory budgeting** initiative.
- ✓ Provided a range of opportunities for our residents to become healthier and engaged through our extensive **city and park events, leisure centre holiday schemes, community centre programmes**.
- ✓ Delivered key programmes such as the [Equality Action Plan 2020 – 2024](#), [Disability Action Plan 2022 – 2025](#), [Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2022 – 2026](#) and our [Language Action Plan 2023-26](#).
- ✓ Ensured our programmes and policies are inclusive by fulfilling our obligations under the S75 NI act through **equality screening**.
- ✓ Engaged extensively through our **ongoing engagement mechanisms** ([Your Say Belfast](#) and established staff and public forums).

**What
next?**

This improvement objective features in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027 as:

- ✓ We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.
- ✓ Our people and communities continue to feature as a strategic theme of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and is a key priority in the [2025 – 2028 Corporate Plan](#).

What impact did we have?

Our People and Communities

Active lives, sporting pride

31,145

Memberships
(up from 30,485 in 2024/25).

£800K

invested to upgrade and
expand 3 sports pitch
facilities.

1460

people supported through the
12 week Healthwise
programme.

£800K

invested in gym
refurbishments and the
creation of party spaces.

**Celebrated 10 years
of partnership with GLL**



**Announced as a European City of
Sport for 2026**



**Hosted the 17th
Belfast Sports Awards**

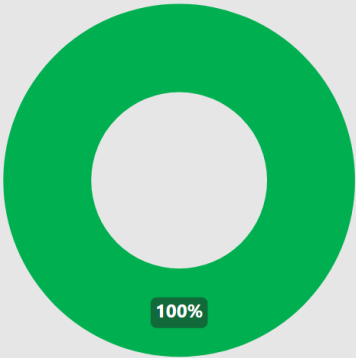
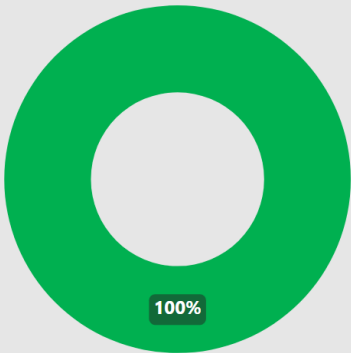
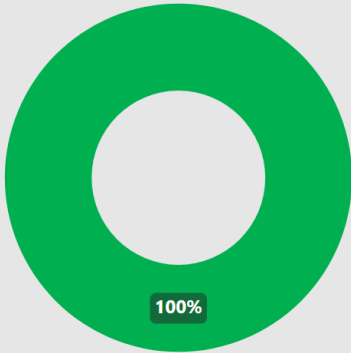


“The Healthwise programme gave me the **confidence** and opened the door to make me **more aware of my health** and everything involved. I would have been lost without that support — the **support was fantastic**.”
Neelima Drawid

“The successful European City of Sport bid gives the city an opportunity to showcase the **excellent sports and leisure facilities** provided by Belfast City Council along with the **city’s rich sporting heritage**.”
Jim Girvan, Director Neighbourhood Services

Objective 3: Our place

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?	Achieved – we created a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).		
Belfast Agenda Outcome	Belfast will be a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city.		
Corporate Plan themes and priorities	- Our place – Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city. - Connectivity, active and sustainable travel. - City regeneration and investment.		
Page 296	5 Actions	8 Performance Indicators (Target)	8 Performance Indicators (Trend)
			
	100% of actions were achieved/completed	8 (100%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better)	8 (100%) showed positive change

What did we do?

- ✓ Continued to deliver the **Vacant to Vibrant (V2V) Programme 2025-2026** to address city-wide vacancy rates.
- ✓ Progressed the **Greenways and Access to the Hills Programme** to improve the connectivity of the city.
- ✓ Supported and progressed the delivery of **neighbourhood tourism physical projects**, improving the city's local tourism facilities and infrastructure.
- ✓ Progressed **infrastructure works at the North Foreshore** to support the development of the site.
- ✓ Progressed the **Master Development Agreement for the 250-acre Giant's Park site** in accordance with the schedule of works.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023- 2024 year-end actual	2024- 2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Occupying 20 previously vacant city-wide properties as a result of the Vacant to Vibrant intervention.	N/A	N/A	17	46	20	24	↑	The annual target was achieved and exceeded (by 20%) in Q2 with grant awards to 24 applicants.
Awarding £470,000 through Vacant to Vibrant funding to city-wide traders.	N/A	£92,433	£301,136	£839,204	£470,000	£519,000	↑	Achieved and exceeded in Q2. Includes underspends from UKSPF.
Progressing two greenways and pathways to improve the connectivity of the city – e.g., Sydenham Greenway, Colin Greenway and Black Mountain Pathway.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	↑	Continue to progress work on Greenway projects.

Progressing three physical neighbourhood tourism projects - Act Initiative, Titanic People Exhibition Centre and Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	↑	Successfully progressed work on three tourism projects.
Progressing match funding for three projects from external partners for neighbourhood tourism physical projects.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	↑	Working with groups to secure funding for tourism initiatives including Market Heritage Hub. Secured some funding from DfC towards Historic Cemeteries.
Undertaking works with the developer to progress the development phase of the 250-acre Giant's Park site.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	Progressing well and going through Planning re: Phase 1 Adventure Hub.
Progressing the delivery of landfill gas extraction system at the North Foreshore.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	Gas extraction system works progressing. A minor delay saw the contractor demobilise from site in February. They will return to complete the last week of works in late April.
Progressing the delivery of additional Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) capacity at the North Foreshore.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	NIE continue with these works, anticipated completion date in late 2027. The "phase 2" works from Duncrue to Giant's Park were completed in March 2026. NIE will next proceed to "phase 3" works inside Giant's Park.

What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Progressed delivery of the **housing-led regeneration programme**, working in partnership with the Private Sector Partner (PSP) and external partners.
- ✓ **Invested £4.2m in the cultural sector** – supporting 152 organisations through grants and partnerships, and providing 35 creative bursaries, mentorships and commissions.
- ✓ Welcomed the return of **Culture Night** after a six-year hiatus since 2019:
 - **158 events** were delivered across the city by **182 participating organisations, venues and artists**
 - **£49,482** was distributed to **support artists and venues**
 - Estimated **attendance** of approximately **50,000 people** across the city
 - **86%** of audiences rated their overall **experience as good or very good**
 - Estimated total **economic impact of approximately a minimum £1.67 million** for the city.
- ✓ Through our various events and venues hosted:
 - **57,000** people at the **Maritime Festival** and **25,000+** at our **St Patrick's Day** celebrations.
 - **152,878 visitors at Belfast Zoo** and over **273,782 visitors at 2 Royal Avenue**
 - **107,213 visitors our City Hall exhibition and guided tours.**
- ✓ Purchased the historic, listed **Assembly Rooms** building as part of the ongoing city centre regeneration drive.
- ✓ Successfully bid to host the **Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026** and were confirmed as the host city for **Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann** in 2027.
- ✓ Leveraged **\$1 million from Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge 2025–2026** to help transform Belfast alleyways.
- ✓ Won the **NILGA Engaging Communities Award** for the **Belfast 2024** Programme.

What next?

This improvement objective will feature in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027 as:

- Our place – we will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including city centre).

Our place continues to feature as a strategic theme of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and is a key priority in the [2025 – 28 Corporate Plan](#).

What impact did we have?

Our Place

Physical Investment Programme – making Belfast a better place to live, work and invest.

£750m+
investment

220+
live projects

450
projects completed

10
Live Landmark
projects (£1m+)

8
Live transformational
projects (£5m+)



39 projects were completed in 2025-26, including two Urban Villages projects - one landmark (Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub) and one transformational (ABC Trust Health & Leisure Hub), Phase 2 of Black Mountain Shared Space Project (DfC, DoJ & IFI) and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church Hall (BIF).



ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub (£7.3m)

Shared, accessible, and welcoming spaces.

Community benefit.

Connecting people from **diverse backgrounds.**

Enriched **physical and social environment.**



Black Mountain Shared Space Community Office Units (£2.4m)



Sandy Row Arts and Digital Hub (£1.5m)

“ The Arts & Digital Hub is a **major step forward for Sandy Row**, representing a significant investment in local people and transforming a vacant site into a vibrant centre for **creativity, digital learning and opportunity.** ”

Nikki Johnston, Belfast South Community Resources



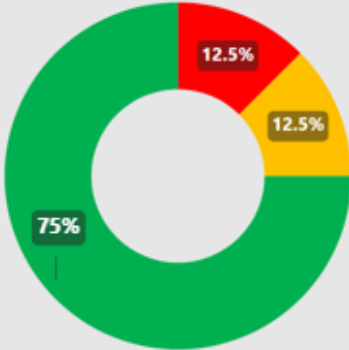
Castlereagh Presbyterian Church Hall (£382k)

Objective 4: Our planet

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?	Achieved – we championed climate action; protected the environment and improved the sustainability of Belfast.
Belfast Agenda Outcome	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city.
Corporate Plan themes and priorities	Our services, our people and communities, our place, and our planet.

Page 301

4 Actions	8 Performance Indicators (Target)	8 Performance Indicators (Trend)
		
100% of actions were achieved/completed	6 (75%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better) 1 (12.5%) was slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%) 1 (12.5%) were adrift of target (more than 5%)	8 (100%) showed positive change

What did we do?

- ✓ **Progressed the planet section of the Belfast Agenda**, which aims to create a sustainable, nature positive city (including investable local energy projects, an UPSURGE demonstrator site and a neighbourhood retrofit pilot).
- ✓ Commenced delivery of the **council Corporate Climate Action Plan** to increase the climate resilience of council assets and services and progress towards Council net zero emissions, (over 20 priorities including a Sustainable Food Policy, energy audits of council buildings and retrofitting of council buildings).
- ✓ Delivered an **effective waste management service** across the city.
- ✓ Delivered **year three of the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan** to help manage and improve the tree scape across the city, including the establishment of the woodland management programme.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023-2024 year-end actual	2024-2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Progressing three Belfast Agenda Climate Projects (investable local energy projects, UPSURGE demonstrator site, neighbourhood retrofit pilot).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3	↑	The UPSURGE and UP2030 work are completed, work is ongoing in relation to the investable local energy projects.
Completing one Belfast Agenda Climate Project (Horizon Europe UP2030).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	Achieved in Q2.
Progressing 19 short-term council Corporate Climate Action Plan priorities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	18	↑	Council Corporate Climate Actions are being progressed, 18 were in progress in Q4.

Achieving 38.5% of council municipal waste arisings is sent for recycling.	37.87%	37.06%	38.8%	39.4%	38.5%	38.9%	↑	Broadly similar to previous 2 years and improved from baseline year 2021-2022. Provisional figures subject to NIEA validation (normally November/December annually).
Reducing the tonnage of biodegradable council collected waste that is landfilled to 7,000 tonnes (statutory indicator).	35,783	28,444	7,036	899	7,000 tonnes	375 tonnes	↑	Improvement on previous year and baseline year of 2021-2022. See below for details.

The amount of biodegradable waste disposed of at landfill fell to the lowest level recorded to date. This was achieved through the interim residual waste treatment contract. No waste sent directly to landfill. The landfill tonnage is a result of contaminated materials and/or fines created during the processing of recyclables.

Note - Provisional data subject to review by the regulator (Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA)) - normally annually in November.

Maintaining the % of household waste collected that is sent for recycling at 42% (or prepared for re-use) (statutory indicator).	41.0%	40.8%	41.6%	42.4%	42%	41.5%	↑	See below for details.
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We have a range of ongoing local and regional programmes to increase opportunities to reuse and recycle such as school education visits, pilot recycling schemes and circular economy projects, as well as change behaviour initiatives and enforcement. We continue to engage at a regional level on the development of a waste management strategy for Northern Ireland

Note - Provisional data subject to review by the regulator (NIEA and the DEARA) - normally annually in November.

Achieving 160,000 tonnage of council collected municipal waste arisings (statutory indicator).	168,037	157,892	161,097	161,320	160,000 tonnes	160,936	↑	See below.
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Broadly similar figure to previous year. The tonnage of council collected municipal waste arisings has reduced from the baseline year 2021-2022.

Note - Provisional data subject to review by the regulator (NIEA and the DEARA) – normally annually in November.

Planting 500 linear metres of new hedging.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500 linear metres	750 linear metres	↑	Target exceeded by 50%.
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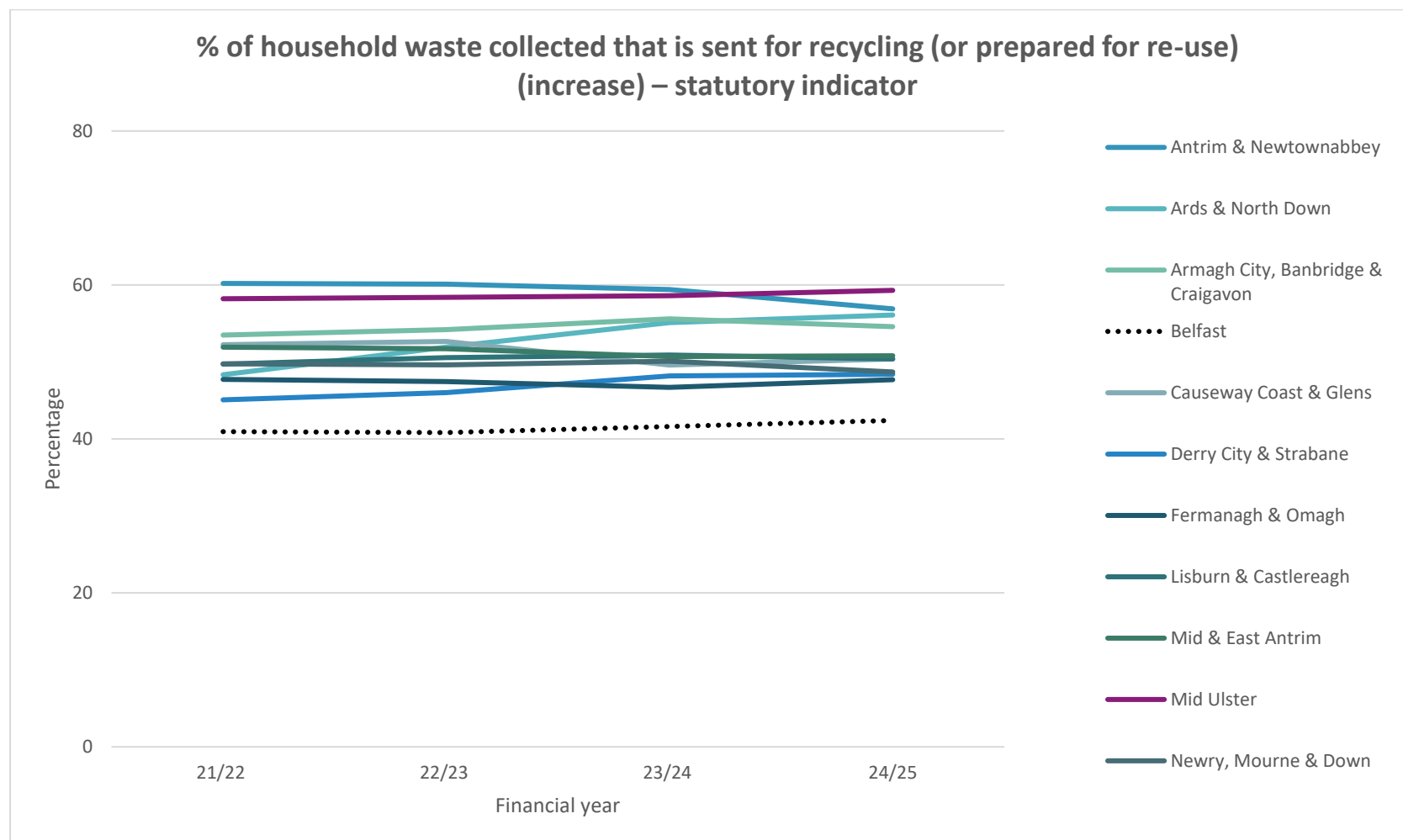
How do we compare?

Excepting Covid-19, councils have been recycling more, sending less waste to landfill, and reducing the amount of waste collected since Local Government Reform in 2015-2016. Collectively, councils have also exponentially increased the amount of waste sent for energy recovery from zero before 2009-10 to approximately 34% in 2024-2025². Belfast is consistent with these regional trends and our performance in relation to the other councils over the preceding four years is as follows. Please note that final 2025-2026 data is not available from DEARA until November 2026. |

Household recycling rate

We have maintained a relatively consistent household recycling rate since the reform of Local Government in 2015-2016. There has been an overall reduction in recycling in Belfast since 2018-2019, plateauing at approximately 41% over the last 3 years. However, Belfast's recycling rate improved by just over 0.5% between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. We have a range of ongoing local and regional programmes to change behaviour and increase opportunities to reuse and recycle such as school education visits, pilot street recycling schemes and circular economy projects.

² Source: DAERA LAC Municipal Waste Timeseries, [Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics time series data](https://daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-time-series-data/) / Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk).



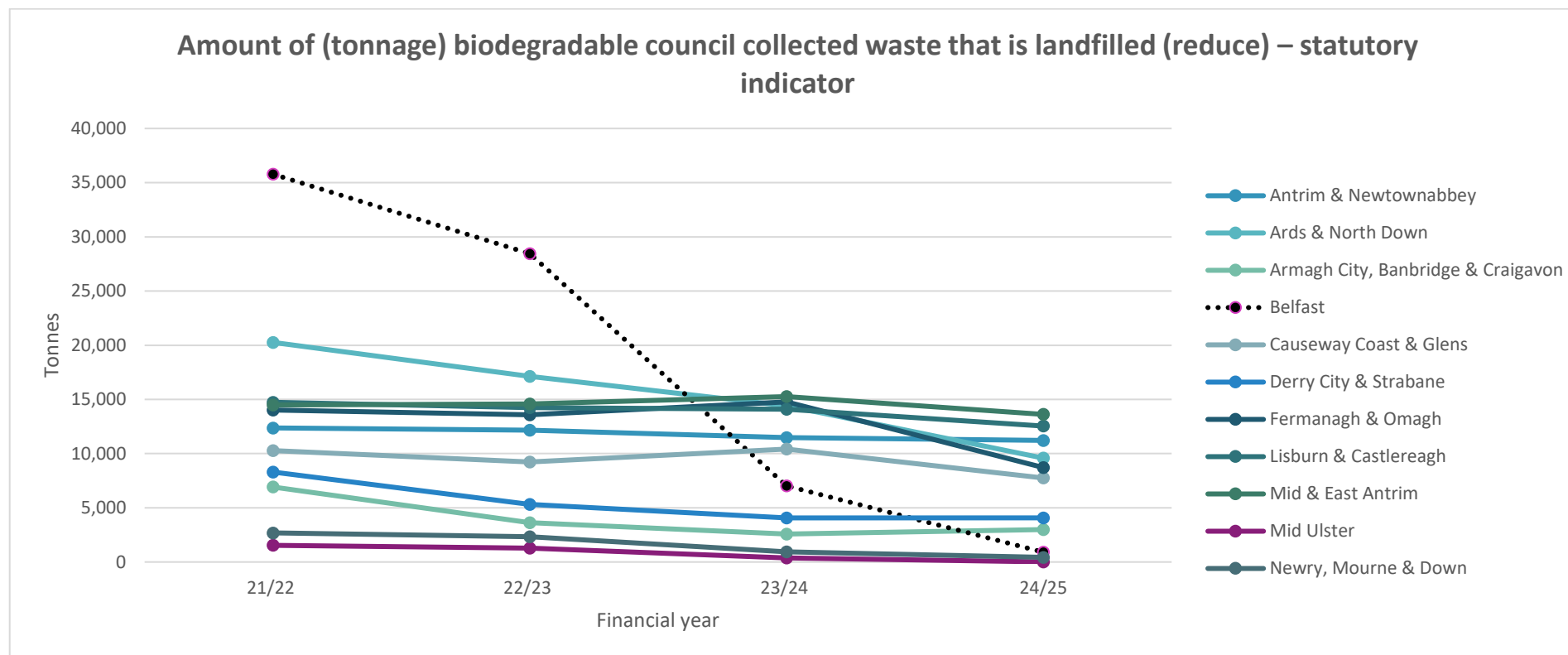
During 2024-2025, the highest recycling rate was recorded in Mid Ulster, with the lowest in Belfast. Seven out of the 11 councils improved their recycling rates compared to the preceding year, including Belfast. Four councils, including Belfast, were below the Northern Ireland recycling rate, and the target that was set in the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy to achieve 50% recycling by 2020.

All councils are still some distance from achieving the target set in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 of recycling at least 70% of waste by 2030.

Biodegradable waste to landfill

Most councils are reducing the amount of biodegradable waste that is landfilled with a reduction from 218,898 tonnes in 2015-2016 to 71,828 tonnes in 2024-2025³. Following the award of the new interim residual waste treatment contract which involves the treatment of all residual waste, and none sent directly to landfill, Belfast showed a distinct improvement by reducing biodegradable waste to landfill from 45,231 tonnes in 2015-2016 to 907 tonnes in 2024-2025 and a further 375 tonnes this year.

Page 306

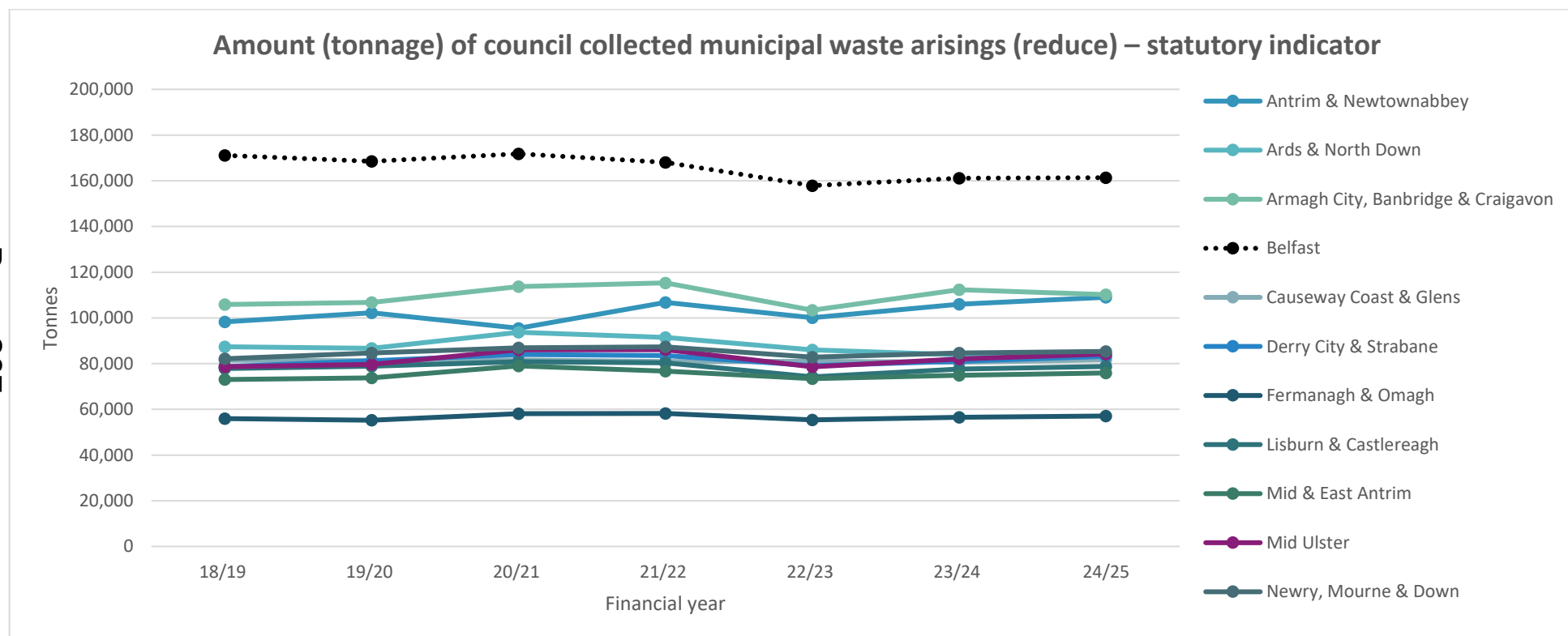


³ Source DAERA Waste Management Statistics, [Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics) | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)

Council collected waste

The amount of waste collected by each council broadly reflects population levels within their boundaries – Belfast is historically inclined to have the highest, with Fermanagh and Omagh the lowest. Whilst there was a slight increase in our municipal waste arisings during 2024-2025 for the reasons outlined above, there has been an overall reduction in the amount of municipal waste arisings since 2018-19 (consistent with most other councils) and since the reform of Local Government in 2015-2016. This is despite a population increase of 2.3% (7,811 people) in Belfast since 2015⁴.

Page 307



⁴ NISRA Population Estimates 2015-22 [Population Estimates for Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(shinyapps.io\)](https://www.shinyapps.io/population-estimates-for-northern-ireland/)

What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Used electricity for council properties from **renewable energy sources** thanks to our contract with local energy supplier 3T Power.
- ✓ **Reduced energy consumption** through our GLL Partnership by a further 10% in 2025 compared to 2024.
- ✓ Offered **110 Belfast Bikes free to social enterprises, co-operatives, and charities** across the city.
- ✓ Introduced **100 state-of-the-art public e-bikes** to the Belfast Bikes fleet for the first time, alongside **updated pedal bikes**.
- ✓ Welcomed the births of a number of species at Belfast Zoo, that are endangered in the wild as part of **international breeding programmes** designed to protect the future of wildlife – including a Colombian spider monkey, a rare François' langur and a cotton-top tamarin.
- ✓ Established **five community orchards** across the city, transforming urban spaces into 'edible landscapes'.
- ✓ **Achieved 24 Green Flag accreditations** for our open space sites across the city.
- ✓ Secured **£850,514 in funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund** to support a major new project aimed at strengthening connections between people and nature across the city.
- ✓ Leveraged **£60k through Making Space for Nature** to deliver enhancements in parks, open spaces, and community green assets.
- ✓ Delivered **2,000 community environmental sessions, 365 school sessions and 125 community clean-ups**.

What next?

To meet the evolving needs of the city we have broadened the scope of our planet objective to align with the Belfast Agenda Planet objective. Therefore, this improvement objective will feature in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027 as:

- We will create a sustainable, nature-positive city.

Our planet continues to feature as a strategic theme of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and is a key priority in the [2025 – 2028 Corporate Plan](#).

What impact did we have?

Our Planet

UPSURGE Lower Botanic Gardens demonstrator

Delivered by **Belfast City Council**, **Queen's University Belfast**, and local stakeholders including **Friends of the Field** and **Friends of Botanic**.

£0.73m
UPSURGE
investment

1
demonstrator
site
Lower Botanic

1,500+
wetland
species
planted

4 satellite
sites
Agreed for 2026/27



Horizon 2020
Research and
Innovation programme

How well did we do it?

- ✓ Community garden planted and education space established
- ✓ 'Living lab' space established as a soil research testing area
- ✓ Grassland and wetland areas created to encourage biodiversity and restore habitats
- ✓ Royal Horticultural Society growing space established
- ✓ Research Garden established by QUB with 2 ongoing trials on the site.
- ✓ Innovative research including monitoring air quality and environmental data
- ✓ New entrance and bus stop installed at the site for better connectivity

Is anyone better off?

- ✓ Enriched urban biodiversity through wildflowers, woodland, and habitat restoration
- ✓ Increased community access to green space and sustainable food growing
- ✓ Enhanced community integration through the transformed, shared urban space
- ✓ Strengthened community skills, learning, and engagement in sustainability
- ✓ Enhanced community resilience to flood risk and heat stress risk.
- ✓ Enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes through greener environment.

“ Lower Botanic is a real test bed for experimenting and learning about how we adapt our green spaces to make them more resilient as climate change impacts increase across our city. ”
Mura Quigley, Adaptation and Resilience Advisor

“ The community garden is much more than a weekend hobby. It will serve as a platform for the public to engage with sustainable food growing, learn about biodiversity and promote environmental protection. ”
Colin Shaw, Friends of the Field

Objective 5: Our economy

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?

Achieved – stimulated inclusive growth and innovation, helped businesses to start-up, and grow and created opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.

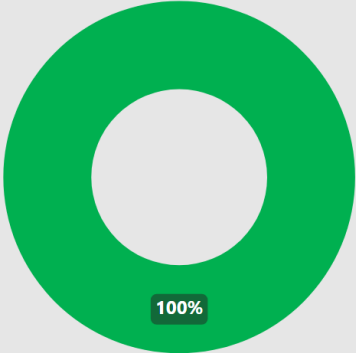
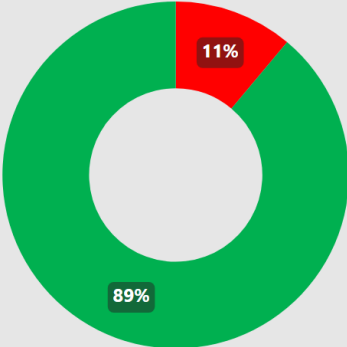
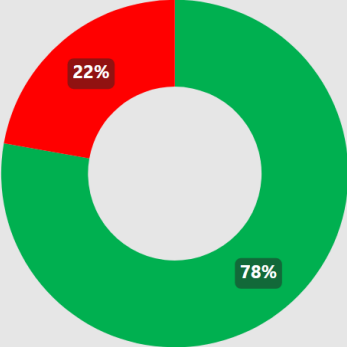
Belfast Agenda Outcome

Belfast is a place where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy.

Corporate Plan themes and priorities

Our economy – Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity.

Page 310

6 Actions	9 Performance Indicators (Target)	9 Performance Indicators (Trend)
		
100% of actions were achieved/completed	8 (89%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better) 1 (11%) was adrift of target (more than 5%)	7 (78%) showed positive change 2 (22%) showed negative change

What did we do?

- ✓ Worked with the **Enterprise Support Service to deliver 'Go Succeed'** to increase the number of new business starts.
- ✓ Delivered **employment and upskilling academies** in priority sectors in line with industry demand.
- ✓ Delivered the **Smart Belfast urban innovation programme** to enhance Belfast's capacity for digital innovation.
- ✓ Delivered an **enhanced Learning City Festival** to promote and encourage lifelong learning for people of all ages across Belfast.
- ✓ Extended the delivery of **Belfast Business Promise (BBP) initiative** to support the provision of good jobs and a sustainable local economy.
- ✓ **Supported our suppliers by** helping business cashflow through the prompt payment of invoices.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023-2024 year-end actual	2024-2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Completing 325 business plans to promote business start-up and job promotion (statutory indicator).	514	472	263	196	325	328	↓	Target exceeded.
Supporting 75% of participants to move into a positive outcome from an Employment or Upskilling Academy.	N/A	79%	75.8%	82%	75%	66%	↓	In total, 296 of the 448 participants to complete an Academy during the last 12 months have already secured a job/better job (66%). Securing employment is an ongoing process that continues for a period of six months where an aftercare service is provided to participants

								after completing their Academy. This is therefore a 'state of play' and will continually increase over the next six months and we are on track to achieve a minimum of 75% into-work rate.
Supporting 425 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to engage in digital innovation.	N/A - new for 2024-2025	N/A - new for 2024-2025	N/A - new for 2024-2025	433	425	430	↑	Exceeded target by 1.18%.
Awarding £600,000 of funding to organisations to engage in digital innovation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£600,000	£600,000	↑	This funding was attached to two mature programmes that drew to a close in 2026 (Augment the City and (Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) 5G). New funding will be issued in 2026-2027 via the £4.3m Contracts for Innovation, £5M adoption programme and the £5M AI Entrepreneurial Fund. These funds will have a staggered launch over 24 months.
% of participants who agreed they felt more aware of the learning providers and opportunities across the city following their attendance at a Learning City festival event	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline	73%	↑	Baseline established in Q1 as part of a revised approach to evaluating the programme.

Supporting 10 businesses (existing Belfast Business Promise (BBP) members) to improve their recognition level (reaching Member or Ambassador status).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	42	↑	Exceeded target. 80 organisations live, 33 Supporters, 29 Members, 13 Ambassadors, 269 pledges awarded.
Producing four good practice 'case studies' to highlight the BBP journey and 'inclusive growth in practice'.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	5	↑	Target exceeded. Good news stories and best practice case studies will be continued to be captured throughout the transitional phase of the programme to highlight further successes of 2025-2026.
Paying 90% of invoices within 30 calendar days.	94%	92%	93%	89.25%	90%	96%	↑	Target exceeded by 7% and we paid suppliers quicker this year than last.
Paying 80% of invoices within 10 working days.	81.29%	81.31%	81.05%	76.95%	80%	88%	↑	Target exceeded by 10.4% and we paid suppliers quicker this year than last.

How do we compare?

Business start-up and growth activity [statutory performance indicator]: Number of business plans developed (2025-2026 data is provisional, subject to final verification).

The 'Go Succeed' programme has been delivered in collaboration by all 11 councils since September 2017 (previously Go For It). Together we have supported 13,555 entrepreneurs to produce business plans and in doing so created 8134 jobs. Nine (82%) of the 11 councils met their jobs promotion target during 2025-2026. Since 2018-2019, Belfast City Council have delivered the greatest number of business plans and jobs, representing 15% of all programme business plans and promoted the same proportion of programme jobs. Our performance in relation to our fellow councils is as follows:

Council area	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	162	172	91	238	292	955
Ards and North Down	211	166	106	194	298	975
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	386	353	173	204	377	1493
Belfast	514	472	263	269	547	2065
Causeway Coast and Glens	256	213	110	220	291	1090
Derry and Strabane	238	240	118	265	314	1175
Fermanagh and Omagh	309	308	147	204	231	1199
Lisburn and Castlereagh	213	187	103	199	268	970
Mid and East Antrim	181	206	110	231	267	995
Mid Ulster	269	278	134	151	308	1140
Newry Mourne and Down	356	305	128	316	393	1498
Total	3095	2900	1483	2491	3586	13,555

Number of jobs promoted through the Go Succeed programme (formerly Go For It) [statutory performance indicator]⁵ (provisional data 2025-2026 subject to final verification)

Council area	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	97	103	55	143	175	573
Ards and North Down	127	100	64	116	179	586
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	232	212	104	122	226	896
Belfast	308	283	158	161	328	1238
Causeway Coast and Glens	154	128	66	132	175	655
Derry and Strabane	143	144	71	159	188	705

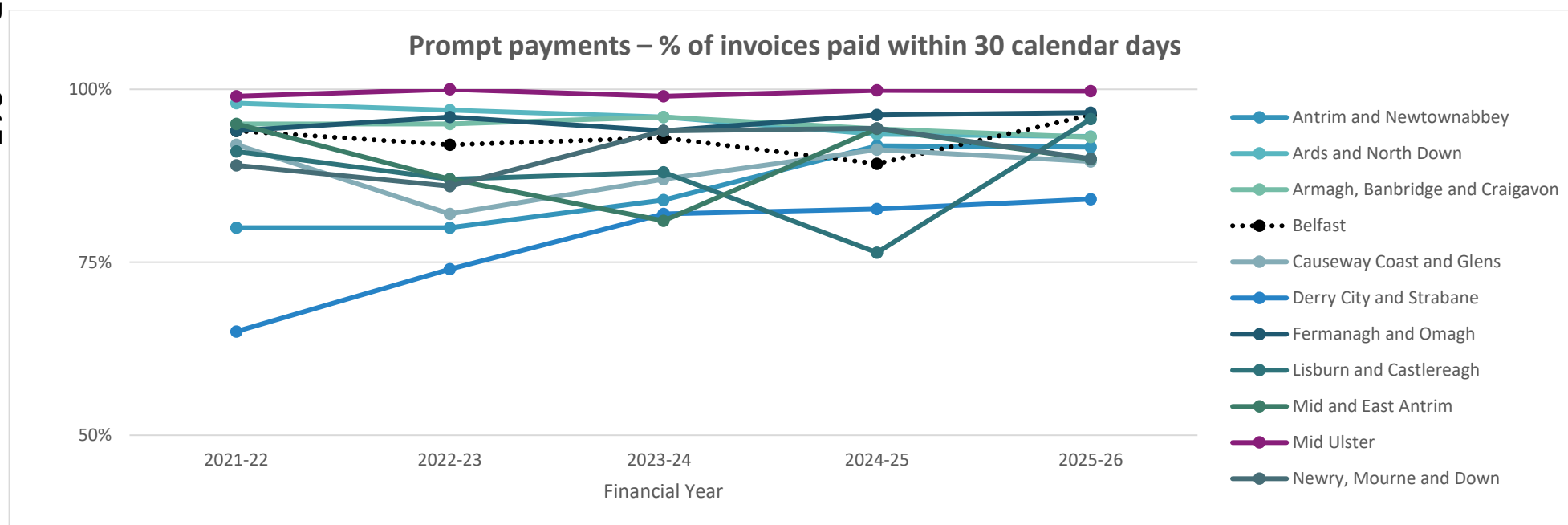
⁵ 2018-19 to 2022-24 supplied by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for the Go For It Programme. The 'Go For It' programme finished in Q3 of 2023-24.

Fermanagh and Omagh	185	185	88	122	139	719
Lisburn and Castlereagh	128	112	62	119	161	582
Mid and East Antrim	109	124	66	139	160	598
Mid Ulster	161	167	80	91	185	684
Newry Mourne and Down	214	183	77	190	236	900
Total	1857	1740	890	1495	2152	8134

Performance benchmarking – prompt payments

Prompt payment of invoices is an indicator of a healthy organisation with effective internal controls and corporate governance. However, prompt payment of invoices is also important to support the cash-flow of small and medium sized enterprises. Therefore, in 2025-2026, we continued to use this as an indicator of how well we are helping small businesses, including social enterprises and co-operatives, to develop and grow.

Page 315



What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Delivered the **NI Enterprise Support Service (NIESS)** on behalf of all 11 councils.
- ✓ Enabled **test trading opportunities for 48 new businesses** through our dedicated start up space at St George's Market
- ✓ **Enabled 928** people to successfully start an **Employment or Upskilling Academy**:
 - **519 people** started an Employment Academy and of those completing, **153** have already **secured employment**.
 - **409** have started an **Upskilling Academy** and of this total, **143** have already **secured a better job**.
 - In addition, **218** participants are still participating on an **Employment Academy** and **262** on an **Upskilling Academy**.
- ✓ Delivered the **Belfast Learning Festival** to promote inclusive access to lifelong learning for people of all ages and backgrounds:
 - 65 partners delivered **119 free learning events**
 - Awarded **£23,548 small grant funding** to not for profit organisations.
- ✓ Supported the delivery of the 4th year of the **Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) programme**, including the following during 2025-2026:
 - Dispersing **over £45m to partners** to progress the various projects across the 4 investment pillars.
 - Gaining approval for a **£2m BRCD Innovation Centre Collaborative Grants Programme** (supported by Invest NI) to encourage Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) to engage and collaborate with the BRCD Innovation Centres.
 - Progressing **Belfast Stories**, a landmark major tourism anchor in the city centre, to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) design stage 3a.
 - Progressing the £48m **Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2 project** a major public transport initiative to expand the Glider network.
 - Delivering the **Belfast Region City Deal Innovation Challenge Fund** to stimulate innovation.
- ✓ Delivered the **Belfast Business Promise**:
 - 80 organisations live (38 Supporters, 29 Members, 13 Ambassadors), with 269 pledges awarded.
- ✓ **Generated £47m in Social Value** in 2025 through our leisure partners Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL).
- ✓ Applied our **social value procurement policy** to 61% of awarded council contracts.
- ✓ **Extended Sunday trading hours** during the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

What next?

We will continue to progress this improvement objective in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027:

- We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.

Our economy continues to feature as a strategic theme of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and is a key priority in the [2025 – 2028 Corporate Plan](#).

What impact did we have?

Our Economy

Go Succeed, NI Business Support

£9.2 million

UK Shared Prosperity Fund secured to deliver the NI Enterprise Support Service

10,000+ hours

of 1-1 mentoring support

£4.53m

secured for future delivery



- ✓ **873** Belfast individuals/ entrepreneurs supported through **start-up activity**.
- ✓ **434** Belfast businesses supported through **business growth activity**.
- ✓ **54** organisations supported to **start or grow social enterprises and co-operatives** via our dedicated Go Social support.
- ✓ **1258** individuals engaged through a range of **community outreach activities** providing them with tools to overcome barriers to take positive steps to starting a business.

- ✓ **£285k+** Go Succeed grants awarded to 27 Belfast businesses to **remove barriers to growth**.
- ✓ **£90k** Social Incentive Fund awarded to 17 social enterprises to **support growth goals**.
- ✓ **31 SMEs** supported to access the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund to help **stimulate digital innovation**.

55% of participants were female.

“Through Go Succeed, we received some incredible mentorship providing a real crash course in business. Having that guidance helped us to realise some of the mistakes that we were making and better understand our structures and have a more solid foundation for the business for the years ahead.”

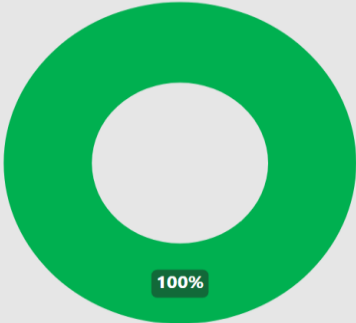
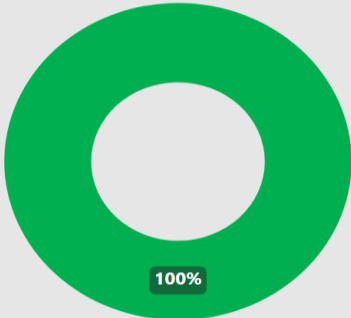
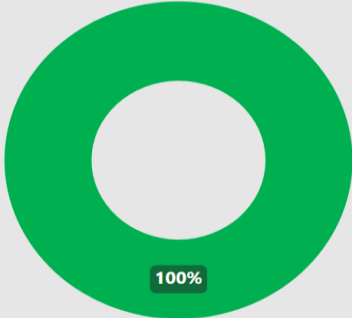
Sean McDonnell, 1620 Audio

“Participating in Go Succeed has been a valuable experience for our company. We have felt really supported by the entire team... it will help us to create a new website and develop our product further.”

Nicole O'Connor, Understanding Me – a Learning Me App

Objective 6: Compassionate city

Achievement of improvement objective

Did we achieve this objective?	Achieved – we supported our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe, and inclusive city.		
Belfast Agenda Outcome	Belfast is a place where everyone fulfils their potential.		
Corporate Plan themes and priorities	- Compassionate City – Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, and inclusive city – leaving no-one behind. - Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty.		
Page 318	5 Actions	7 Performance Indicators (Target)	7 Performance Indicators (Trend)
			
	100% of actions were achieved/completed	7 (100%) were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better)	7 (100%) showed positive change

What did we do?

- ✓ Delivered **local community actions plans** as part of the PEACEPLUS programme, to fund community activities and infrastructure project that help build peace and reconciliation in Belfast.
- ✓ Established an **Anti-Poverty Network** in Belfast to support and facilitate a co-ordinated approach to tackling poverty across the city.
- ✓ Extended delivery of the **Hardship Programme** to ensure that support is available for those most impacted by poverty and the cost-of-living crisis.
- ✓ Delivered a **programme to help end violence against women and girls (EVAWG)**.
- ✓ Progressed delivery of up to **five capital projects across the city as part of the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan** to promote inclusive and shared spaces across Belfast.

How much did we do?

Measures of success	2021-2022 year-end actual	2022-2023 year-end actual	2023-2024 year-end actual	2024-2025 year-end actual	2025-2026 year-end target	2025-2026 year-end actual	Trend (since baseline year)	Commentary (including rationale if red or amber)
Delivering 10 local community action plans (including relevant peace monitoring information).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	16	↑	Target achieved in Q2 and exceeded by 60%. 16 local community action plans delivered linked to PEACEPLUS under three thematic themes: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation (CRT) Thriving and Peaceful Communities (TPC) Includes Action Plans (TPC) Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD).

Establishing the Anti-Poverty Network	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	↑	Held on 5 February 2026 with 100+attendees. There is a commitment to hold at least one event per year going forward.
Delivering £1.1m of Hardship Programme funding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,100,000	£1,100,000	↑	£1.1m paid, supporting over 56,000 people.
Awarding and delivering £255k as part of an open call small grants programme as part of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) programme.	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	£255,000	£592,537	↑	Target exceeded as The Executive Office (TEO) provided additional funding as follows: Tranche 1 £82,726 (19 awards) Tranche 2: £236,580 (18 awards) Tranche 3: £273,231 (13 awards) Total: £592.537 (50 awards).
Administering £1.2m of Regional Change Funding to 8 EVAWG expert organisations.	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	£1,200,000	£1,200,000	↑	£1.2m awarded in Q2.
Engaging a minimum of 2,000 children and young people as part of the EVAWG programme	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	N/A new for 2025-2026	2000	7,297	↑	Target exceeded. EVAWG engaged 7,297 children and young people from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 (8,833 over full 15-month programme).

Progressing up to five capital projects under PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan (Sanctuary Theatre, Distillery Street Redevelopment Project, Annadale Open Space, Reconnected Belfast and LGBTQIA+ Hub)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	5		Five capital projects progressed as follows: • Design teams appointed for all projects. • Site meetings have taken place including initial discussions with project stakeholders/clients. • Project steering group and stakeholder engagement is ongoing. Continuing to work on detailed design for all projects.
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What else did we do?

Through our Corporate Plan 2025-2028 and supporting Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 we also:

- ✓ Supported inclusive growth by creating **63 work placements and 6 apprenticeships (including inclusive apprenticeships), as well as facilitating 27 pre-recruitment training programme placements.**
- ✓ Our leisure partners GLL were highly commended in the **Social Value category** at the Belfast Business Awards.
- ✓ City Hall was awarded an '**Autism Impact Award**' from Autism NI in recognition of the work that has been undertaken to make the venue more autism-friendly environments for our visitors.
- ✓ Agreed an approach towards **Area Based Community Planning**, including a **£1.5m Community Ownership Fund** and **£500k to support community partners** in developing area-based community plans.

What next?

- We will continue to progress this improvement objective in the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027:
 - We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe and inclusive city.
- 'Compassionate City' continues to feature as a strategic theme of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and is a key priority in the [2025 – 28 Corporate Plan](#).

What impact did we have?

Compassionate City

Building peace and good relations

PEACEPLUS: Local Community Action Plan and Reconnected Belfast

£15.1 million

secured to deliver the Belfast PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan

16

projects across 3 strategic themes

5

capital projects progressed

3,020

participants



62%

of participants are women / girls

62%

of participants are ethnic minorities

75%

increased understanding of other cultures, identities or opinions

76%

made new connections with different identities

“We are delighted to deliver this important programme on behalf of Belfast City Council as part of their Local Community Action Plan. At its heart, the Community Empowerment Programme is about **enabling people to lead, to respond to challenges in their areas, strengthen connections between communities, and bring about lasting, positive change.” - NICVA**

£11.8 million

secured for Reconnected Belfast to regenerate Waterworks and Alexandra Park.



Good Relations

48

projects supported through open call / small grants

£688,562

allocated to Good Relations programmes

6,039

participants engaged

69%

felt they had a better attitude to different religious backgrounds

66%

felt they a better attitude towards those from a different ethnic or racial background

“Belfast has given me so much - friends, a community, a purpose. I love working with different organisations to support people here. But I’ve also faced challenges as a refugee. Some people judge before they know me, assuming I don’t belong. That’s why I support the "This is Me" campaign” – Participant, This is Me project, delivered by Donegall Pass Community Enterprises.

7. Corporate performance 2025-2026

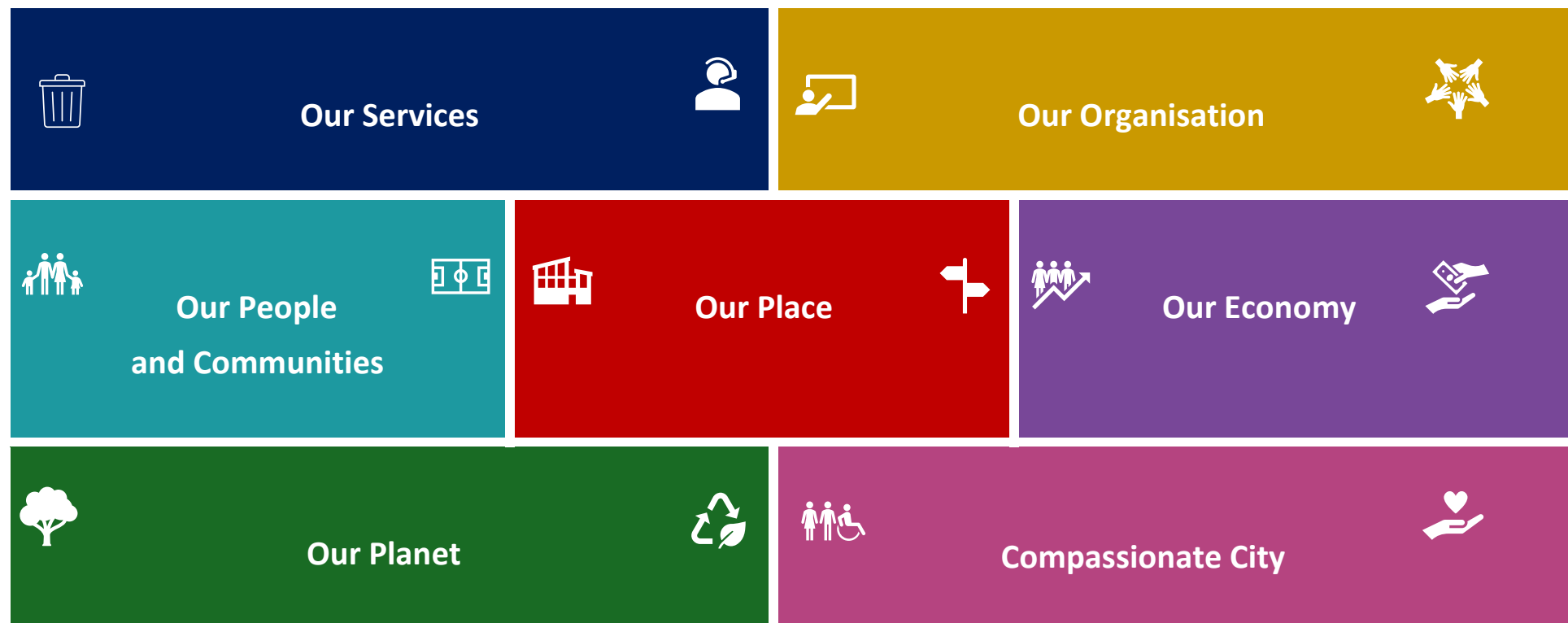
Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026

This section of the report provides a high-level performance summary of the council's annual Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026. Our annual Corporate Delivery Plan sets out council's key deliverables, actions and KPIs for the 12-month period. This section considers the extent to which our wider corporate actions and priorities have been achieved to demonstrate our commitment to ongoing and continuous improvement across the organisation.

N.B. This is in addition to the statutory and self-imposed KPIs and delivery already outlined in this report.

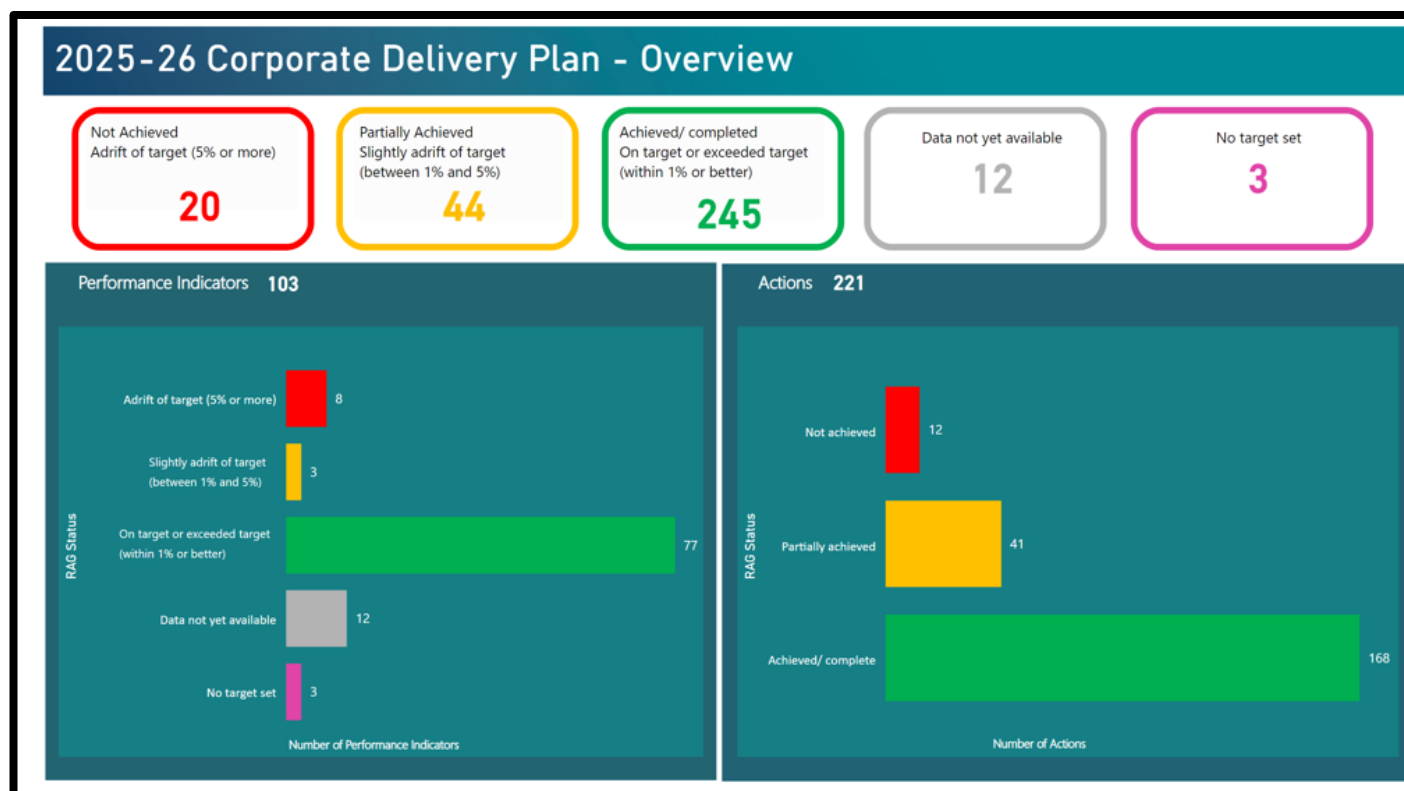
The seven themes of council's Corporate Delivery Plan 2025-2026 are outlined below:

Page 323



Corporate Delivery Plan performance overview

The dashboard below presents a snapshot of council's overall performance in relation to the actions and KPIs outlined within its Corporate Delivery Plan.

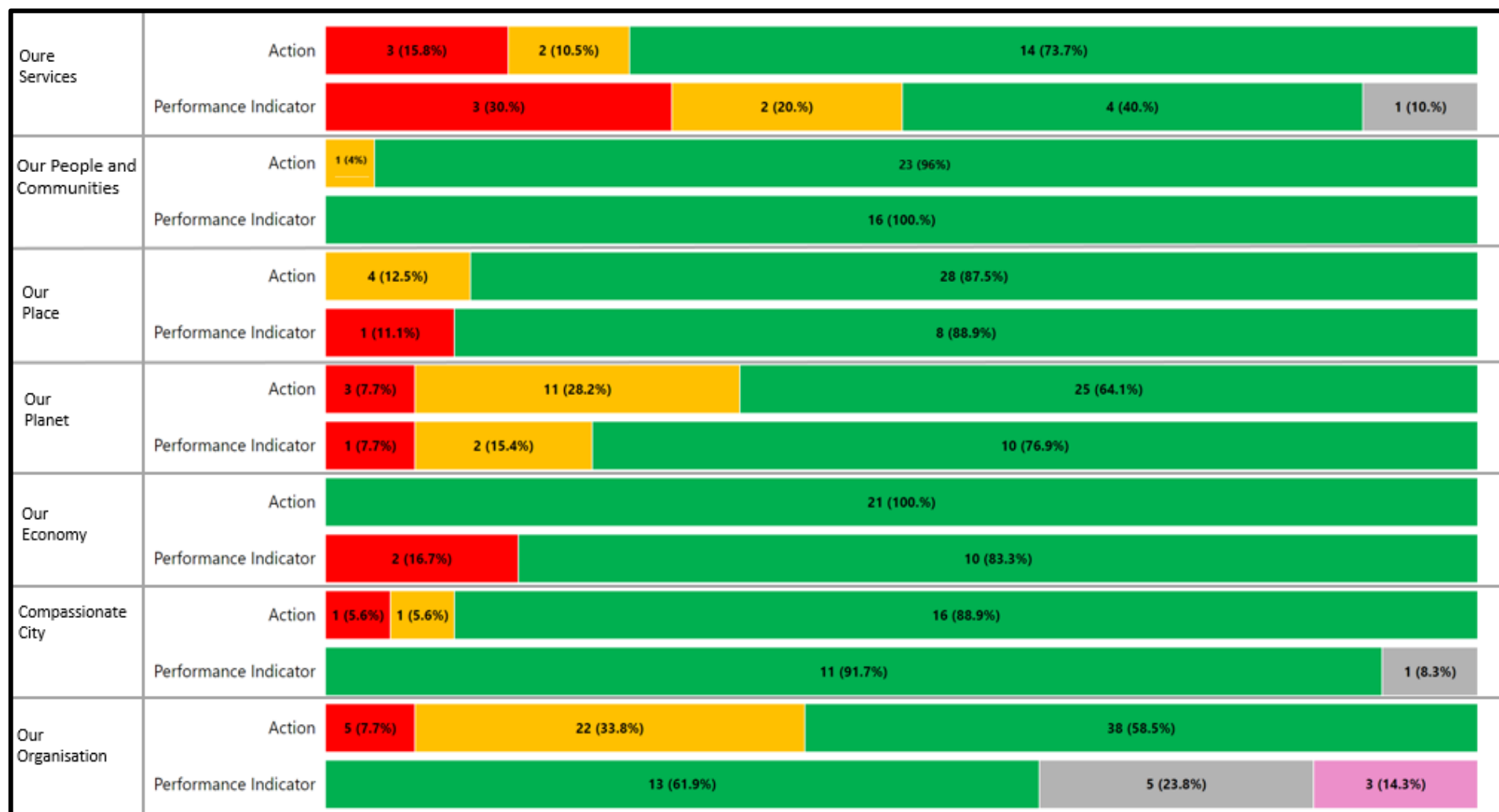


Of the 324 actions and KPIs included in our Corporate Delivery Plan:

- **75.6% were achieved, completed, on target or exceeded target**
- **13.6% were partially achieved or slightly adrift of target (between 1-5%)**
- **6.2% were not achieved or adrift of target (by 5% or more)**
- **Data wasn't currently available for 3.7% of indicators**
- **0.9% had no target set**

Corporate Delivery Plan Thematic review

A high-level review of our corporate performance is presented per theme below. A selection of our key achievements has been captured throughout the preceding report.



Performance benchmarking – staff attendance and service availability

Our staff are our greatest asset in ensuring service continuity and availability as well as the delivery of our corporate objectives. Our performance in relation to the other councils is set out below. Councils' individual remits and staffing profiles vary which can impact upon absence levels and should be considered when comparing performance.

Staff sickness absence (average number of days lost per full time equivalent (FTE)) ⁶							
Council area or organisation	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 target	2025-2026 Actual ⁷	Trend (since baseline year)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	19.7	13.3	13.57				
Ards and North Down	14.2	15.7	16.4				
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	20.5	19.9	18.81				
Belfast	16.3	17.1	17.00	16.23	14.58	15.29⁸	
Causeway Coast and Glens	19.2	17.0	18.06				
Derry City and Strabane	16.8	16.5	18.7				
Fermanagh and Omagh	13.1	11.9	12.8				
Lisburn and Castlereagh	13.6	15.8	18.37				
Mid and East Antrim	15.2	17.9	17.04				
Mid Ulster	12.1	13.1	13.22				

⁶ All other council data was obtained from the NIAO Local Government Auditor Report 2023 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 – 2022-2023. 2023-2024 onwards is obtained directly from the NIAO.

⁷ 2025-2026 data for all other councils not available from NIAO until Autumn 2026.

⁸ 'Absence Rates - Quarter 4 – 2024-2025' Report to Audit and Risk Panel 09-06-2026.

Newry, Mourne and Down	20.7	23.3	23.86	
Northern Ireland average	16.5	16.5	17.07	

Through the Belfast Agenda, we're committed to making Belfast a place where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing. This commitment is as valid for our own staff as it is for the communities we serve. Just over 50% of our employees are Belfast ratepayers so our Health and Wellbeing Strategy has the potential to have a positive impact, across the city and contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda goals for improved health throughout Belfast.

The general levels of sickness absence in the council during 2025-2026 and the reasons for absence are commensurate with the wider national trend. Whilst some residual impacts of Covid-19 remain evident, sickness absence correlates with an aging population, poorer overall health, and ongoing NHS waiting list pressures⁹.

Sickness absence was 4.87% more than the target for the year. There was a slight increase in sickness absence of 0.71 days from 14.58 days in 2024-2025 to 15.29 days in 2025-2026. An increased number of staff had no sickness absence this year (43.3%), compared to last year (42.68%). Depression/anxiety/stress and musculoskeletal continue to be the top two reasons for absence. With this in mind, the Health and Wellbeing programme offered a range of health initiatives delivering 92 events during 2025-2026 attended by 1606 staff, including:

- Alcohol, drugs and gambling awareness
- Suicide awareness and prevention
- Awareness of stress and mental health, grief and loss as well as menopause.

⁹ UUEPC, December 2023, Sickness Absence: Lessons for Northern Ireland Businesses and Managers: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/epc/pdf/2023/sickness-absence-lessons-for-northern-ireland-businesses-and-managers/Sickness-Absence-Dec-23-Final.pdf>

8. Financial performance 2025-2026

The Statement of Accounts sets out our annual financial performance. These accounts are audited and scrutinised by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO). Despite the challenging financial position faced by the council going into 2025-2026 we worked to deliver the financial strategy for 2025-2026. We reported a £1.77 million underspend¹⁰ in service delivery at the end of 2025-2026, in comparison to a £2.55m underspend at the end of 2024-2025. Going forward, savings realised have been reallocated to meet priorities in 2026-27.

Key achievements and improvements include:

- Maintained proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of our resources for at least the preceding four years (NIAO Annual Audit Letter).
- Produced financial statements which were certified without qualification for at least the last four years (Belfast City Council Financial Reports).
- Maintained an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control for the preceding four years (Annual Governance Statement).
- Achieved a Certificate of Compliance from the NIAO in recognition of our performance improvement and reporting duties.

¹⁰ The Statement of Accounts is normally available on our [website](#) by 30 September annually.

Contact us:

Strategy, Programmes and Partnerships team
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS



performance@belfastcity.gov.uk



www.belfastcity.gov.uk/corporateplan



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Belfast
City Council

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Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒								
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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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms

	part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents a request for an approval under the Capital Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to – Capital Programme Stage Movements - • Fire Service Blitz Memorial – Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> with a maximum allocation of up to £5,000. • Depot Charging Scheme 2026/27 - Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. • Drumglass Park SuDS Project – Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. Note that this project is fully funded by NI Water and DfI. • Belfast Castle - Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. • City Hall Programmable Floodlighting Replacement - Agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> to allow a business case to be developed. • Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall 3010 Modernisation - Agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> to allow a business case to be developed. Project Updates • Girdwood Hub Health & Safety Works - Agree up to £300,000 to carry out essential health and safety remedial works • Capital Letters of Offer - to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer. • Contracts awarded in Q1 2026/27 - to note the update in relation to contracts awarded.
3.0	Main report <u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Physical Programme Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.
3.2	<u>Capital Programme - Proposed Movements</u> Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the

opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
Fire Service Blitz Memorial	Sculpture to be installed in City Hall featuring Fire Service helmets and a Women's Voluntary Service cap to recognise their efforts and sacrifices during the Belfast Blitz.	Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of £5,000
Depot Charging Scheme 2026/27	Further improvements to electric vehicle (EV) charging provision at Council depots.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Drumglass Park SuDS Project	Nature based drainage solution at Drumglass Park.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Belfast Castle	Phased capital improvement programme for Belfast Castle with the aim of enhancing customer experience, accessibility and operational efficiency.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
City Hall Programmable Floodlighting Replacement	Proposed replacement of the existing 'Illuminate' programmable floodlighting system on the City Hall	Add at Stage 1 - Emerging
Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall 3010 Modernisation	Priority modernisation works for Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall	Add at Stage 1 - Emerging

3.3 Fire Service Blitz Memorial

Members will recall that this project was moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* in October 2023. The project involves the design, commissioning and installation of a permanent memorial in City Hall to acknowledge and remember the efforts and sacrifices of the Fire Services from Belfast and Dublin and the crucial role of the Women's Voluntary Service during the Belfast Blitz (April–May 1941). The proposed sculpture features two Fire Service helmets and a Women's Voluntary Service cap cast in bronze resin. This will be mounted on a plaque on a stainless-steel stand in the reception area of City Hall. **Members are asked to agree that the project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of up to £5,000. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.**

3.4 Depot Charging Scheme 2026/27

This project was added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* in June 2026. To meet climate change targets and legislative requirements, the Council must consider its current fleet and the transition required to reach zero emissions. In January 2026 part funding was secured through the Cabinet Office Depot Charging Scheme to install EV chargers at Blanchflower, Duncrue, Mallusk, Ormeau, and Belfast Zoo. The project aims to improve the EV charging on Council sites and will support the fleet transition and overall decarbonisation of Council fleet. The funding stream is now open again for this year and funding is available for up to 70% of project costs with the remainder being met by the Council. **Members are asked to agree that 'Depot Charging Scheme 2026/27' is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course, and update regarding the funding opportunity referred above.**

3.5 Drumglass Park SuDS Project

	This project was added to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> in May 2026. It is an NI Water-led project which aims to introduce a new sustainable drainage system (SuDS), including a new pond, in Drumglass Park. It will provide a nature-based solution to address ongoing issues with surface water and flooding in the area during periods of heavy rainfall. The project is funded by the Department for Infrastructure as part of the Public Sector Transformation Fund – a four-year pilot project which will demonstrate the effectiveness of nature-based Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS aims to manage surface water through natural drainage processes by slowing, storing and treating rainwater close to where it falls. It will promote biodiversity through native planting while creating an attractive new feature in the park. The project's key objectives are to manage the flooding risk in the area, improve the local environment, provide opportunities for educational outreach, enhance biodiversity and support long term climate resilience. The scheme is being project managed by NI Water with Aecom appointed to design and deliver it on their behalf. DfI are funding the project through the NI Executive's Public Sector Transformation Fund. The Council is a partner in the project as it is being delivered in a council-owned park. Consultation and engagement is a critical element of the project and engagement with local groups, including community groups, the Traders Association and schools, is already underway. Members are asked to agree that this partnership project is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.
3.6	Belfast Castle This project was added to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> in June 2026. Belfast Castle is one of Belfast's most recognised heritage and tourism assets. Situated within Cave Hill Country Park, the castle plays a significant role in the city's visitor economy, civic hospitality offering, weddings and events market as well as wider community engagement activities. However, parts of the building require targeted investment to maintain competitiveness, improve visitor experience, protect the asset, and align the venue with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. A phased capital improvement programme for Belfast Castle with the aim of enhancing the customer experience, accessibility and operational efficiency has been proposed. As per the three-stage approval process, the strategic outline case has been completed. Members are asked to agree that this project is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.
3.7	City Hall Programmable Floodlighting Replacement The project is for the replacement of the existing programmable floodlighting system (illuminate) on the City Hall. The system was installed in 2013 as part of a European programme to promote the use of LED lighting and it received 50% funding for participation in the programme. The system allows the Council to mark significant dates, occasions or achievements using bespoke lighting scenes and has proved to be very successful for the city,

	with around 80 lighting events displayed annually in addition to Christmas and New Year events. The system currently requires replacement as component parts are no longer available. In the interim, pending replacement, it may be necessary to use existing parts of the lighting system on the east and west facades to maintain the lighting on the north façade. Members are asked to agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging to allow a business case to be developed.
3.8	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall 3010 Modernisation The project is for modernising Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall venues thereby enhancing experiences and securing the future competitiveness and growth. These priority works generally involve replacement of end-of-life assets to ensure safety, maintain performance and protect the reputation of our venues to include ICT modernisation and end of life door access system, lifts replacement, pit covers, etc. Members are asked to agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging to allow a business case to be developed.
	Project Updates
3.9	Girdwood Hub Health & Safety Works In October 2025, Members agreed that the Girdwood Hub Health & Safety Works project was moved to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i>. Health and safety works are required to repair the parapets and the roof and to fix issues which are causing water ingress into the building. Water damage has meant that the youth space currently cannot be used due to health and safety reasons and works are required to ensure ongoing service provision. Members are asked to approve up to £300,000 required to carry out essential remedial health & safety works. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
3.10	Capital Letters of Offer Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q1 2026/27 at Appendix 1.
3.11	Contracts Awarded Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q1 2026/27 at Appendix 2.
3.12	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> <i>Financial Implications –</i> Fire Service Belfast Blitz – capital allocation of up to £5,000. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Girdwood Hub H&S Works – additional capital allocation of up to £300,000. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. <i>Resource Implications –</i> Officer time to deliver.

3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> The legislation requirements have been met including screening. All physical projects are designed for people and are inherently inclusive and accessible.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Capital Letters of Offer in Q1 2026/27 – April to June 2026 Appendix 2 – Contracts Awarded in Q1 2026/27 – April to June 2026

Appendix 1

Capital Letters of Offer 01 April – 30 June 2026

Project	Funder	Amount
Giants Park Greenway	DfI	£564,158
Glencairn Community Hub	DfC	£430,000
<i>BMSSP - Phase 2 - Finlay's Site (Amendment)</i>	<i>IFI</i>	<i>£667,000</i>
Assembly Rooms Cluster	WMF	£105,000

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Appendix 2

Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation (April – June 2026)

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
Giant's Park, North Foreshore - Maintenance Contract	John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd	01/04/2026
Integrated Consultant Team for Black Mountain Pathway	McAdam Design Ltd	13/04/2026
Forth Meadow Community Greenway Signage	Totalis Solutions Ltd	22/04/2026
Ulster Hall Façade Lighting and Auxiliary Works	Electrical & Data Systems Ltd	30/04/2026
L1BCC17 Quotation for Site Feasibility and Technical Assessment Works	Hamilton Architects	05/05/2026
Term Service Contract for the Demolition of dangerous or ruinous properties	McCusker Demolition Ltd	18/05/2026
Main Contractor for replacement of Waterfront Hall Chillers	JPM Contracts Ltd	27/05/2026
Assembly Rooms External Façade Treatment and Painting	CivCo Ltd	01/06/2026
Wilmont House and Fernhill House Making Safe Works	William Rogers Construction Ltd	09/06/2026
Integrated Consultancy Team for Giant's Park Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge	Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd	16/06/2026
NRF_Integrated Consultant Team for 335 Newtownards Road, Belfast	R E Quinn Architects Limited	23/06/2026

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Subject:	Asset Management i) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Upsurge Licence Extension & Update
Date:	Friday 21 st August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Richard Weir, Interim Estates Manager David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusion Growth and Ant-Poverty

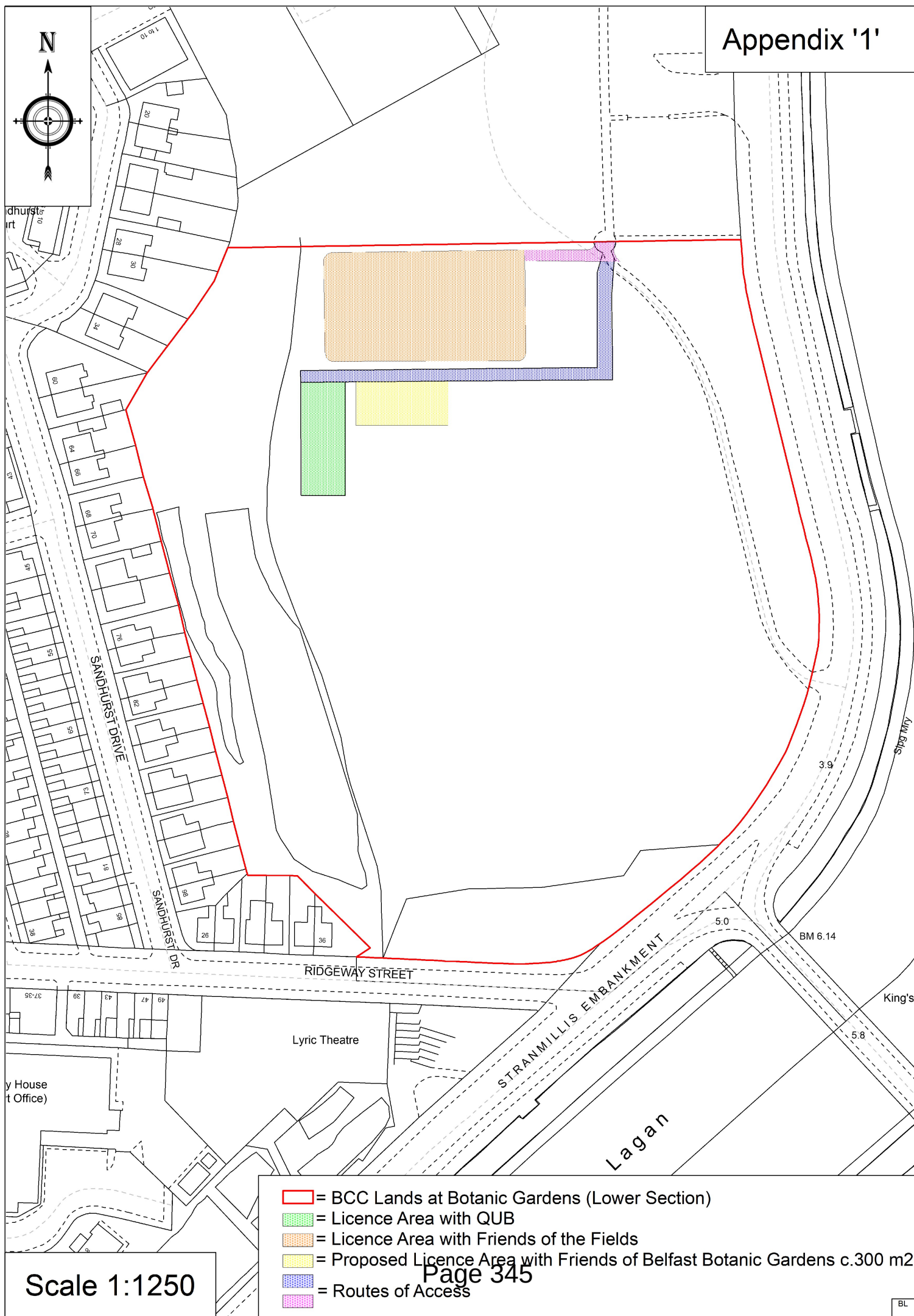
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Sometime in the future	☐								
Never	☐								

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 this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: (i) Approve licence extensions at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) for the continued delivery of the Horizon 2020 Upsurge Project for each partner; and (ii) note the update in relation to the Upsurge Project as set out within this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) –Proposed Licence Agreements in connection with Upsurge</u> Queens University Belfast (QUB) and Friends of the Field (FotF) have been working in partnership with Belfast City Council on the delivery of the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section). Members will recall that, at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 20 February 2026, approval was granted for a licence agreement with Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens (FoBBG) for the delivery of the UPSURGE project at this location for a six-month period. Subject to Members’ approval, it is proposed that the Council now enters into new licence agreements with QUB, FotF and FoBBG, commencing 1 September 2026 and running to 31 August 2027. In line with the established UPSURGE partnership arrangements, no licence fees will apply. A Site Map showing each respective licence area is provided at Appendix 1.
3.2	Members will also recall that, at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 6 February 2026, it was agreed that the development of a GAA pitch on the Lower Section be progressed as part of the approved implementation plan. Entering into the proposed licences with QUB, FotF and FoBBG up to 31 August 2027 will not impede delivery of the pitch project, which remains at design stage and will be subject to the statutory planning process. <u>Upsurge Project update</u>
3.3	Members are asked to note that the Upsurge Project (i.e. both the demonstrator site and community garden) will remain at the Lower Botanic site until construction of the GAA pitch is scheduled to commence. This is currently estimated as Q3 2027/28 however this will be subject to further refinement as the project is developed and is dependent also on planning timelines.
3.4	When the Upsurge Project was first approved in August 2020, members were advised that the project had a 48-month duration. The Project started in September 2021 and was scheduled to finish in September 2025, however an extension was granted until February 2026. However, it subsequently transpired that there was a further period of time required for the exploitation of the results of the Project. This is due to expire in February 2030.

3.5	There is no absolute obligation to retain the UPSURGE Project in situ until that time. However, if it is to be moved, the Council must implement viable mitigating measures in order to avoid the risk of funding clawback. Cognisant of members decision to develop a GAA pitch at this location, officers are exploring whether it is possible to co-locate the projects. In tandem, they are also seeking to identify suitable alternative sites. As part of that process, they will engage with EU Horizon, QUB and the organisations that use the Upsurge site as appropriate.
3.6	The Climate & Resilience Committee will be kept up to date as those discussions progress. However, any final decision in relation to this site will be for Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.
	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u>
3.7	In line with the established UPSURGE partnering arrangement, licence fees will not be applicable.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Site Map showing the location of each respective licence area at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section)

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Physical Programmes SEUPB Grant Funding Increase Request for Additional Activity
Date:	Friday 21 st August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒								
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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 this report is to seek approval from the Committee to make a grant funding increase request for additional activity.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: (i) Approve the grant funding increase request to SEUPB for 26/27 monies.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Grant Funding Increase Request for Additional Activity</u>
3.1	Council have been approached by the Urban Villages (UV) team within The Executive Office (TEO) to make a request for grant funding increase to SEUPB for the Ballysillan Redevelopment project that is currently on site.
3.2	The funding request relates to the Council's Letter of Offer which is in place for the Local Action Plan (LAP) and, if successful, the Council would receive additional monies through this Letter of Offer to be spent (or claimed back from spend) on the Ballysillan project (which is being delivered in partnership with UV).
3.3	Discussion on this matter took place at the Shared City Partnership meeting on 12 th August and the minute of the Partnership and its recommendation form a separate item on the Committee's agenda.
	<u>Application Process</u>
3.4	Members will note that SP&R agreed in April 2026, for proposals to be submitted to SEUPB for additional funding in the region of £2-3m. This application (included the Fleadh and Forthmeadow Greenway signage) was considered in July 2026 by SEUPB as "not sufficiently meeting the selection criteria".
3.5	SEUPB have since advised that they will accept a new application relating to the Ballysillan Project as outlined above. The application deadline has been extended to Tuesday 18th August and is due to be assessed on Thursday 20 th August at a special panel. We understand the deadline cannot be extended further.
3.6	As advised at the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum meeting of 13 th August 2026, the application will need to be submitted by officers under delegated authority, in advance of committee, owing to the immovable deadline restriction. We will maintain the right to withdraw the application if it is not subsequently ratified.
3.7	The grant funding increase request will focus primarily on a 3G pitch, event space and programming. The application (including programming) is for approx. £1.4m. The grant funding must be spent / claimed by the end of September at the latest and the entire claim process completed within the 2026 calendar year. For this reason, it is not feasible to submit other projects.

	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u>
3.8	In line with the established Local Action Plan Letter of Offer arrangements with SEUPB, if successful, Council will receive additional funding up to £1.4m.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.9	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Lewis Murray, Strategic Category Manager, Commercial and Procurement Services

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 or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to: Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000

2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) • Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2) • Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4) • Approve Contracts awarded by Arc 21 on behalf of the Council (Table 5) • Note the non-procurement expenditure (Table 6)
3.0	Competitive Tenders
	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender. Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council. Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation. The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1).
4.0	Single Tender Actions (STAs)
	The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under the Procurement Act 2023 'the Act' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the Act setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1). To support Officers understanding and to build capability, CPS offer support training and guidance on the STA process.

	In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to approve the award of the STAs in Appendix 1 (Table 2). In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to note the award of the retrospective STAs Appendix 1 (Table 3).
5.0	Modification to Contract
	The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a as set out in Appendix 1 (Table 4) .
6.0	Arc 21 Contracts
	The Committee is asked to approve an extension to a current Arc 21 contract as per Standing Order 37a as set out in Appendix 1 (Table 5) .
7.0	Non-procurement expenditure
	The Procurement Act 2023 ‘the Act’ – Schedule 2 Exempted Contracts Schedule 2 of the Act sets out a specific list of types of contracts that are exempted under the Act. Further details on this non-procurement expenditure is set out in Appendix 1 (Table 6).
8.0	Renewal of existing Council Contract
	Provision of Property Details Surveys to Land and Property Services Members are asked to note that the Council has provided a service to Land and Property Services (LPS) for over 20 years, in respect of carrying out property details surveys. The Council carries out these surveys on behalf of LPS, for buildings being inspected for Building Regulation compliance, as a means of streamlining the valuation process. LPS have requested that the contract for this service is renewed, effective from 1st April 2026, with modifications as outlined below, for a further term of 2 years, with the option to extend for 2 periods of 12 months. In this renewed contract the Council will only provide surveys for all new domestic and new commercial properties. Council will continue to make LPS aware of works to altered properties and LPS will carry out the required valuation. The service will continue to be provided on a cost recovery basis. Legal Services have been consulted and have approved the contract. Members are asked to agree to this renewal.
6.0	Tender pipeline
	To support transparency and assist supplier planning, Members should note that Future Tendering Opportunities are published bi-annually on the Councils website. The current

	update Tendering opportunities covers future tendering opportunities up to 31st October 2027. Note: CPS consult with Departments to help populate this procurement pipeline and are reliant on Departments sharing their available procurement plans.
7.0	Financial & Resource Implications
	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.
8.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
	None
9.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 • Table 1 - Competitive Tenders • Table 2 - Single Tender Actions • Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions • Table 4 - Modification to Contract • Table 5 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions • Table 6 - Non-procurement expenditure

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Traffic management service for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 27	Up to 1 year	£400,000	D Martin	Due to this expanded scope and the need for a dedicated, event-specific solution, a new standalone contract must be procured to ensure safe, compliant and effective delivery of traffic management services for Fleadh 2027. Please note that due to time required in planning and road closure notices this tender was advertised w/c 3rd August to allow sufficient time for award and implementation.	N	N	N
Provision of the cleaning services	Up to 5 years	£1,000,000	N Largey	Critical service to ensure facilities are clean and operational for staff, visitors and commercial partners across a wide range of facilities and services across Belfast This contract is used across Departments to cover assets and buildings not historically covered by in-house cleaning teams.	Y	N	N
Supply and delivery of playground parts	Up to 3 years	£60,000	S Leonard	This contract will ensure a steady supply of replacement playground parts for the Council's playground inspection teams.	Y	N	N

Appendix 1

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Supply, delivery and installation of summer plants and containers	Up to 3 years	£250,000	D Sales	This contract supports OSS and Bereavement Services with hanging baskets, flower towers, wall mounted manger baskets and barrier/troughs for Belfast in Bloom	Y	N	N
Assessment of biodiversity enhancement opportunities across parks and open spaces, pitches, playgrounds and amenity spaces	Up to 18 months	£41,667	S Leonard	One of the specific deliverables within the Nature Towns and Cities Project is professional work on the topic – Enhancing existing parks and open spaces for nature and climate resilience	N	N	N
Hotel Accommodation for Fleadh 2027	Up to 8 days	£300,000	D Martin	The contractual agreement between Council and Comhaltas includes the provision of hotel accommodation and business suite facilities. Dates for Fleadh 27 need to be secured with hotel accommodation asap.	N	N	N
Annual abstract of accounts training, technical guidance & treasury management advice	Up to 4 years	£31,200	T Wallace	Specialist consultancy services and training required for compliance purposes Please note that this procurement was conducted by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council on behalf of all NI councils with contracts award in July 26.	N	N	N
Web streaming and AV services at Roselawn Crematorium	Up to 3 years	£90,000	P Gribben	To facilitate secure remote access to funeral services for invited attendees who are unable to attend in person. This will enhance the quality and accessibility of the service provided to bereaved families during a difficult time.	N	N	N

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason	Other Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Delivery of Output Belfast - Ireland's biggest one-day music conference	Up to 4 months	£22,000	K Forster	There are no other suppliers who can deliver the conference activity. The Output Conference is a key event within the City of Music programme and Music Matters strategy. 2 months & £11k being reported as retrospective	Score Draw Music Ltd	2.	CG&R committee 15/04/2026	N
The provision 3D model, design and planning software	Up to 3 years & 8 months	£48,500	P Gribben	The current platform is widely used by key architectural practices across Northern Ireland who subscribe to the VU.CITY model. Replacing the current supplier at this stage would require a significant system configuration, implementation, migration of historical and live data, testing, user training and managed transition to a replacement platform.	VU.City	7.	N	N

Table 3: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason	Other Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Page 358 Park & Ride management for Fleadh 26	Up to 8 days	£170,000	D Martin	The end-to-end car park management solution is required for 3 x park and ride locations with Translink as part of Fleadh 26. The requirement emerged late in the planning stages and did not allow sufficient time to tender. This requirement will be procured via open competition for Fleadh 27.	Car Parking Services	5.	N	N
Delivery of Output Belfast - Ireland's biggest one-day music conference	Up to 2 months	£11,000	K Forster	Further to STA request above this is retrospective STA approval to cover services from July and Aug 26	Score Draw Music Ltd	2.	CG&R committee 15/04/2026	N
The provision 3D model, design and planning software	Up to 4 months	£4,500	P Gribben	Further to STA request above this is retrospective STA approval to cover services from 4 months from May to Sept 26.	VU.City	7.	N	N

Table 4: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Duration & Value	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
Research on Advanced Wireless Investment Models (T2696)	Up to 3 months & £70k	Additional 3 months	S McNicholl	Initial contract provided for a second sprint to develop proposals for investing Enabling Infrastructure Funds but subsequent agreement with DfE was that developing a business case would be an improved outcome for that work. The modification is retrospective.	Bloom Procurement Services (NEPRO3)
Health & Safety advice for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 26	Up to 1 year & £30k	Additional £20,000	K Forster	The additional funds are required due to the increased level of support required from the contractor in the months leading up to and over the delivery period of the Fleadh. The nature of the support will not change. The modification is down to the increased level of support required to deliver this event for the first time. Contract is being reported as it now exceeds £30k.	Paul Scott
Deliver the resourcing plan to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 26	Up to 3 months & £29k	Additional £8,500	K Forster	The Eventor is already in contract to manage this programme for Fleadh and therefore it makes sense that they continue to manage the additional asks and pressures on the programme and budget. The nature of the support will not change. The modification is down to the increased level of support required to deliver this event for the first time. Contract is being reported as it now exceeds £30k.	The Eventor

Table 5: Contracts awarded by Arc 21 on behalf of the Council

Title of Contract	Original Duration & Value	Modification Required	SRO	Description	Supplier
The receipt and processing of kerbside mixed dry recyclables – lot 1	Up to 7 years & £4.5m (BCC Spend)	Additional 6 months & £330k	D Sales	Arc21 are in the process of procuring a new contract for reception and treatment of dry recyclables (our blue bin waste) but due to delay in the DAERA consultation on future collections schemes Arc 21 are going to extend their contract for an additional six months.	Contract managed by arc 21

Table 6: Non-Procurement Expenditure

Title	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
The Northern Light Incubation Project at Studio Ulster	Up to 2 years	£700,000	D Martin	As part of the Council's Local Economic Partnership Ulster University have been selected to support the delivery of this project. This is considered an exempted contract under the Act in line with Schedule 2, section 3 (1) - horizontal arrangement. Externally Funded	Ulster University

Appendix 1
STA/ Direct Award Reasons

STA Number	Full description
1. Switching to a Direct Award	Switching to a Direct Award: No response or no suitable response following advertised procurement exercise.
2. Single Supplier for Art or Artistic Performance	Single Supplier for Art or Artistic Performance: the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance
3. Single Supplier Absence of Competition for Technical Reasons	Single Supplier Absence of Competition for Technical Reasons: only a particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required and there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works
4. Single Supplier Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	Single Supplier Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): only particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works required due to that particular supplier having IPR or other exclusive rights and there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works.
5. Urgency	Urgency: Where the goods, services or works to be supplied under the public contract are strictly necessary for reasons of extreme and unavoidable urgency which is not attributable to any act or omission of and could not have been foreseen by the council, and as a result the public contract cannot be awarded on the basis of a competitive tendering procedure using the reduced 10 day period for 'urgent procurements'
6. Prototypes and Development	Prototypes and Development: the production of a prototype, or supply of other novel goods or services (i.e. goods or services designed or developed at the request of BCC), for the purpose of testing the suitability of the goods or services, researching the viability of producing or supplying the goods or services at scale and developing them for that purpose, or other research, experiment, study or development.
7. Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works	Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works: Extension or Partial Replacement concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier (includes supplier that the council no longer has a contract with) which are intended as an extension to, or partial replacement of, existing goods, services or works in circumstances where a change in supplier would result in the council receiving goods, services or works that are different from, or incompatible with, the existing goods, services or works, and the difference or incompatibility would result in disproportionate technical difficulties in operation or maintenance.
8. Commodity	Commodity: Supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market
9. Advantageous time-limited	Advantageous time-limited: Supplies or services on particularly time-limited advantageous terms e.g. supplier winding up its business activities
10. Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works	Additional or Repeat Goods Services or Works: Similar to Existing Goods Services or Works, concerns the supply of goods, services or works by the existing supplier (includes supplier that the council no longer has a contract with) that are similar to existing goods, services or works where the existing goods, services or works were supplied under a

Appendix 1

STA Number	Full description
	public contract that was awarded following a competitive procedure within the period of five years ending with the day on which the transparency notice is published, and the tender notice or any tender document in respect of the earlier contract set out the Council's intention to carry out a subsequent procurement of similar goods, services or works in reliance on this direct award justification, and any other information specified in Section 95.
11. Other	Other: Reason not in line with Procurement Act 2023
12. To Protect Life	To Protect Life: where a Minister of the Crown has by Regulations provided that specified contracts may be awarded to protect human animal or plant life or health or protect public order or safety
13. Schedule 2– Exempted Contract	Schedule 2– Exempted Contract: Requirement not considered procurement spend but use of STA process to document and approve spend. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/54/schedule/2



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 12 August 2026
Date:	21 st August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager (6015)

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 report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on the 12 th August 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on the 12 th August, including:
2.2	<u>Members Updates</u> • Updates were received from the North and East Belfast Community representatives and are noted in the minutes for members information.
2.3	<u>Good Relations Q1 Action Plan Update</u> • The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.4	<u>PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update</u> • The Shared City Partnership recommends that members of the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee note the contents of the report and agree an additional funding proposal of up to £1.5m (10% of the LAP LoO) for the Ballysillan Urban Villages project is explored and submitted to SEUPB. • Shared City Partnership also recommends to SP&R, that Officers correspond on behalf of the Shared City Partnership to SEUPB to outline Council's disappointment that the four projects which had been submitted for support within the programme-wide underspend had not been deemed eligible for funding and request the specific and detailed reasons for the decisions be provided.
2.5	<u>Peace Plus Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update</u> • Shared City Partnership noted the contents of the report and agree and recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree TPC1 Community Empowerment – a change request to enable flexibility regarding the duration of the Local Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP) delivery of between 7-18 months, to enable condensed delivery.
2.6	<u>Peace Plus Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update</u> • The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Members note the contents of the report and agree CCD1 – Interfaith and Belief - a contract extension to 31 March 2028
2.7	<u>Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update</u> • The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report
2.8	<u>Update from June Special SCP</u> • Shared City Partnership noted the update provided by the Good Relations Manager
2.9	<u>Any Other Business</u> • There was no further business reported.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>

	The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.
3.2	The key issues on the agenda at the 12th August 2026 meeting were: • Partnership Papers of the 3rd June 2026 • Members Update North and East Belfast • Good Relations Q1 Action Plan Update • PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update • PEACEPLUS – Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update • PEACEPLUS – Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update • PEACEPLUS – Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update • Update from June Special Meeting • Any Other Business
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the following minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1: further details of Good Relations small grants awards in Appendix 2; further details of Q1 Summary of 2026 27 DCGRP Action Plan are attached in Appendix 3; further details of the SEUPB Memo - N+3 Decommitment and New Activity attached in Appendix 4 and further details of the PEACEPLUS Performance Dashboard are attached in Appendix 5.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> All financial implications are covered through existing budgets, and the Good Relations Action Plan is included in the current estimates process.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership from the 12th August 2026 Appendix 2 – Good Relations small grants awards Appendix 3 – Q1 Summary of 2026 27 DCGRP Action Plan Appendix 4 – SEUPB Memo - N+3 Decommitment and New Activity Appendix 5 – PEACEPLUS Performance Dashboard

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	Reference	Name	Amount Awarded
1	GR2627/400061	Diverse Youth NI	£4,450.00
2	GR2627/400058	Ardoyne Youth Enterprise	£4,450.00
3	GR2627/400013	Rosario Youth Centre	£3,468.16
4	GR2627/400044	Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues	£3,624.00
5	GR2627/400046	Forthspring Intercommunity Group	£5,000.00
6	GR2627/400054	Black Mountain Shared Space	£5,000.00
7	GR2627/400038	Doyle Football Club	£1,780.00
8	GR2627/400037	Newhill Football Club	£4,160.00
9	GR2627/400039	Ligoniel Primary School/ St Vincent de Paul PS	£2,036.00
10	GR2627/400048	Hannahstown Heritage and Cultural Society	£3,900.00
11	GR2627/400064	St Matthew's Football Club	£4,200.00
12	GR2627/400003	Castle Community Trust	£4,300.00
13	GR2627/400006	4 Corners Festival	£4,700.00
14	GR2627/400014	Belfast South Community Resources	£3,650.00
15	GR2627/400018	Donegall Pass Community Enterprises	£5,000.00
16	GR2627/400019	Belfast YMCA	£2,741.70
17	GR2627/400023	Clonard Monastery Youth Centre	£4,876.50
18	GR2627/400034	Fairhill Musical and Cultural Society	£2,900.00
19	GR2627/400036	WAVE Trauma Centre	£5,000.00
20	GR2627/400050	Ardbone Festival	£2,000.00
21	GR2627/400052	HAPPY WOMEN OF BELFAST LIMITED	£3,200.00
22	GR2627/400057	Mornington Community Project	£5,000.00
23	GR2627/400059	Bloomfield Community Association	£2,874.00
24	GR2627/400062	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£1,850.00
25	GR2627/400063	Ballynafeigh Community Development Ass0ciation	£3,875.00
26	GR2627/400065	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£3,900.00
27	GR2627/400067	Holy Family Youth Centre	£4,340.00
28	GR2627/400070	Shankill Juniors FC	£3,495.00
29	GR2627/400072	Belfast Bands Forum	£4,750.00
30	GR2627/400077	Windsor Womens Centre	£3,989.00
31	GR2627/400080	SOUL STUDIO – Belfast C.I.C	£3,700.00
32	GR2627/400085	Marrowbone Community Association	£3,700.00
33	GR2627/400094	Market Development Association	£3,000.00
34	GR2627/400002	Blackmountain Action Group	£4,520.00
35	GR2627/400004	Lower Oldpark Community Association	£4,300.00
36	GR2627/400011	Annadale and haywood residents association	£3,100.00
37	GR2627/400028	PeacePlayers - Northern Ireland	£4,360.00
38	GR2627/400033	R City Youth CIC	£3,650.00
39	GR2627/400073	Engage with Age	£4,400.00
40	GR2627/400092	McDonald Centre	£3,180.00
41	GR2627/400025	East End Great War Society	£3,200.00
42	GR2627/400031	Greater Village Regeneration Trust - South Belfast	£3,890.00
43	GR2627/400086	Shorts Football Club Academy.	£3,100.00
44	GR2627/400091	Manor Street Cliftonville Community Group	£4,900.00
45	GR2627/400024	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	£4,992.00
46	GR2627/400066	Church of Ireland Diocese of Down & Dromore	£3,102.00
47	GR2627/400081	EMSONI	£1,950.00
48	GR2627/400090	Spórtlann na hÉireann	£3,735.00
49	GR2627/400010	Corpus Christi Youth Centre	£4,520.00

£185,808.36

2026/27 Quarter 1 Action Plan Summary Report

Code	Key Priority	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 1	Total Q1 allocation
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Good Relations Small Grants Prog Criteria focusing on the 4 T:BUC themes and providing opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote Good Relations.	Total: £180,000	49 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process in Q1. Projects ongoing. List of groups in Appendix 1.	£185,808.36 allocated to 49 projects Total: £185,808.36
BCC2	Cultural expression	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme This programme will support a Carnival Parades and other associated events, before, during and after the parade, that are diverse, inclusive and reflective of the make-up of our City.	Total: £20,000	3 projects for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann supported. - Belfast Bands Forum Showcase - ArtsEkta - Lectures and talks Overspend noted by SCP in May.	£25,000 £12,500 £10,000 Total: £47,500
BCC3	Cultural expression	Positive Cultural Expression Programme - Beacons To support positive cultural expression especially regarded as important within the broad Unionist community but with a focus on cross community sharing and inclusion, and intra community development of understanding of Unionist cultural expression in a positive way.	Total: £40,000	15 Beacon sites assessed. Engagement with Beacon groups. Additional support for events. Agreements with groups progressed.	£0
BCC4	Shared Community	Building Trust & Celebrating an Intercultural Future This programme will continue to develop and deliver events and training on good relations/diversity. It will not just focus on ethnic minority or refugee communities, but given that 'trust building of public agencies' is a focus within the new audit, it will also include established communities especially where there has been/is ongoing issues of trust and support of public agencies.	Total: £20,000	June Migrant Forum meeting. Annual Day of Reflection delivered	£0 £4,679.85 Total: £4,679.85
BCC5	Safe Community	The Inclusive Minority Ethnic programme To facilitate partnership working with Migrant and Minority Ethnic Communities to continue to support initiatives that seek to support the integration and inclusion of all Communities, through good relations related projects as well as supporting advice giving organisations.	Total: £70,000	3 projects allocated support: - Happy Women's Group - Ashton Community Trust - Belfast City of Sanctuary	£14,040.00 £19,350.00 £2,500 Total: £35,890
BCC6	Safe Community	Interface Communities Engagement Programme This programme will support relationship building across interface communities. It will include an aim of facilitating progress towards the softening, transformation and/or		10 projects allocated support: - Short Strand Community Forum - Ardoyne Youth Enterprises	£6,000.00 £6,000.00

		removal of interface barriers through Good Relations engagement through a focus on common social justice issues recognised in the audit and build a consensual approach to cross community plans to tackle those issues or their alleviation in the different communities.		- Upper Springfield Development Trust - Citylife Projects - Duncairn Community Partnership - Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership - Ligoniel Improvement Ass. - Lower Oldpark Community Association - Suffolk Community Forum - TAMHI	£4,510.00 £6,000.00 £6,000.00 £1,600.00 £6,000.00 £5,900.00 £6,000.00 £2,865.00 Total: £50,875
BCC7	Children & Young people	Shared Education & Relationship with Agencies This initiative will be delivered in partnership with Education Authority and will focus on developing an understanding of diversity with young people in schools, as well as uniformed and non-uniformed youth organisations. It will work in schools with teachers, parents and boards of governors. The initiatives developed will explore sensitive and controversial issues through a variety of engagement sessions and events.	Total £70,000	Programme planning for delivery in Q3.	£0
BCC 8	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Capacity & Cultural Competence Programme The aim of the Programme is to develop capacity within the wider Council, communities and decision-makers in order to ensure a systemic approach to both the development, and delivery, of projects within the Council's new Good Relations Strategy with its wider impact on decision-making on an ongoing basis.	Total £28,862.20	1 project allocated support: - Mountainview Battlefields Association	£750 Total: £750
			£448,862.20	Quarter 1 allocation	£325,503.21
			£448,862.20	Quarter 2 allocation	
			£448,862.20	Quarter 3 allocation	
			£448,862.20	Quarter 4 allocation	
			£448,862.20	Total allocation	

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Belfast

PEACEPLUS

Priority 1.1 Local Community
Peace Action Plan

Programme Board Report

As of

23/07/2026 09:11:23



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the
 European Union  UK Government



Belfast
City Council

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



16

Projects Added Data

Number of projects with activities added: 16



4,815

Participants Registered

Participants registered this month: 11 98% (-470) vs. last month

Participants last month: 481

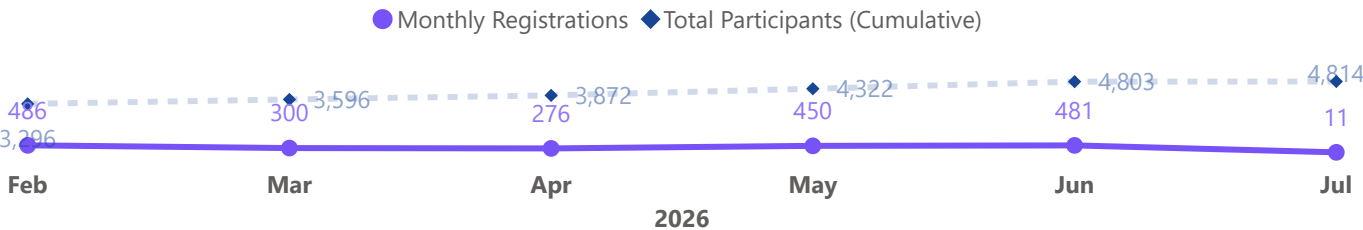


3,763

Participants Attending Activity More Than Once

Participant Registrations

Last 6 Months



Last Refreshed
23/07/2026 09:11:23

Total Participants by Project

Theme and Project	Total Participants	Non-Participating
CRT	36	21
The Sanctuary Theatre	36	21
TPC	3,800	313
Community Empowerment Programme	371	3
Health & Wellbeing Programme	765	8
Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	540	115
Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	182	15
Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	150	6
Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	62	20
Sport for Peace	694	28
Employability (Language Up)	461	57
Arts Across the Genres	575	61
CCD	979	158
Interfaith and Belief Programme	105	13
Community Connections	179	42
Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	96	2
Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	234	75
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Cultural Spaces	168	25
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	197	1
Total	4,815	492

Project Activity Tracker

Theme Abbv	Times Activity Held	Total Unique Participants
CRT	10	15
The Sanctuary Theatre	10	15
TPC	1203	3507
Community Empowerment Programme	83	388
Health & Wellbeing Programme	110	757
Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	49	425
Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	85	167
Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	139	144
Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	53	42
Sport for Peace	313	666
Employability (Language Up)	219	404
Arts Across the Genres	152	514
CCD	325	821
Interfaith and Belief Programme	44	92
Community Connections	105	137
Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	38	94
Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	74	159
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Cultural Spaces	8	143
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	56	196
Total	1538	4343

3K

Total Achieved Participants

Progress to Target

2824/17,434

16%

Achieved Participants (This Month)

2

99% (-296) vs. last month

Achieved Participants (Last Month)

298

44%

% Woman or Girl Participants

Woman or Girl Participant Programme Target: 40%

(+4% over target)

22%

% Ethnic Minority



Total Achieved Participants by Project

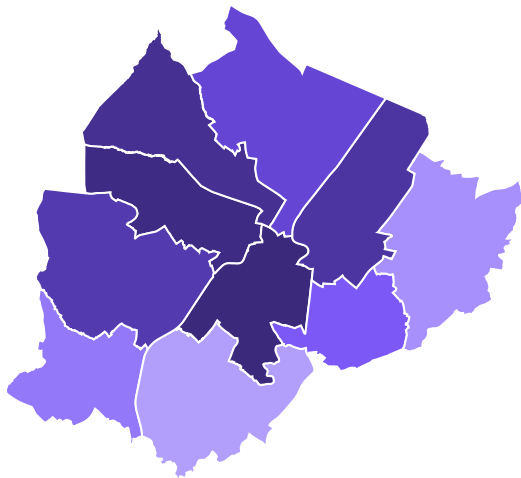
Theme and Project	Total Achieved	Total Remaining	Project Target	%
CRT	13	1,067	1,080	1%
The Sanctuary Theatre	13	1,067	1,080	1%
TPC	2,577	5,061	7,638	34%
Community Empowerment Programme	337	663	1,000	34%
Health & Wellbeing Programme	677	943	1,620	42%
Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	411	1,089	1,500	27%
Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	164	186	350	47%
Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	42	118	160	26%
Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	20	76	96	21%
Sport for Peace	502	1,098	1,600	31%
Employability (Language Up)	161	655	816	20%
Arts Across the Genres	263	233	496	53%
CCD	234	3,141	3,375	7%
Interfaith and Belief Programme	4	866	870	0%
Community Connections	29	697	726	4%
Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	52	573	625	8%
Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	1	749	750	0%
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	148	256	404	37%
Total	2,824	9,269	12,093	23%

Project Progress to Community Split Targets

Theme and Project	% Catholic	% Protestant	% None	% Other
CRT	↓ 23% ⚡ 29%	↑ 46% ⚡ 36%	↓ 8% ⚡ 31%	↑ 23% ⚡ 4%
The Sanctuary Theatre	↓ 23% ⚡ 29%	↑ 46% ⚡ 36%	↓ 8% ⚡ 31%	↑ 23% ⚡ 4%
TPC	↓ 40% ⚡ 45%	↑ 31% ⚡ 24%	↓ 12% ⚡ 26%	↑ 17% ⚡ 5%
Community Empowerment Programme	↓ 21% ⚡ 49%	↓ 26% ⚡ 27%	↓ 20% ⚡ 21%	↑ 33% ⚡ 3%
Health & Wellbeing Programme	↓ 48% ⚡ 56%	↑ 40% ⚡ 24%	↓ 7% ⚡ 18%	↑ 5% ⚡ 2%
Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	↓ 44% ⚡ 47%	↑ 25% ⚡ 24%	↓ 22% ⚡ 26%	↑ 8% ⚡ 3%
Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	↓ 45% ⚡ 47%	↑ 44% ⚡ 24%	↓ 5% ⚡ 26%	↑ 6% ⚡ 3%
Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	↓ 29% ⚡ 47%	↑ 33% ⚡ 24%	↓ 17% ⚡ 26%	↑ 21% ⚡ 3%
Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	↓ 20% ⚡ 47%	↑ 25% ⚡ 24%	↓ 15% ⚡ 26%	↑ 40% ⚡ 3%
Sport for Peace	↓ 48% ⚡ 49%	↑ 29% ⚡ 26%	↓ 7% ⚡ 22%	↑ 15% ⚡ 3%
Employability (Language Up)	↓ 7% ⚡ 23%	↓ 5% ⚡ 14%	↓ 6% ⚡ 42%	↑ 83% ⚡ 21%
Arts Across the Genres	↓ 41% ⚡ 43%	↑ 35% ⚡ 30%	↓ 18% ⚡ 24%	↑ 6% ⚡ 3%
CCD	↓ 35% ⚡ 43%	↓ 18% ⚡ 30%	↑ 26% ⚡ 24%	↑ 21% ⚡ 3%
Interfaith and Belief Programme	↓ 25% ⚡ 43%	↓ 0% ⚡ 30%	↓ 0% ⚡ 24%	↑ 75% ⚡ 3%
Community Connections	↓ 0% ⚡ 43%	↓ 14% ⚡ 30%	↓ 7% ⚡ 24%	↑ 79% ⚡ 3%
Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	↓ 23% ⚡ 43%	↓ 4% ⚡ 30%	↑ 46% ⚡ 24%	↑ 27% ⚡ 3%
Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	↓ 0% ⚡ 43%	↑ 100% ⚡ 30%	↓ 0% ⚡ 24%	↓ 0% ⚡ 3%
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	↑ 47% ⚡ 43%	↓ 23% ⚡ 30%	↓ 23% ⚡ 24%	↑ 7% ⚡ 3%
Total	↓ 39% ⚡ 43%	↑ 30% ⚡ 27%	↓ 13% ⚡ 25%	↑ 17% ⚡ 4%

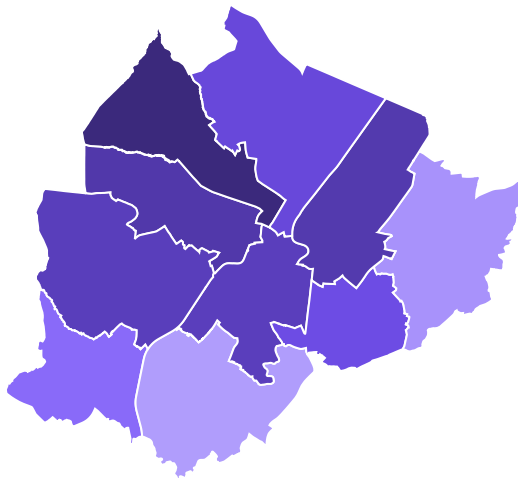
All Participants Heatmap

by DEA



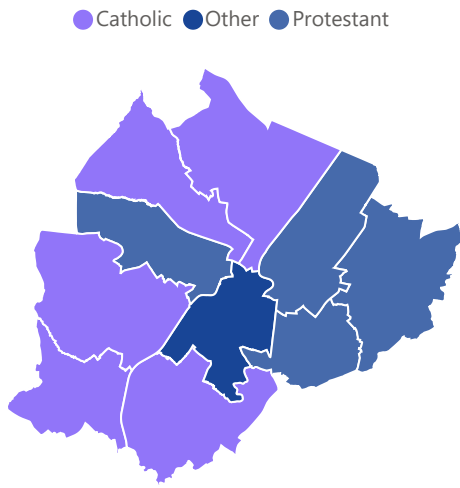
Achieved Participants Heatmap

by DEA



Most Represented Religious Beliefs by DEA

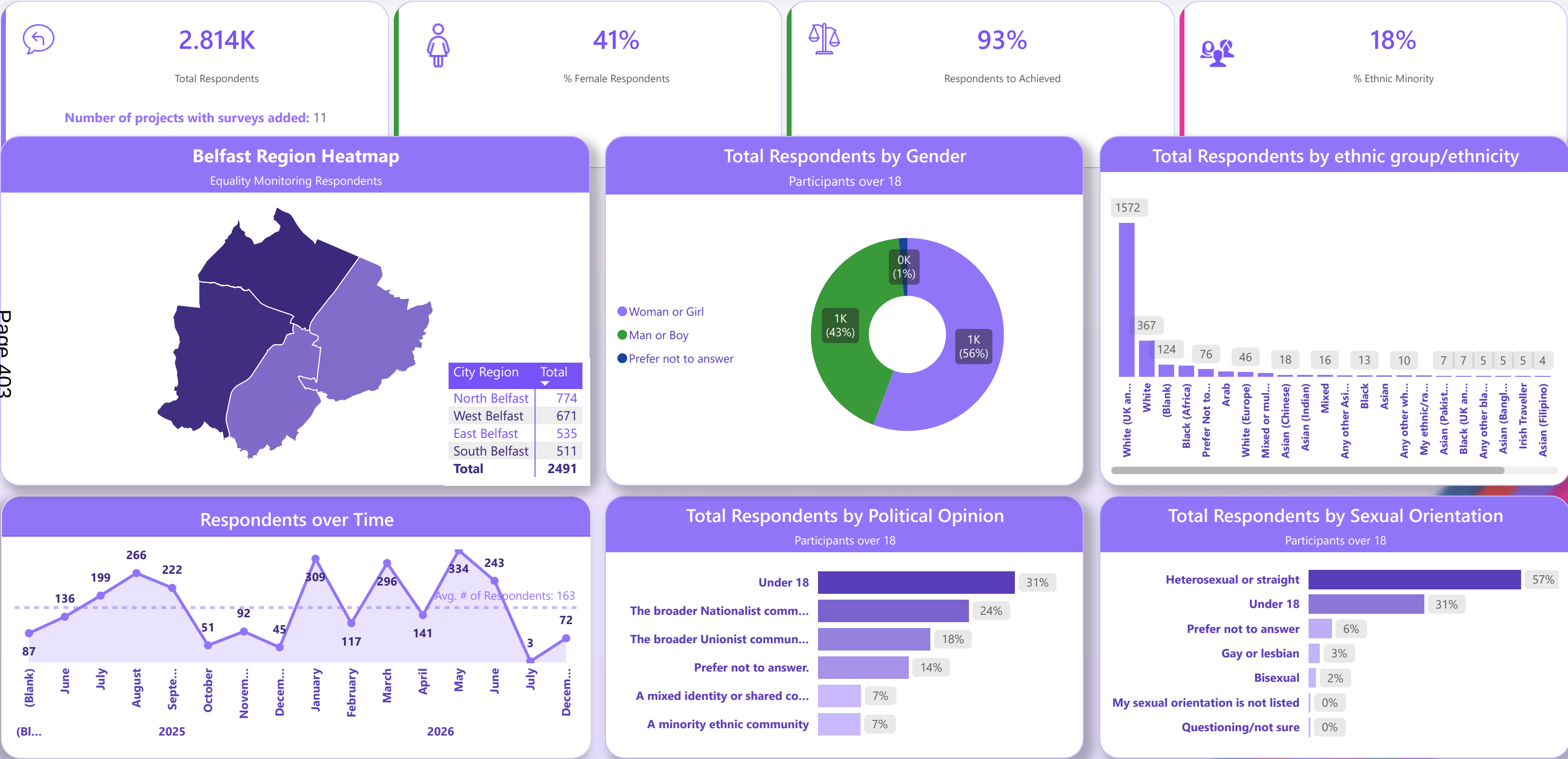
Achieved Participants



City Region & DEA		Total Participants	% Total
[-] North Belfast		1,106	23%
Castle		458	10%
Oldpark		648	13%
[-] South Belfast		841	18%
Balmoral		127	3%
Botanic		713	15%
N10000303		1	0%
[-] East Belfast		1,115	23%
Lisnasharragh		335	7%
Ormiston		171	4%
Titanic		609	13%
[-] West Belfast		1,502	31%
Black Mountain		566	12%
Collin		244	5%
Court		692	14%
[+] Outside Council District		238	5%
Total		4,802	100%

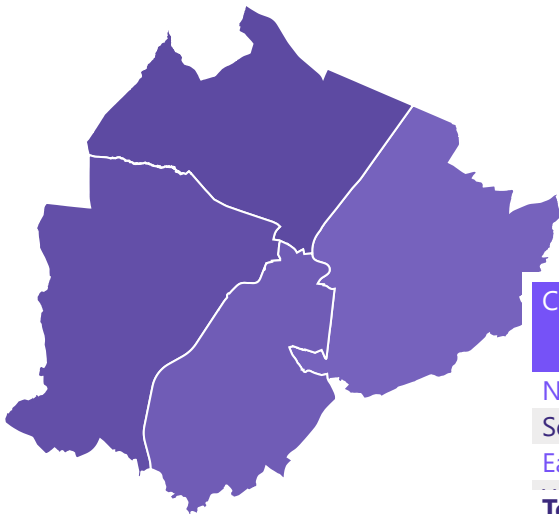
City Region & DEA		Total Participants	% Total
[-] North Belfast		713	25%
Castle		273	10%
Oldpark		440	16%
[-] South Belfast		411	15%
Balmoral		83	3%
Botanic		327	12%
N10000303		1	0%
[-] East Belfast		709	25%
Lisnasharragh		255	9%
Ormiston		102	4%
Titanic		352	13%
[-] West Belfast		863	31%
Black Mountain		328	12%
Collin		176	6%
Court		359	13%
[+] Outside Council District		111	4%
Total		2807	100%

City Region & DEA		Top Religious Belief	Count
[-] North Belfast		Catholic	373
Castle		Catholic	114
Oldpark		Catholic	259
[-] South Belfast		Other	135
Balmoral		Catholic	35
Botanic		Other	124
N10000303		Other	1
[-] East Belfast		Protestant	322
Lisnasharragh		Protestant	114
Ormiston		Protestant	44
Titanic		Protestant	164
[-] West Belfast		Catholic	422
Black Mountain		Catholic	218
Collin		Catholic	144
Court		Protestant	217
[+] Outside Council District		Catholic	36
Total		Catholic	1111



Belfast Region Heatmap

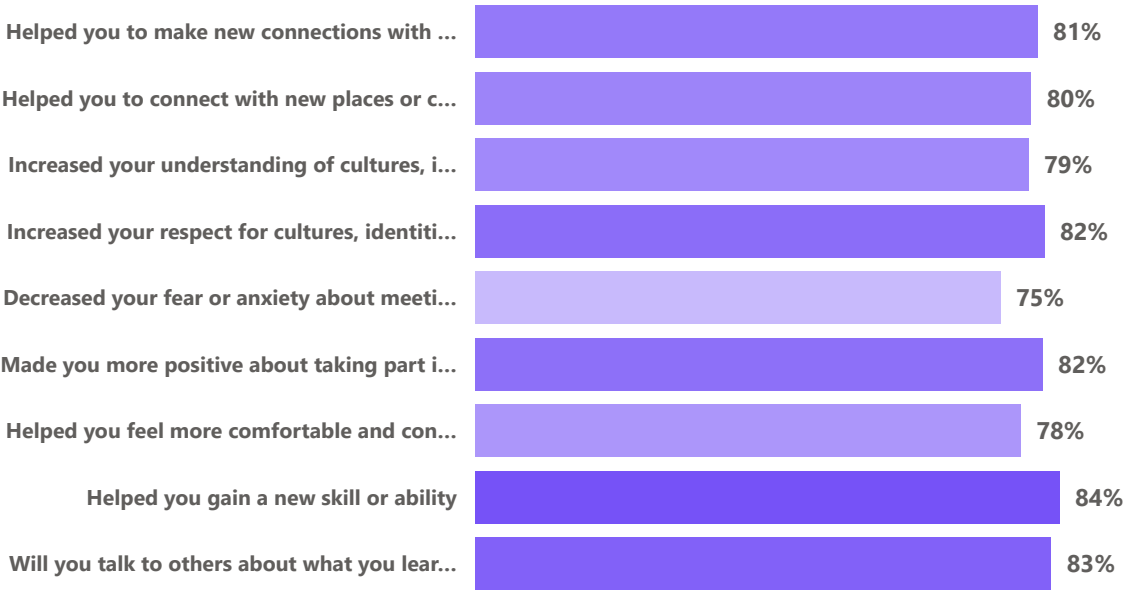
by Positive Response Rate



City Region	% Positive Responses
North Belfast	85%
South Belfast	77%
East Belfast	74%
Total	80%

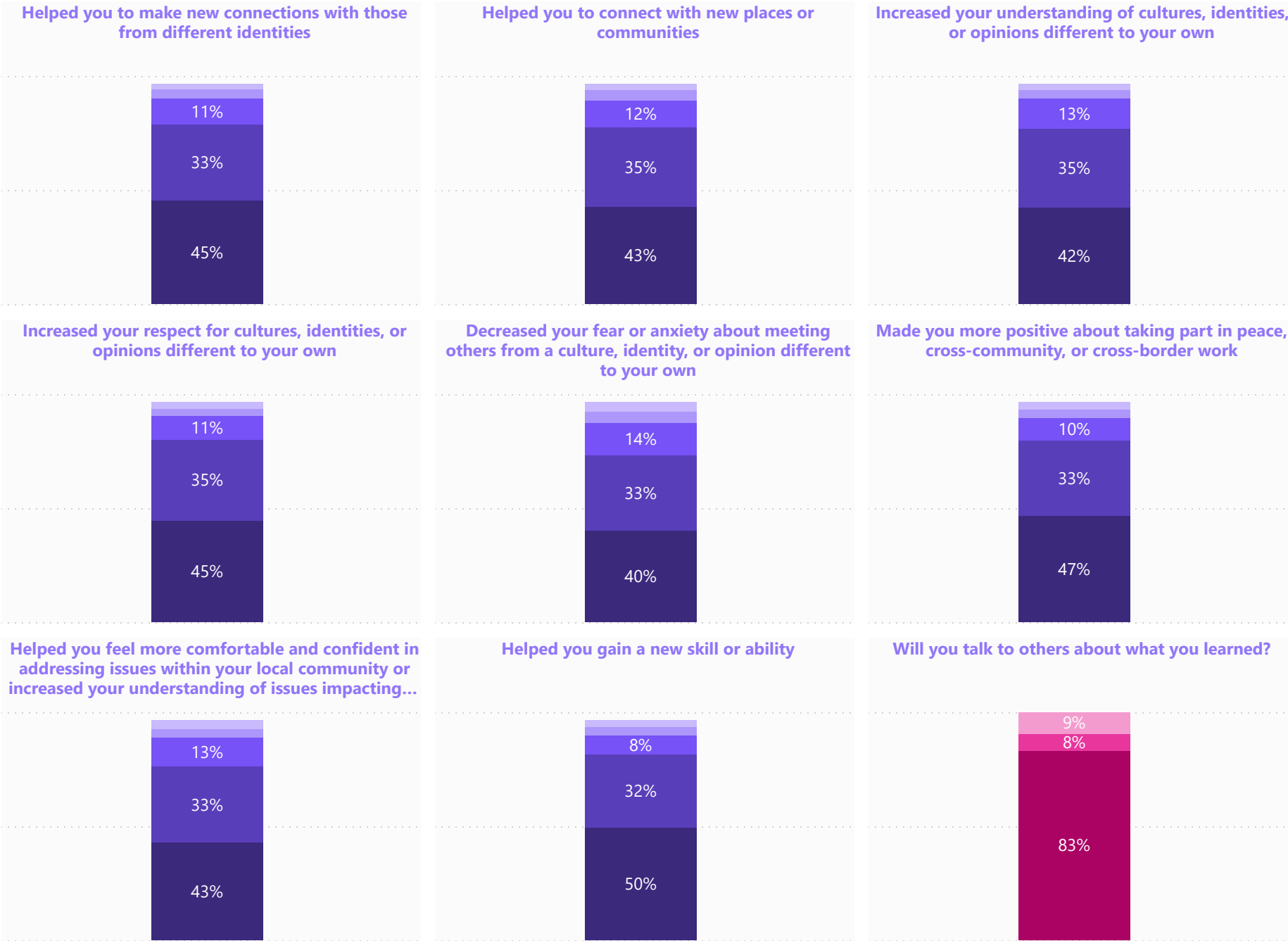
Positive Responses per Question

Positive Responses = Agree, Strongly Agree or Yes



Question Response Gauge

I prefer not to answer Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Yes No Prefer not to answer



792

Total Participants (All)



554

Total Achieved Participants



50%

% Woman or Girl Participants

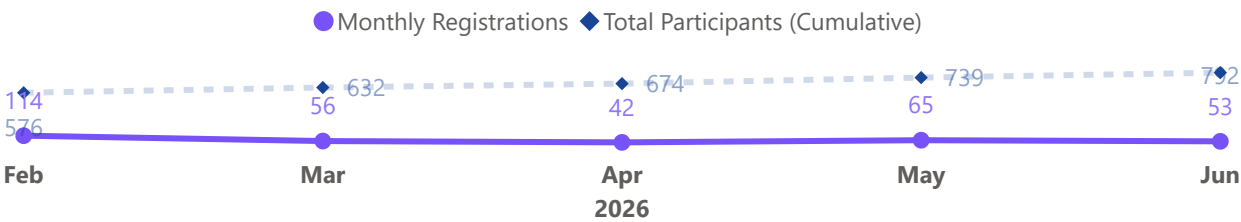


12%

% Ethnic Minority

Participant Registrations

Last 6 Months



Total Participants by Project

Theme and Project	Total Participants	Non-Participating
[-] CRT	4	4
The Sanctuary Theatre	4	4
[-] TPC	641	36
Community Empowerment Programme	41	1
Health & Wellbeing Programme	156	
Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	82	15
Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	24	2
Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	13	
Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	13	5
Sport for Peace	68	
Employability (Language Up)	35	5
Arts Across the Genres	209	8
[-] CCD	147	15
Interfaith and Belief Programme	5	1
Community Connections	19	3
Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	27	1
Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	43	10
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Cultural Spaces	8	
From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	45	
Total	792	55

Project Activity Tracker

Theme Abbv	Times Activity Held	Total Unique Participants
[-] TPC	873	605
[+] Community Empowerment Programme	64	40
[+] Health & Wellbeing Programme	99	156
[+] Youth Empowerment: Juniors (9-12)	48	67
[+] Youth Empowerment: Intermediate (12-15)	80	22
[+] Youth Empowerment: Seniors (16-18)	99	13
[+] Youth Empowerment: Young Adults (19-25)	33	8
[+] Sport for Peace	204	68
[+] Employability (Language Up)	115	30
[+] Arts Across the Genres	131	201
[-] CCD	140	132
[+] Interfaith and Belief Programme	6	4
[+] Community Connections	37	16
[+] Belfast LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Programme	27	26
[+] Community Empowerment - Ex Political Prisoners	39	33
[+] From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Cultural Spaces	2	8
[+] From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism: Festival and Flagship Events	29	45
Total	1013	737

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Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 13th August 2026

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Sarah Bunting

Councillor Séamas de Faoite

Councillor Ian McLaughlin

Councillor Ciran Beattie

Councillor Ronan McLaughlin

Councillor Áine Groogan (*for Cllr Smyth*)

Councillor Micky Murray

Apologies: Councillor Brian Smyth, Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officer:

John Walsh, Chief Executive

Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services

Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

Nora Largery, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services

David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services

Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development

Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control

Dermot O’Kane, Acting Planning Manager (Development Planning & Policy)

Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth & Anti-Poverty

David Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager

Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026

The Chief Executive provided an update on the huge success of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026 and noted what a truly memorable week it was for Belfast. The Chief Executive and Members expressed their sincere thanks to those staff who organised, worked, volunteered and supported throughout the remarkable week. Members noted that a detailed internal debrief will take place in the coming months in advance of planning for hosting in 2027. The Chief Executive also referred to some requests received to consider hosting in future years and it was noted that this needs to be further explored in relation to resource requirements, budgetary constraints and following further discussions with partners. An update will be brought to a future meeting for Members to further consider.

A member also asked that the upcoming Christmas Market and the options to extend for 2026 is added to the agenda for the next Party Group Leaders meeting.

2. West Wellbeing

The Chief Executive welcomed Eilish Craig, Donal Shiels and Fiona Craig from West Wellbeing a Belfast based charity committed to improving access to high quality, free mental health support for children, young people and adults. Members were presented with an overview of the vision and the services provided by the Charity along with examples of the wider impacts for those individuals experiencing mental health difficulties, emotional distress or crisis. Members also noted the statistical information provided for those clients availing of services and those waiting to utilise services of the hub and the outcomes that were being achieved. The request for support was noted along with an outline of what funding would help to deliver. In relation to some queries by a Member on how the charity is currently funded clarity was provided.

Members thanked Eilish, Donal and Fiona for attending and for providing an overview of the excellent work being undertaken

The Director of Finance advised that the funding request would be brought to a future meeting of SP&R Committee for Members consideration.

3. Finance Update

The Director of Finance presented the Quarter 1 financial outturn for 2026/27 and outlined the income, expenditure and projected underspend for the period. He advised a report with the detail discussed will be brought to August SP&R outlining the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council.

The Director also highlighted the budgetary challenges that need to be considered for the remainder of 2026/27 and also for the estimate process for 2027/28.

The Director also updated Members on the due diligence process that had been undertaken for a request for funding previously considered by SP&R Committee. Members noted the update provided and that a report would be brought to August SP&R Committee for Members to further consider.

4. Area-based Community Planning

The Head of Inclusive Growth & Anti-Poverty provided an update on the next stage of the process in relation to the development of area-based community plans. Members noted that an officer panel has now reviewed the submissions received in order to ensure compliance

with guidance issued including the requirement that the submissions have been prepared with input from a wider local community-based consortia. The Head of Inclusive Growth & Anti-Poverty outlined the Officer recommendations following assessment and Members noted the clarification that was being sought in relation to a submission and the reasons for that clarification. The details of the submissions discussed will be included in a report to August SP&R Committee for Members approval.

Members also noted that officers have proactively been engaging with NICS departments to actively explore opportunities to lever additional funding into supporting this process. He advised that some additional funding had been secured from DfC the detail of which will also be included in the report to August SP&R Committee.

5. Local Development Plan

The Acting Planning Manager (Development Planning & Policy) provided an update on the review ongoing of the council's Local Development Plan in line with new policies and assessment criteria emerging.

Members noted that the Local Policies Plan introduces new assessment criteria for Houses in Multiple Occupation, which are expected to increase the planning requirements for developers seeking approval. In addition, draft guidance on Short-Term Lets has been agreed by the Planning Committee for public consultation and is scheduled to be launched in September 2026. An update on wastewater infrastructure phased approach and the engagement undertaken with statutory agencies was also noted.

An updated Local Development Plan timetable has been drafted and will be considered by the September Planning Committee. The Director of Planning and Building Control advised that Members could contact the team in advance of this meeting should they want to further discuss in order that the consultation process can move forward in September.

The Director also referred to correspondence from NI Water in relation to upcoming maintenance of Kinnegar Wastewater Treatment Works and the impact of this closure for future planning applications. The Director to circulate the map discussed to Members following the meeting.

6. Scottish Cities Alliance / Devolved Nations

The Director of City Regeneration & Development provided a briefing following Member and Officer attendance at a devolution-focused roundtable with city leaders from Scotland and Wales convened by the Scottish Cities Alliance. The purpose of which was to discuss evolving city-regional governance and devolution arrangements across the UK. Members noted the update and key next steps, the detail of which will be included in a report to August SP&R Committee. The Director also provided an update on the Belfast Regeneration Place Based Growth Proposition and the ongoing strategic engagement which is taking place with UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive including a forthcoming event in Westminster, the detail of which will also be included in the August SP&R Committee report. The Chief Executive said that further engagement would also take place with a view to maximising and consolidating investment at the city and city region level building on the progress made by the Belfast Region City Deal partnership to date.

7. Planning Update

The Director of Planning and Building Control updated the Forum on a number of planning matters which were currently live.

Members discussed the proposed communication process for updating Members and the Public in relation to planning enforcement. The Director also outlined the current number of enforcement cases pending and the measures that were being considered in order to address.

8. Illuminate Requests

The City Solicitor outlined for Members illuminate requests received. Members noted the following requests would be agreed under the City Solicitors delegated authority.

- **35th anniversary of the Independence Day of Ukraine** - 24 August 2026
- **Childhood Cancer Awareness** - 1 September 2026
- **Palliative Care Week 2026** - 6 September 2026
- **90th Anniversary of Nettlefield Primary** - 9 September 2026
- **Organ Donation Week** - 21 September 2026
- **National Day of Spain** - 12 October 2026
- **Black History Month** - 16 October 2026
- **Domestic Abuse Awareness Week 2026** - 19 October 2026

- **COVID-19 Day of Reflection** - 14 March 2027

There was no consensus on a further request outlined and therefore it was agreed it would be brought to August SP&R Committee for consideration.

9. AOB

SEUPB Funding

The Senior Programme Delivery Manager, Property and Projects briefed Members on an emerging issue in relation to SEUPB funding and the proposal to submit a bid for additional funding. Members raised a number of concerns in relation to the request being made by SEUPB, including the very imminent deadline for an application to be made. The Senior Programme Delivery Manager clarified that Council had no ability to impact the submission deadline nor the very restricted timescale in which the money could be spent, running to just 2 months in total. This significantly curtailed the selection of suitable projects. It was noted that the submission deadline fell in advance of August SP&R. The Senior Programme Delivery Manager agreed to follow up with the various organisations involved and that a report would be brought to August SP&R Committee. The point was made that, if no other options are available, it may be necessary for officers to make a submission in advance of committee subject to committee approval.

Belfast Child Strategy

It was noted that representatives from the Belfast Area Outcomes Group be invited to present on the Belfast Child Strategy at the September meeting.

Cathedral Quarter BID

The Chief Executive referred to correspondence received from the Cathedral Quarter BID Manager, following discussion the Head of Inclusive Growth & Anti-Poverty to follow up and an update brought back to PGL's in due course.

Abandoned E bikes

The Chief Executive advised that there had been a number of reports received during the week of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann about abandoned Hopp E bikes which are operated by a private operator. Members advised that this was an ongoing issue in the city and following

discussion it was noted that Officers further explore those issues raised and a report is brought back to the forum in due course.

Local Growth Fund

The Director of City Regeneration & Development provided a summary update on the Local Growth Fund, the ongoing engagement that has been taking place with government departments in relation to future years' allocations, emerging criteria and processes, as well as potential for in year spend and the challenging timeframes with this. Members noted the potential proposals being considered for in-year allocation from the Department for Communities, with a focus on regenerating and bringing vacant and underused assets back into use, It was noted that a report would be brought to the August SP&R Committee. In relation to queries raised by Members specifically in relation to artist studio spaces the Director provided clarity and agreed to bring a report back to a future meeting.

Frank Carson

The Chief Executive referred to correspondence received in relation to the city marking Frank Carson's 100th Birthday. It was agreed that the Chief Executive further explore.



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Christopher Burns, Interim Functions and Exhibition 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? <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%;">☐</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	☐
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 paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in

	respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 7 August 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is set out below.
3.2	Functions are invited for a range of purposes, including those: • which support other events in the city; are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast, • celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary by an organisation or body with close links to the city or Northern Ireland or those, • organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.
3.3	Functions that may not be allowed; • are those which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council, • or private events or functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Committee will recall that at its meeting on 23rd January 2026 it considered an update on the City Hall Income Generation Project and subsequently agreed the revision of criteria for the use of Belfast City Hall and the provision of room hire fees and additional charges / recharges for event services. The events listed in the schedule of Appendix 1 have been reviewed against this new criteria and room hire prices applied on this basis.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 7 August 2026.

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AUGUST 2026 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	CHARGES
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	12 October 2026	Launch of the Belfast Child Document – which outlines the design for a seamless developmental pathway for children in Belfast. Numbers attending - 250	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges
Ulster Baseball & Softball Club	17 October 2026	30th Anniversary End of Season Awards evening event with drinks reception, awards, speeches and dinner to celebrate the work of the club over last 30 years to promote the playing of baseball and softball locally. Numbers attending - 100	Yes	- NO ROOM HIRE - Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>
UNISON	13 November 2026	UNISON LGBT+ Conference Reception evening event with drinks reception and speeches. The event is attached to the national UNISON LGBT+ conference which will bring around 200 delegates to Belfast for a weekend conference in the ICC. Numbers attending – 200	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges
Newington Housing Association Ltd	16 November 2026	Newington HA 50th Anniversary Celebration - celebrating with the local community and voluntary sector 50 years since formation as a registered social housing provided in 1976 with dinner, speeches and entertainment. Numbers attending – 150	Yes	- NO ROOM HIRE - Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>
Conradh Na Gaeilge	20 November 2026	ELEN General Assembly Launch Event – is hosted by Conradh Na Gaeilge in Belfast bringing together delegates and language activist organizations from across Europe to discuss minoritised languages and language rights. Numbers attending – 100	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £450 - Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>

AUGUST 2026 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Consulate General of India, Belfast	16 January 2027	Republic of India (National Day) Celebration evening with cultural performances and dinner. The event will showcase India's rich heritage, culture and democratic values and would also reinforce Belfast's growing international partnerships, supporting good relations and cultural exchange Numbers attending - 300	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges
Northern Ireland Medico Legal Society	6 April 2027	Northern Ireland Medico Legal Society 50th Anniversary Dinner - established to foster collaboration, mutual understanding, and collegiality between the medical practitioners, barristers, solicitors and members of the judiciary the evening will consist of a drinks reception and dinner accompanied by speeches, historical talk and music. Numbers attending – 150	Yes	- NO ROOM HIRE - Any applicable additional charges
British Nuclear Medicine Society	18 May 2027	BNMS Annual Awards Dinner – Spring 2027 – Drinks reception followed by an awards ceremony an ending with dinner. Event to support conference activity in the city with 300-400 delegates. Numbers attending – 200	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>
Aflac Northern Ireland	25 November 2027	Aflac NI Con 27 - Internal employee conference for technology and cyber Security company with keynotes speeches, panel discussions, presentations and refreshments throughout. Numbers attending – 160	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges
Society for Endocrinology	7 March 2028	SfE BES 2028 Conference Dinner – UK and Irish Endocrine Society will hold their annual conference at the ICC. This evening event will include welcome drinks and dinner followed by speeches and entertainment. Numbers attending – 300	Yes	- ROOM HIRE OF £1250 - Any applicable additional charges <i>With 20% charity deduction applied to final total</i>



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds for two events in Autumn 2026
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Christopher Burns, Acting Functions and Exhibition Manager

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									
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After Committee Decision	☐								
After Council Decision	☐								
Sometime in the future	☐								
Never	☐								

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider two requests for the use of City Hall grounds

	• From Northern Ireland Housing Executive on 19th October 2026 to host Domestic Abuse Awareness Week Candlelit Vigil • From Belfast One BID on 30th – 31st October 2025 for Halloween themed animation
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: 1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on dates noted above. 2. Authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the requests set out below falls into this category.
3.2	<u>Key Issues</u> Two requests have been received for events in October to use City Hall Grounds and due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.
3.3	<u>Proposed event; Domestic Abuse Awareness Week – Candlelit Vigil</u> The purpose of the Vigil is to mark the launch of the 2nd Domestic Abuse Awareness Week of events in NI organised by the NIHE as part of the delivery of the NIHE Domestic Abuse Action Plan.
3.4	Last year the vigil was successfully delivered in Wallace Park in Lisburn with the Lisburn and Castlereagh Mayor in attendance and the support of LCCC. Speakers at the event included the CEO of MAP and a representative Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid. The plan this year is to host the vigil on the grounds of the Belfast City Hall and follow the same format of last year with speeches and support signposting. The event will be free and open to the public. There will be digital posters advertised and shared on social media and with key stakeholders.
3.5	<u>Proposed event; A Belfast One Halloween 30 – 31 October 2026</u> Belfast One held similar events in 2023, 2024 and 2025 and the events were successful with no incidents, hence Belfast One requesting a fourth event.

3.6	Aimed towards families celebrating Halloween, with a pumpkin patch on the west lawn with a few novelties throughout such as scarecrows. The event will be ticketed online and at the gate, allowing for restricted flow throughout the day to avoid overcrowding. Designed with a route through the patch with entrance and exit on opposite sides to stop congestion and limit lawn damage, with matts in place to help mitigate also. There will be some additional entertainment throughout the day such as characters animation. The event intends to support wider activity across the City Centre. Set-up will be facilitated from the afternoon of the 29 October 2026. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.7	There would be no costs for the council for both these requests as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds may be required for both events. There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	There are no direct good relations or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Request for Illumination of City Hall to mark International Safe Abortion Day 2026
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Christopher Burns, Interim Functions and Exhibition 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? <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	☐	After Council Decision	☐	Sometime in the future	☐	Never	☐
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 consider a request received from the National Women's Council of Ireland for illumination of City Hall in the colour green to mark International Safe Abortion Day, on the 28 September 2026.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: review the request in line with the illumination criteria and make a recommendation to approve or decline this request and rationale for decision.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall LED illumination system are managed by the Function Management team who review requests in line with criteria approved by members. <i>Criteria in Appendix One.</i>
3.2	Members from time to time as the criteria allows make specific requests to the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) who see if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request is facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, as in this case may be presented to Committee for a decision if time permits.
3.3	While all requests are assessed against the current criteria, it should be noted also that Members frequently do approve requests which fall outside the current agree criteria. Recent examples would include <i>World Refugee Day 2026, International Overdose Awareness Day 2026</i> and <i>Palliative Care Week 2026</i>.
3.4	This request has been received the National Women's Council of Ireland who in their request to Council noted that "<i>International Safe Abortion Day is a global day of action to demand access to safe and legal abortion care everywhere. The day highlights the public health importance of ensuring access to safe and legal abortion care for all those who need it.</i>" They asked if Elected Members would consider illuminating City Hall in green on 28 September, "<i>to mark progressive abortion law and policy across Europe and to stand with those across Europe who still experience harmful obstacles to abortion care. The colour of the campaign is green to call for safer and more accessible abortion.</i>" The request forms part of a wider, coordinated illumination and visibility effort taking place across European cities this year, building on similar actions in 2025.
3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Any costs incurred by delivery of an additional illuminate will be met from existing budgets.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None identified at this time.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Current Illumination governance

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Current City Hall Illuminate System - Governance Arrangements

The current governance scheme for the illumination system as approved by Committee in September 2016. Illumination will take place as follows

- a)** on the 10 agreed annual days, plus any council-run events, plus charities nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries.
- b)** where a charitable, community or other non profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary;
- c)** where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade;
- d)** where an event not organised by Belfast City Council but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- e)** no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted, and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component)
- f)** no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January
- g)** in other specific circumstances where approved by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

NB: in relation to requests falling under (b), (c) and (d) above the Committee has currently delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects (now Director of Legal and Civic Services) in these circumstances.

Internal member's requests

Members are reminded that where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (*e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc*) the request should be made to the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) who will see if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.

Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a '**once-in-three-years**' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly.

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