

# 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 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 14th January, 2025 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**
  - (a) Apologies
  - (b) Minutes
  - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Correspondence re: Knockbreda Road Pedestrian Crossing (Pages 1 - 4)**
3. **Committee/Strategic Issues**
  - (a) Biodiversity in Parks and Open Spaces - Notice of Motion Update (Pages 5 - 8)
  - (b) Reference Group on Older People - Minutes of 10th December (Pages 9 - 20)
  - (c) Request from Belfast Health Cities re: WHO Conference (Pages 21 - 22)
4. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Pages 23 - 28)
- (b) Forth Meadow Community Greenway - Opening Hours (Pages 29 - 46)
- (c) Requests for Events in Parks (Pages 47 - 54)
- (d) Proposals for Naming New Streets (Pages 55 - 56)
- (e) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 57 - 62)



<b>Subject:</b>	Correspondence re: Knockbreda Road Pedestrian Crossing
<b>Date:</b>	14th January, 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider correspondence received from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Knockbreda Road Pedestrian Crossing.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the receipt of the correspondence and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	At the meeting of the Committee on 6th August, at the request of Councillor Maghie, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) seeking an update as to when works would commence on the Knockbreda Road crossing. In addition, it was agreed

	<p>also that DfI would be requested if it could expedite any consultation process in respect of any further applications. A response (attached as Appendix 1) has been received from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendix – Document Attached</b>
	Correspondence from Private Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure.

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure  
**JOHN O'DOWD MLA**

Ms. Sara Steel  
Belfast City Council  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Private Office  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, James House  
2-4 Cromac Avenue  
BELFAST  
BT7 2JA  
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540  
Email: [Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Email: [sarasteele@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:sarasteele@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference: COR 1769-2024  
03 January 2024

Dear Ms. Steel

## **KNOCKBREDA ROAD – CONTROLLED CROSSING AT CHERRYVALE PLAYING FIELDS**

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2024, on behalf of the People and Communities Committee, seeking an update as to when the works would commence for the Knockbreda Road Pedestrian Crossing. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The siting of a crossing at this location, as requested by Belfast City Council to facilitate the opening of a rear access to the playing fields, has been problematic both in the location of the crossing and the significant effect it will have on residents adjacent to the site.

The original location for the proposed crossing, outside number 30, was subject to a safety audit. The safety audit found that moving the crossing east would provide increased road safety benefits by improving visibility from the west, whilst still providing a crossing on the desire line from Knock Eden Park (which is utilised as a rear entrance to Aquinas School).

A detailed design and a further safety audit of this alternative proposed crossing location, situated close to the Knock Eden Park junction, has now been completed. This assessment has confirmed that the alternative crossing at Knock Eden Park is considered appropriate and achievable for the provision of a controlled crossing.

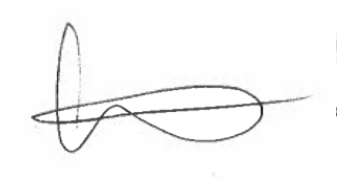
However, you may be aware this alternative location also has a significant effect on a number of residents in that they will no longer be able to park outside their houses due to the crossing itself and the associated zig zags road markings.

A request was made by Eastern Division officials for the Council to carry out further consultation with affected residents and this was initially refused by the Council. This response is disappointing given the aspiration of the council that a crossing would be provided and facility opening of a council facility.

I now believe that the Council has agreed to carry out a further consultation and officials are happy to contribute and input to this process.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right with a smaller loop underneath.

**EMMA STOCKMAN**

**Private Secretary to the Minister**



Subject:	Update on Local Biodiversity Action Plan Development
Date:	14th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard – Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer, Open Space & Streetscene Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, Open Spaces & Streetscene

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on the ongoing work to scope and develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), including an update on additional resources required to support development and ongoing delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and associated Belfast Implementation Plan (BIP).
1.2	This report should also be considered as an update on the Notice of motion put forward in February 2024 titled 'Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces'.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Background and Context</b>

3.1	<p>Members will be aware that since the development of the original Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) in 2007, there have been a number of policy and legislative changes including the introduction of a statutory biodiversity duty on the Council to further the conservation of biodiversity.</p>												
3.2	<p>At People and Communities Committee in November 2024, members were provided with a six-month update report on the 2024 – 25 committee plan. Within the report officers noted the delayed progress on the development of a Local Biodiversity Plan. Since then, officers have been working to progress work on this matter. These are detailed in the <b>table 1</b> below.</p>												
3.3	<p>Furthermore, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Councillor Brooks in February 2024:</p> <p><i>‘Officers are asked to submit a report outlining how the Council could commission a survey of parks and green spaces to create a list of priority habitats and species within them, this survey should be robust enough to inform future work of incorporating recommendations for new zoning of parks and introduction of appropriate management prescriptions into site management plans, to protect and enhance biodiversity in our parks and green spaces in accordance with the Lawton principles of "bigger, better and more joined up".</i></p> <p>This paper is to be considered by way of update to that Notice of Motion.</p>												
3.4	<p><b>Table 1: Biodiversity - Priority Forward Work Programme</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 1077 1465 1980"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="272 1077 608 1137">Item</th> <th data-bbox="608 1077 1034 1137">Purpose</th> <th data-bbox="1034 1077 1465 1137">Action(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1137 608 1429"><b>Recruitment of Biodiversity Officer</b></td> <td data-bbox="608 1137 1034 1429">To support the LBAP work programme delivery, recruitment of an additional officer recently agreed by Members is key. We anticipate recruiting to this post in early 2025.</td> <td data-bbox="1034 1137 1465 1429">Officers will continue to work closely with HR to ensure additional officer post can be advertised in January 2025, with recruitment to complete in March 2025.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1429 608 1861"><b>Development of Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast</b></td> <td data-bbox="608 1429 1034 1861">To deliver on statutory responsibilities aligned to biodiversity protection and enhancement.</td> <td data-bbox="1034 1429 1465 1861">Re-submit application to Council’s Climate Resilience Fund for consideration early 2025, should additional funds become available.  If unsuccessful, alternative options for one off pot of funding (circa £30k) to be explored to support development of LBAP</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1861 608 1980"><b>LBAP baseline preparation</b></td> <td data-bbox="608 1861 1034 1980">Establishment of up-to-date ecological data for all (89) BCC open space sites, for</td> <td data-bbox="1034 1861 1465 1980">To prepare a costed five-year delivery plan baselining and ecological study update and</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Purpose	Action(s)	<b>Recruitment of Biodiversity Officer</b>	To support the LBAP work programme delivery, recruitment of an additional officer recently agreed by Members is key. We anticipate recruiting to this post in early 2025.	Officers will continue to work closely with HR to ensure additional officer post can be advertised in January 2025, with recruitment to complete in March 2025.	<b>Development of Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Belfast</b>	To deliver on statutory responsibilities aligned to biodiversity protection and enhancement.	Re-submit application to Council’s Climate Resilience Fund for consideration early 2025, should additional funds become available.  If unsuccessful, alternative options for one off pot of funding (circa £30k) to be explored to support development of LBAP	<b>LBAP baseline preparation</b>	Establishment of up-to-date ecological data for all (89) BCC open space sites, for	To prepare a costed five-year delivery plan baselining and ecological study update and
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		prioritisation and delivery over a five-year period. Includes updating existing suite of ecological studies as well as development of new where required. Initial focus to be on Green Flag accredited and those where opening hour pilots are being considered.	review work. On completion of each study, site specific recommendations within reports to be considered within relevant management plans.				
	<b>Herbicide Reduction Policy</b>	Work to commence on developing the herbicide reduction policy to outline our commitment to reduce the use and reliance on herbicides across the council estate, in line with best practice regarding weed control and land management.	Progress once additional internal resourcing/support in place				
	<b>Resourcing - additional requirements</b>	It is recognised that current resources are insufficient to deliver. At this stage officers estimate that a one-off cost of £35k is now required to scope and develop the LBAP; with additional £50k per annum required to support development of associated baseline ecological studies in parallel, including delivery of site-specific actions identified within.	Preparation of growth proposal submission to support delivery of statutory biodiversity responsibilities including LBAP development and delivery.  Officer with explore requirement for funding development of associated Belfast Implementation Plan (BIP) once LBAP is in place				
3.5	<p><b>Ongoing Biodiversity Work Programme</b></p> <p>The work programme above is in addition to ongoing work strands delivered across OSS aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity across our estate. These are detailed in table two below.</p>						
3.6	<p><b>Table 2: Biodiversity – Ongoing Work Programme:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Outcome/ status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Climate Action Programme funded projects: Carbon</b></td> <td>Work on key Climate Action Programme funded biodiversity projects (Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Project	Outcome/ status	<b>Climate Action Programme funded projects: Carbon</b>	Work on key Climate Action Programme funded biodiversity projects (Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species
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	retention assessment at Cavehill & Species rich grassland pilots (phase one)	rich grassland pilot) successfully complete pending submission of close out reports.
	<b>Grassland Management</b>	Delivery of sixteen hectares of wildflower and species rich grassland habitat across Council sites in partnership with Bugslife through 'Belfast is Buzzing' project as well as associated management plans. Sites include Clement Wilson Park; Lagan Lands East; Belmont Park; Barnetts Demesne; Sharman Road Open Space; Lower Botanic Park (Upsurge site); Annadale Embankment; St James' Park, Orangefield Park; and Andersonstown Leisure Centre site.  Management workshop to identify potential further sites in advance of 2025 planting season scheduled.
	<b>Pollinator Awards</b>	Musgrave Park Pollinator Award and Falls Park Pollinator Award (Green Flag 2024) - recognising best practice support of pollinating insects through pollinator-friendly site management
	<b>Control of invasives</b>	Ongoing monitoring and management across Council Estate (NIEA requirement)
	<b>Strategic Partnerships</b>	Monitoring biodiversity outcomes delivered via partnership arrangements with Lagan Valley Regional Trust (for Lagan Valley Regional Park) and Belfast Hills Partnership (for Belfast Hills)
	<b>Capital Projects</b>	Ongoing provision of design advisory function for Council capital projects
3.7	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b> Officers estimate that an additional £50k per annum will be required to support delivery of the LBAP and BIP. Furthermore, officers estimate that an additional one-off cost of £35k will also be required to scope and develop the LBAP. None of these costs are included within the revenue estimates for 2025/26.	
3.8	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
	None.	



Subject:	OLDER PEOPLE'S REFERENCE GROUP
Date:	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Joanna Holland, Age Friendly Co-ordinator

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>After Committee Decision</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>After Council Decision</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Sometime in the future</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Never</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>		<b>After Committee Decision</b>		<b>After Council Decision</b>		<b>Sometime in the future</b>		<b>Never</b>	
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<b>After Council Decision</b>									
<b>Sometime in the future</b>									
<b>Never</b>									

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 10th December 2024.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2,1	Members are asked to note the contents of the paper.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.
3.2	The meeting was held on 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 in the City Hall. Members may wish to note the following update on the main items discussed.
3.3	<b>Age Friendly Belfast Update</b> The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.
3.4	<b><u>Update on Seasonal Planning Approach</u></b> The Age Friendly Coordinator and the Lead Officer - Community Provision provided an overview of the meetings which had been held in respect of the Council’s seasonal planning approach.
3.5	<b><u>Update on Warm and Well Project (National Energy Action NI)</u></b> Mr. H. McVeigh, NEA NI, had unfortunately been unable to attend the meeting at short notice but would be invited to attend the next meeting.
3.6	<b><u>Update on Advice Space Support &amp; Services</u></b> Mr. P. Colton, Service Manager at Advice Space (formerly known as Citizens Advice provided an overview of the range of services that Advice Space provide to older people.
3.7	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.

3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Older Person’s Reference Group 10.12.24

# Reference Group on Older People

Tuesday, 10th December, 2024

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REFERENCE GROUP ON OLDER PEOPLE

Members present: Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors McCabe and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. J. Holland, Age Friendly Coordinator;  
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer - Community Provision; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Committee Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Councillor Smyth,  
Seconded by Alderman Copeland and

Resolved – that Alderman Copeland be elected to serve as Chairperson of the Reference Group on Older People until the Annual meeting of Council in June 2025.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 19th March, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Update on Age Friendly Belfast Plan and other activities**

The Age Friendly Coordinator presented the undernoted report to the Working Group:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To update members on the Age Friendly Belfast plan and Age Friendly Belfast activities.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

2,1 Members are asked to note the updates provided on the Age Friendly Belfast Plan and activities.

3.0 **Main report**

3.1 **Key Issues**

**Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023 – 2027**

Members will recall that the plan focuses on the following key themes;

1. Infrastructure/getting out and about.
2. Social connections
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Financial security/cost of living

3.2 **Infrastructure**

**Age Friendly Design Principles**

The Age Friendly Coordinator in partnership with the Age Friendly Coordinator in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council arranged a webinar for Thursday 24th October from Dr Mark Hammond -to explore how the needs and aspirations of older people can be better addressed by architects, planners and developers creating new residential developments.

Forty-six people from a wide range of occupations attended the webinar and there was positive feedback.

The next steps are to identify through focus groups with older people some of the housing issues and then establish a housing subgroup. This piece of work is being done in collaboration with the Age Friendly Network NI.

3.3 **Social Connections /health and wellbeing**

**Connection Hub update**

The numbers of older people dropping in to the Grapevine session in 2 Royal Avenue continues to increase. The times have reduced by one hour, so now people can call in between 11am-1pm- this was done based on volunteer feedback. Responding to a request for some information about the BT digital Switchover due to concerns about the upcoming changes to landlines, Colin from Supporting Communities came along to answer queries and offer advice on 19th November.

The steering group of the Grapevine met on 21st November and have agreed that the remaining budget is used to provide activities within the drop-in times. Volunteers will ask participants about some of the activities they would like, and the Age Friendly Coordinator will organise these for the New Year. An evaluation of the project will take place in the New Year using case studies from participants and volunteers.

### **Health and well-being booklets**

Belfast Trust has recently updated the health and well-being booklets- which provide a fantastic resource to older people, carers and people working with older people. Copies will be put in members pigeonholes, please get in touch with the Age Friendly Coordinator if you would like more copies.

### **Isolation and Loneliness Training**

The Older, Active & Connected Programme Co-ordinator from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust organised more sessions of the isolation and loneliness sessions- these took place between October and November. More sessions are planned for Jan- March 2025. Four volunteers from the Grapevine connection hub participated in the training sessions during October.

### **Physical Activity kit bags for older People**

As part of the Active Ageing partnership there have been discussions with colleagues to establish suitable training for ACDO's and possibly CDO's in Community centres. This would ensure the delivery of a physical activity programme using the kit bags. The result being an enhanced level of physical activity for older people in a community setting and therefore reducing risks of falls.

### **Positive Ageing Month**

The 35-page Positive Ageing Month booklet highlighted more than 100 different activities on offer to older people across Belfast delivered by a range of partners. These were circulated via email through various distribution lists, as well as hard copies in different venues across Belfast.

### **Below is a summary of the BCC direct delivery during Positive Ageing Month**

#### **Tuesday 1st October bocchia taster session**

A bocchia taster session was facilitated by Sport changes Lives and ran alongside the Grapevine session. Ten participants attended, older men/women, and people with disabilities. Some observations from the session were that people who were quieter in the normal drop-in sessions became very animated during the bocchia session. The Heart Project were also in attendance to provide health checks and were able to offer referrals and advise people on follow up particularly in the case of high blood pressure readings.

#### **Friday 4th October Age Convention Event-**

70 people attended the age convention event, which was used to launch Positive Ageing Month and the new health and wellbeing booklet from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. From the evaluation forms 20 people had never attended the Age Convention Event before. Comments in forms included 'brings lots of strangers and pensioners together in a



friendly atmosphere' and 'it's great to see so many events for Age Positive Month'.

### Tuesday 8th October

Due to high demand two tea dances were organised a morning and afternoon session in Belfast Castle to coincide with their 90th celebrations. In total there were 110 people. Once the music started there was lots of dancing and feedback from talking to people included memories of family weddings in the castle,

### Tuesday 15th October flags to bags workshop

In conjunction with the BCC outreach waste education officer - participants were able to make bags from recycled advertising flags. Learning new skills whilst meeting new people.

### Two movie afternoons

(15th & 22nd Oct)

There were nearly 100 people at each film. The first film was Calamity Jane, and the other was Arsenic and Old Lace both shown in the in the City Hall. Feedback included 'bringing back memories of watching the film when younger with parents/ siblings' and there were requests to show more films.

One lady emailed us 'I'd like to say thank you for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment with Cary Grant in Arsenic and Old Lace several people told me they had never seen it before and enjoyed it immensely. I think you could rerun it in 2 years- I loved it'.

### Wednesday 16th October- walking tour of Friars Bush Graveyard

Inundated with requests for this, 27 people attended and will look at the possibility of doing another tour in the New Year.

### Tea dance

Age Friendly Christmas Tea dance took place on Tuesday 3rd December in 2 Royal Avenue. The tea dances attract great numbers and many people attending by themselves to enjoy the company.

### The Volunteer Celebration Event

Taking place on Tuesday 10th December 2024 4.30pm- 6.00pm. This year's event will showcase examples of volunteering across Belfast, but more importantly thank the amazing volunteers for their contribution to older people in Belfast!

### 2025 Age Friendly calendars

A box of these will be left in the Members room in case any constituents would like some. Deliveries will also be made to organisations who support older people and posted out to individuals. Feedback from

residents is that the calendars are a good size to be able to put in health appointments, so they aren't missed.

### 3.4 Financial Security/ cost of living

#### Winter Planning

The Seasonal Planning subgroup and Citywide Loneliness subgroups met in November to share information about the support for older people in terms of practical support for keeping warm, but also to ensure connection and well-being over the winter/ Christmas period.

An updated list of services of support, including opening hours available to older people over the Christmas period is currently being updated by organisations. Once completed this will be emailed to all members of the All-Party Reference Group on Older People for reference.

#### Winter Warm Packs

Volunteer Now, Engage with Age and North Belfast Seniors Forum have received winter warm packs via the Public Health Agency and will be distributing to older people based on need.

Belfast City Council have only a few winter warm packs at this point. If winter warmth packs are requested contact 08001422865 or email [handyman@brysonpathways.org](mailto:handyman@brysonpathways.org) and a home safety check will also be provided.

#### Fuel Stamps

Council co-ordinates and promotes these stamps. Information is on the Council website – Heating Your Home section. [Heating your home \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](http://belfastcity.gov.uk)

#### Affordable Warmth Scheme

This is overseen by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. It is an application-based scheme and people are assigned with a case officer to support with the application, if required. The advice line number for this scheme is: 0800 111 44 55.

#### Cost of Living Booklet

This will be distributed to organisations who support older people and the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum as well as advice providers and libraries. Further information will also be available here [Cost of living support \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](http://belfastcity.gov.uk)

Pat Colton from Advice Space joins the meeting today to provide an overview of advice services.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes."**

The Working Group noted the update and thanked the staff which had been involved.

### **Update on Seasonal Planning Approach**

The Age Friendly Coordinator and the Lead Officer - Community Provision provided the Working Group with an overview of the meetings which had been held in respect of the Council's seasonal planning approach.

The Members were reminded about the Winter Warm packs and the Affordable Warmth Scheme. The Lead Officer advised the Members that the Council had made £30,000 available through the Hardship Programme to supplement the PHA Winter Warm packs and that it was going through the procurement process.

The Working Group was reminded that there were key contacts and signposting to a range of services in the Cost of Living Guide which had been circulated to all Members.

It was agreed that leaflets with further details would be left in the Members' Room for those who wanted to distribute them to older people within their constituency.

Noted.

### **Update on Warm and Well Project (National Energy Action NI)**

The Working Group was advised that Mr. H. McVeigh, NEA NI, had unfortunately been unable to attend the meeting at short notice but that he would be invited to attend the next meeting.

### **Update on Advice Space Support & Services**

Mr. P. Colton, Service Manager at Advice Space (formerly known as Citizens Advice), was welcomed to the meeting. He provided the Working Group with an overview of the range of services that Advice Space provided. He highlighted that it provided free, impartial and confidential advice to all ages, on a wide variety of topics including housing and access to benefits. He outlined that their advice services were funded and used by a number of charities including Chest, Heart and Stroke, Cystic Fibrosis, the Cedar Foundation and Macmillan Cancer. The Members were advised that the service had received over 23,700 calls since January 2024.

He highlighted that 75% of their work was benefits-related and encouraged the Members to check whether their elderly constituents might be eligible for Attendance Allowance, which was a non-means tested benefit. He pointed out that, quite often, claiming

Attendance Allowance could lead to other benefits for which they were also eligible being highlighted, such as Pension Credit.

The Working Group thanked Mr. Colton for his detailed update and it was agreed that information regarding the Advice Space service would be made available in the Members' Room.

Noted.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 11th March 2025.

In terms of future agenda items, it was agreed that Mr. E. Quinn (Engage with Age) as well as the Commissioner for Older People NI be invited to attend a future meeting. It was noted that the current Commissioner would soon be leaving his post but that the new Commissioner, if in post, would be invited.

Chairperson



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<b>Subject:</b>	Invite to WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting 2025
<b>Date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

**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?**

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

**Call-in**

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

	The purpose of this report is to advise members of an invite from Belfast Healthy Cities for either the Chair or Vice Chair of People and Communities committee or a suitable nominee from the Committee to attend the 2025 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference 16-20 June 2025 in Bursa, Türkiye.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the invitation and advise whether Council will be represented at the conference and if so, by whom.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b> Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.
3.2	<b>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</b> Belfast Healthy Cities contacted Council on 18 December 2024 to invite representatives to the Annual WHO Business Meeting planned for June 2025.
3.3	Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region. Further detail on the meeting and a link to the full programme will be forwarded when available.
3.4	Public sector organisations should cover the costs of a member attending. One political representative from Belfast is asked to attend, relevant BHC staff and a BHC board member will also attend but they will cover those costs. Costs for attending the meeting in person will depend on the duration of stay however will cover return flights and accommodation and is likely to be in the region of £1,000.
3.5	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b> As public sector organisations cover the cost of political members attendance at WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Meetings, the cost for a political representative to attend will have to come from council budgets. It is anticipated that the costs of attendance will be in the region of £1,000 which Belfast City Council would have to come from existing budgets, although this cost is not within planned expenditure.
3.6	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b> None identified.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	N/A





<b>Subject:</b>	INTEGRATED ADVICE PARTNERSHIP FUND
<b>Date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The main purpose of this report is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise members on the outcome of a call for proposals to deliver activity that will meet the aims of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund.</li> <li>• To ask members to approve funding to Advice Space for the amount of £82,496.86</li> <li>• To ask members to consider options for the allocation of the remaining budget for the fund for delivery in 25/26 and select an agreed approach.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the contents of the report,</li> <li>• approve funding for the bid received from Advice Space</li> <li>• agree an option to allocate the remaining budget for the fund for delivery in 25/26.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>Members will recall that officers advised in November 24 of additional temporary funding from DfC through the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund for activity in 24/26. The objective of the fund is to 'Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach'.</p>
3.2	<p>Members agreed at November committee that that council should seek proposals from existing Lead partners within each advice consortia that will meet the aims of this Fund. The closing date for receipt of proposals through completion of relevant project documents was 11<sup>th</sup> December. By this date, one bid from Advice Space (formerly Citizens Advice), had been received. The proposed project will work on a citywide basis with a range of partners providing services in Belfast including; Trussell Trust, Extern, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, NI Chest Heart and Stroke, Cystic Fibrosis, Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, Positive Life, Age NI.</p>
3.3	<p>The proposal is citywide and includes promotion of debt advice services to new organisations who have Belfast based clients; building and agreeing new referral pathways with partner agencies and providing a FCA Regulated debt information and advice service.</p>
3.4	<p>Officers have assessed this proposal and recommend that it is awarded funding as it meets the aims of the fund and scored highly against each of the agreed success criteria. Advice Space have a debt advisor in post who can provide regulated debt advice.</p>
3.5	<p>Members may wish to note that Advice Space currently receives approximately 35% of generalist advice funding across the city as it is a member of all 5 consortia and delivers in each area of the city. The level of funding requested is £82,496.86, which is 33% of the overall funding of £248,253.48. Members are asked to approve that Advice Space are awarded £82,496.86.</p>

3.6	Officers met collectively with lead partners several times to provide detail on the purpose of the fund and answer any queries/provide guidance on the completion of the project document. Partners recognised that there would be both citywide and local delivery and all supported the project proposal from Advice Space.
3.7	<p>The lead partners who did not submit proposals provided the following feedback;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough time/capacity to engage with new partners to develop proposals for the deadline.</li> <li>• The project delivery timeframe of just over 12 months makes it challenging to recruiting new debt advice staff. Advice organisations have reported increasing difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff particularly because of the short term nature of projects</li> <li>• Rigorous monitoring requirements outlined by DfC were a factor in deciding not to submit bids for delivery in 24/25</li> <li>• Most were keen to submit bids for activity in 25/26 with a longer lead in time to develop proposals.</li> </ul>
3.8	Members will know that a key driver for seeking bids for delivery in 24/25 was a desire to provide support as early as possible and the activity outlined in the Advice Space bid will provide support across the city.
3.9	Given the feedback from Lead partners and based on an allocation for the requested funding to Advice Space, it is recommended that council seek further bids for the remaining budget of £165,756.62 for delivery in 25/26 that meet the aims of the Integrated Advice Fund.
3.10	It is suggested that bids should be submitted by mid February 25 so that they can be considered by March committee and approved by April council with release of funds in April 25. Officers will continue to engage with advice organisations to provide support in the submission of proposals.
3.11	Members are asked to consider the following two options for allocating the remaining budget.
3.12	<p><b>Option 1</b></p> <p>Use the agreed area allocation model for each consortia and agree in advance how much each area will be allocated. This is the approach that is used for generalist advice funding. Given the differing capacity within lead partners in each consortia, it is recommended that bids be invited from all members of consortia. This would be based on the requirement that either;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One application will be made for the entire area budget from one partner within the consortia, this must include letters of support from all members.</li> <li>2. Multiple applications can be made by different partners as long as they do not exceed the overall budget for that area and all applications must include letters of support from all members of the consortia.</li> </ol>

The available budget will be distributed using the following area allocation.

Area	% Allocation Model
Central	9%
East	14%
North	26%
South	15%
West	35%

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area allocation would ensure that there is a resource to support projects in each part of the city and build local partnerships to increase access to advice.</li> <li>The Advice Space project will target key cohorts of people and provides a citywide service.</li> <li>Any remaining unallocated budget can be offered on a pro rata area basis to other successful applicants.</li> <li>Applying limits to the value of bids from each consortia will ensure that council is not encouraging competition across consortia.</li> </ul>	<p>If bids of a sufficient quality are not received from each area for the allocated budget, there will unallocated funding left.</p>

3.13

**Option 2**

Applications can be made from all advice organisations within the 5 consortia and council would use a quality approach which awards funding to the strongest proposals. On this basis, officers would assess each bid and bring a report back to committee at which point allocations would be made based on the strongest proposals receiving funding first until the full budget has been allocated.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be an opportunity for all organisations with the ability to provide regulated debt advice to apply.</li> <li>Any remaining unallocated budget can be offered on a pro rata basis to other successful applicants.</li> </ul>	<p>If no applications are received from some areas there will be no provision in that locality.</p> <p>This approach would promote competition across consortia.</p> <p>There may be more duplication across projects using this approach.</p> <p>If bids of a sufficient quality are not received from each area for the allocated budget there will unallocated funding left.</p>

3.14

Given the nature of the activity that this fund supports, officers recommend that Members allocate using option 1.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

The administration of this fund will be carried out by existing staff, there is no financial impact for council as 100% funding is being provided by DfC. The allocation for Belfast is as listed below.

<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>	<b>Total</b>
£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48

DfC have advised that any underspends in 24/25 can be carried forward to 25/26. Members should note that this is temporary funding which ends in March 26. However, it must be allocated by March 2025.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

Belfast City Council will carry out a screening exercise for this programme based on the allocation approach selected.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	N/A

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Subject:	Update on two planned consultation exercises - Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours and Opening Hours Pilots (4 park sites)
Date:	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Resource, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on the agreed programmes for Forthmeadow Community Greenway's opening hours consultation exercise and Opening Hours Pilots consultation exercise for 4 Belfast Parks.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report. .
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will recall that at P& C Committee on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 [see Appendix 1] officer's advised of intention to progress a consultation exercise to obtain views on the opening hours of the Forth Meadow Greenway. Officers also advised that a separate consultation exercise on Opening Hour Pilots at 3 park sites (Ormeau Park, Falls Park, and Woodvale Park) would also take place. At that meeting Members requested that consideration be given to including Belmont Park in this exercise.

3.2	<p>This report sets out key dates for both these exercises, the first of which is commencing imminently. It is anticipated that an update on both consultations and associated recommendations will be brought back to Members at the start of the new financial year for consideration.</p> <p><u>Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation</u></p>								
3.3	<p>The key dates of this consultation exercise are set out below. Activities include an online survey (Yoursay) and drop-in information sessions which will be promoted via social media and posters in the local areas which will include QR codes linking to the survey. In parallel key community stakeholders will be encouraged to feed into the process and parallel engagement with PSNI will also take place.</p>								
3.4	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="272 555 1461 589"><b>Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation - Programme</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="272 589 738 622"><b>Method</b></th> <th data-bbox="738 589 1461 622"><b>Dates</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 622 738 689"><b>Online Survey</b></td> <td data-bbox="738 622 1461 689">Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February(4 weeks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 689 738 936"><b>3x Drop-in Information Sessions</b></td> <td data-bbox="738 689 1461 936"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highfield Community Centre Wednesday 22nd January (4-8pm)</li> <li>- Springfield Park Community Facility Thursday 23rd January (4-8pm)</li> <li>- Falls Park Bowling Pavilion - Thursday 30th January (4-8pm)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation - Programme</b>		<b>Method</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Online Survey</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February(4 weeks)	<b>3x Drop-in Information Sessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highfield Community Centre Wednesday 22nd January (4-8pm)</li> <li>- Springfield Park Community Facility Thursday 23rd January (4-8pm)</li> <li>- Falls Park Bowling Pavilion - Thursday 30th January (4-8pm)</li> </ul>
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3.5	<p>Both the online survey and information sessions will provide an opportunity to inform residents and users on the gates proposed for 24/7 opening in each section of the Greenway and capture their views - including any other suggestions relating to the opening hours of individual gates they have.</p>								
3.6	<p><u>Opening Hour Pilots - Background</u></p> <p>An Opening Hour Pilot initiative exploring extended 24-hour summer opening hours at 3 parks sites in the city (Ormeau Park, Falls Park and Woodvale Park) was initially agreed at in 2020 however was not delivered as planned due to the COVID pandemic and recovery period due to restrictions impacting officer's ability to carry out consultation at that time as well as internal resourcing pressures. <b>[see Appendix 2 &amp; 3]</b></p>								
3.7	<p><u>Opening Hour Pilots (Woodvale Park, Falls Park) Consultation</u></p> <p>The key dates of this consultation exercise are set out below. Activities include an online survey (Yoursay) and drop-in information sessions which will be promoted via social media and posters in the local areas which will include QR codes linking to the survey. In parallel key community stakeholders will be encouraged to feed into the process and parallel engagement with PSNI will also take place. Members should note that the opening hours consultation for Falls park will build upon the FMG consultation.</p>								
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ormeau Park Bowling Pavilion - Wednesday 26th February (4-8pm)</li> <li>- Drop in session for Belmont (Date TBC)</li> </ul>
3.9	<u>Ormeau Park &amp; Belmont Park</u>	
	<p>Although both Falls Park and Woodvale Park now benefit from sufficient lighting infrastructure on their path networks Ormeau Park &amp; Belmont park do not. Members are reminded that the installation of any new lighting infrastructure would require significant capital investment, and that any requests for lighting scheme that may emerge through programme of work must be directed through to Council's Capital Programme for progression through standard stages.</p>	
3.10		
	<p>Members will recall however, that a unique opportunity presents to consider synergies with the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) forthcoming delivery of a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the Lagan River over the next few years, connecting the adjacent river back to the city centre via the Gasworks, in tandem with other anticipated cycling network improvements.</p>	
3.11		
	<p>Despite the absence of lighting within Ormeau Park &amp; Belmont Park officers are confident that progressing this consultation will provide a valuable opportunity to gather community and stakeholder views on the potential introduction of park lighting and how it would be used; as well as initial views on potential gate/route options that could be lit and potential extension to opening hours. The outcome of the consultation will inform any capital scheme that may be considered for development in the future; along with ecological studies of the Parks.</p>	
3.12	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>	
	<p>There is currently no revenue for animation to support the introduction of extended opening hours of the Forthmeadow Community Greenway. Furthermore, it is not clear at this stage what the budget implications would be in relation to any future extended opening pilot however it is anticipated will come at additional cost to the Council. These costs are not currently in revenue or capital estimates. Following the consultation phase a report to Members will provide further information on this.</p>	
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u>	
	<p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>	
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 P&amp;C Report, Parks Opening Hours Pilot and Forthmeadow Community Greenway Consultation  <b>Appendix 2</b> - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 P&amp;C Committee report, 'Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces - Opening Hours Pilot'  <b>Appendix 3</b> - 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020 P&amp;C Committee report, 'Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces'</p>	

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Subject:	Opening Hours Pilot (three park sites) and Forth Meadow Greenway opening hours - proposed community consultation exercises
Date:	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Resource, Fleet and OSS
Contact Officer:	Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on a proposed community consultation on the opening hours pilot for Falls, Woodvale and Ormeau Parks, and on the future opening hours of Forth Meadow Greenway.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background</u> Access to open spaces provides multiple benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and is a vital component of creating sustainable and healthy communities. Belfast City Council has the responsibility of managing, maintaining and keeping these spaces safe for citizens, including managing access through gate locking to negate health and safety risks including ASB.

3.2	<p>As well as our own experience, research has shown that keeping parks open facilitates better use by communities and has the potential to reduce antisocial behaviour - for example with Connswater Community Greenway where the main 'spine' is lit and accessible 24/7. However, although some of our open-space sites are accessible at night, for the most part a 'dawn to dusk' opening hours pattern is followed with times changing as daylight lengthens or shortens.</p> <p><b><u>Committee Background</u></b></p>
3.3	<p>Following Notices of Motion relating to the provision of artificial lighting in parks and a request to review the hours that our parks are open to the public, Members will recall that People and Communities Committee agreed to recommendations of a report on Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces – Opening Hours Pilot at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 which referred to a pilot for 24 hour opening for Ormeau, Falls and Woodvale Parks over the summer months. This report is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Unfortunately the pilot was not delivered due to the COVID pandemic and the associated restrictions which impacted officers' ability to consult with local groups at that time.</p>
3.4	<p>A further report on Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces was considered by People and Communities Committee at its meeting 10 November 2020 (report attached at Appendix 2). Members noted the substantial financial implications associated with the installation of lighting in all parks, and the lack of funding to support such a request. They also noted the new lighting investment that had occurred at a number of our open spaces in recent years, and agreed that officers would recommence work on the Opening Hours Pilot.</p> <p><b><u>Current Status</u></b></p>
3.5	<p>Since 2020, lighting has been added along the main spines of a number of new and existing open spaces including Páirc Nua Chollan, Lower Shankill Park and Marrowbone Millennium Park. Along with Forth Meadow Greenway and the Connswater Greenway, the Council now provide over 22km of lit pathways. Further lighting improvements are planned as part of the redevelopment Ballysillan Playing Fields through the Urban Villages Programme.</p>
3.6	<p>One of the 'Opening Hour Pilot' sites, Falls Park, has recently benefited from new lighting as part of the 12km Forth Meadow Greenway (FMG) Peace IV funded scheme in north and west Belfast. Now that the final section of the scheme has completed the proposed consultation on FMG opening hours will be an opportunity to consider deviating from the existing 'dawn to dusk' opening hours for each of the park sites along the greenway and the connecting sections. Consultation is required to ensure that the benefits and other impacts on residents and users, are considered at a local level.</p>
3.7	<p>ASB in some parks across the city remains a concern with an ongoing Static Park Warden Pilot currently demonstrating some success at Pairc Nua Chollann, Dunville Park and Woodvale Park. Members will be aware of the recent agreement for its expansion into Falls Park to counter ongoing ASB problems on the site.</p>
3.8	<p>Given the Forth Meadow Greenway consultation will seek views on the opening times for Falls Park, it is now an opportune time to test the viability of extended opening hour options for the other two pilot sites at Ormeau and Woodvale. This will enable the collation for each of the site's residents, users and partners views, including concerns, and also to take on board learning from any Static Park Warden Pilots, diversionary programmes, and interagency operational interventions at these sites. The pilot approach at Ormeau Park</p>

3.9	<p>also provides an opportunity to further consider the development of lighting options. This also presents an opportunity for the Council to maximise the potential benefits from DfI's forthcoming delivery of a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the Lagan River, connecting the site and local area to the city centre via the Gasworks (2027).</p> <p><b><u>Next Steps – Consultation Timeframe and Methodology</u></b></p>
3.10	<p>It is proposed that a consultation and engagement plan for the Opening Hours Pilot will be developed over the summer and carried out in the autumn in parallel to the consultation and engagement exercise to consider opening hours of FMG (park sites and connections).</p>
3.11	<p>It is anticipated that a report detailing the outcome of both consultations will be brought back to People and Communities Committee for Members' consideration before the end of the year.</p>
3.12	<p>In line with what was agreed previously by Members for the 'Opening Hour Pilots' in addition to an online survey it is proposed that a series of local Information Sessions will take place to inform users and residents of the pilot proposals for each site with feedback captured on views and concerns of stakeholders. In addition to Members and Council's Legal Services, the PSNI and other partners will be consulted. A similar approach will be taken forward for Forth Meadow Greenway.</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>It is not clear at this stage what the budget implications would be in relation to any future extended opening pilots and changing the opening hours of the Forth Meadow Greenway. It is anticipated this will come at additional cost to the Council. These costs are not currently in revenue or capital estimates.</p> <p>Following the consultation phase a report will be brought to Members and this will provide further information on this.</p>
3.14	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - P&amp;C Committee report, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 'Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces - Opening Hours Pilot'.</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> - P&amp;C Committee report, 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020 'Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces'</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces 'Opening Hours Pilot'
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services  Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (South)

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Members will recall that in December 2019 the committee considered a report on 'Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces'. This report referred to the possibility amending the Opening and Closing Hours of Parks but highlighted the need for more work to be done to consider the feasibility of this approach. This report provides an update on work carried out to date and proposes a pilot scheme for the 24 hour opening of 3 further parks in the City, to improve accessibility and promote further animation.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of this report and, subject to consultation, agree to pilot the 24 hour opening of Ormeau Park, Falls Park and Woodvale Park for a trial period in the summer of 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Our green and blue infrastructure, including our Parks, affects the quality of life for everyone in our city. It helps to define a sense of place and the character of our communities; provides important spaces for recreation with associated health and wellbeing benefits and strengthens the resilience of our natural environment to change. Protecting these assets and enhancing the benefits that they provide is therefore integral to the future of Belfast.</p>
3.2	<p>This is a transformational time for our city, with the Belfast Agenda setting out shared commitments across public services to an ambitious vision to create a better quality of life for us all.</p>
3.3	<p>Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) will provide a road map on how the public want to use our Parks and Open spaces over the next 10 -15 years. A public consultation exercise on the strategy has just been completed. The strategy proposes a number of strategic principles (SPs), namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide welcoming shared spaces</li> <li>• Improve connectivity</li> <li>• Improve Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>• Support place-making and enhance the built environment</li> <li>• Increase resilience to climate change</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>• Be celebrated and support learning</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>Subject to Council agreeing the BOSS strategy, the next stage will see the development of an action plan outlining key activities under each of the 7 strategic principles.</p>



3.5	In an effort to test some ideas and, based on customer feedback and other project opportunities (i.e Peace IV Shared Spaces), it is proposed to 'pilot' 24 hour opening across 3 parks sites.
3.6	As part of this pilot the identified parks will be supported through an improved animation programme to support the promotion of these spaces and makes them more adaptive to the needs of city life.
3.7	Other cities, like Paris, have found that by keeping parks open they become better used by communities, which in turn brings spaces to life and has the potential to reduce anti-social behaviour.
3.8	<p>We currently lock our parks in order to negate the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety risks to the public</li> <li>• Issues that cannot be addressed in relation to anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Environmental restrictions</li> </ul>
3.9	The proposed pilot will run from the start of June to the start of September and during this time the identified Parks will remain open 24 hours a day. The pilot scheme will be subject to ongoing review and evaluation
3.10	It is proposed that information sessions will take place where users and residents will be informed of the pilot and these will be used to record and listen to any concerns raised. Members will receive feedback on this prior to the commencement of the pilot. The PSNI and the Council's legal Services department will also be consulted.
3.11	<p>If members are agreeable to this recommendation, both these parks will join a number of parks and gardens that are already open or partially accessible at night. These currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnetts Demesne</li> <li>• Lagan Meadows</li> <li>• Connswater Greenway</li> <li>• Belfast Castle/Cavehill country Park</li> <li>• Ligoniel Park</li> <li>• Clement Wilson Park</li> </ul>

3.12	Wedderburn park, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park and Mary Peters Track are examples of Parks that are partially closed in that the main gates are closed but pedestrian access available is still available to these areas.
3.13	Both the PSNI and our own Safer Neighbourhood Officers monitor these parks. The need for additional patrols in these parks will be considered a part of the consultation with PSNI.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.14	The costs of any of the improvements referred to in this report have not been included within existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.15	There are no known Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhoods Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbour Services Manager (South)

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Members will recall that in December 2019 this committee received an update report on a number of requests from Elected representatives for a range of improvements to our Parks and Open Spaces. This included a notice of motion relating to the provision of artificial lighting in Parks and a request to review the hours our Parks are open to the public.
1.2	In March 2020 members will also recall that this committee agreed to pilot the opening of 3 parks in the city for 24 hours from the start of July to the start of September. It was agreed that this was a pilot scheme would be subject to ongoing review and evaluation. It was also agreed that information sessions would take place where users and residents would be informed of the pilot and these will be used to record and listen to any concerns raised. It was agreed that members would receive feedback on this prior to the commencement of

	the pilot and both the PSNI and the Council legal Services department would also be consulted.
1.3	The 3 sites chosen for the pilot were Ormeau Park, Falls Park and Woodvale Park.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the substantial financial implications of installing lighting in all parks and note that there is no capital financing associated with this. Given this it is recommended that a feasibility study is undertaken into the lighting requirements for different parks (e.g. City Park, Neighbourhood park). Members are also asked to note that lighting has been installed at a number of parks over the past few years as part of a number of recent capital projects and it is further recommended that the learning from these projects is factored into the above feasibility.</li> <li>• Agree that officers recommence work on the Opening Hours Pilots previously agreed and bring a report detailing the outcome of the consultation and engagement to the March 2021 meeting of the People &amp; Communities Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	Our green and blue infrastructure including our Parks affects the quality of life for everyone in our city. It helps to define a sense of place and the character of our communities; provides important spaces for recreation with associated health and wellbeing benefits and strengthens the resilience of our natural environment to change. Protecting these assets and enhancing the benefits that they provide is therefore integral to the future of Belfast.
3.2	From the start of the Pandemic parks and greenspaces have played a major part in relation to meeting both physical and mental health needs, during times when access to the outdoors has been limited. Research has shown on numerous occasions that parks and green spaces provide multiple benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and are a vital component of creating sustainable and healthy communities.
3.3	This is a transformational time for our city, with the Belfast Agenda setting out shared commitments across public services to an ambitious vision to create a better quality of life for us all.
3.4	In order for our Parks and Open Spaces to work effectively they will need to be well designed, regularly maintained and appropriately funded. This needs to be recognized and

	used to help attract sustainable funding to ensure the benefits from any future improvements are fully realized.
3.5	The Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) sets the strategic spatial framework, vision and five strategic principles for the future delivery, management and enhancement of the whole green and blue infrastructure network; helping to meet the outcomes envisaged in the Belfast Agenda's vision. It is supported by a number of other strategies which focus on specific sub-sets of green and blue infrastructure, such as the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS).
3.6	Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) provides a road map on how the public want to use our Parks and Open spaces over the next 10 -15 years. An update Report on BOSS was brought to SP&R in March and under delegated authority the following recommendation was agreed. 'The Committee is asked to note the update on the draft BOSS consultation process and agree the proposed changes and actions set out at Appendix 1 and the production of the final Strategy document.' Officers will shortly be making the required amendments to the strategy document and this will be published.
3.7	Over the next 12 months, Officers from across City and Neighbourhood Services will work with colleagues across the Council to begin to develop action plans under each of the seven Strategic Principles and these will be brought to members for approval. Within the context of our transformational places approach future action planning will also seek to maximise public assets and funding by engaging and working with partners, such as DfI and DfC to identify other strategic opportunities like the Belfast Urban Greenway and the Bolder Vision for Belfast to identify funding opportunities and work up proposals.
	<b>Provision of Artificial Lighting to our Parks</b>
3.8	In the December 2019 report members were informed that we currently have approximately 300 km of road and pathways in our Parks and Open Spaces and pilot work was required to identify potential sites and work up proposals. This pilot would also need to consider the outcomes benefits and risks/issues etc. including any impact on crime and ASB, any impact on landscape character and wildlife habitats and ultimately costings in relation to purchasing and installing the equipment and any associated revenue and maintenance trail. Due to Covid this work has not been undertaken to date.

3.9	<p>Members are asked to note the substantial financial implications of installing lighting in all 300km of road/pathways in our parks. Members will also be aware of the current limitations of the capital financing budget and that there is no capital financing associated with this proposal. Given this it is recommended that a feasibility report is undertaken into the lighting requirements for the different types of parks within the Council's park portfolio as it will not be a 'one size fits all' model in terms of need (e.g. City Park, Neighbourhood park) . Officers from C&amp;NS will work with the Physical Programmes Department on working this up. This will then allow officers to develop up fully costed proposals. This will then be reported back to Committee once undertaken Members are also asked to note that lighting has been installed at a number of parks over the past few years as part of a number of recent capital projects (see Appendix 1) and it is further recommended that the learning from these projects is factored into the above feasibility. Officers will also collate information on those parks and spaces that have lighting in order to promote their possible use in the winter months.</p>
3.10	<p>Members are further asked to note that any proposals for lighting will be required to be recommended to the SP&amp;R Committee to be added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project and will therefore need to be considered in the context of the organisational financial position.</p>
	<p><b>Amending the Opening and Closing Hours of Parks</b></p>
3.11	<p>Due to Covid the 24 hour pilot for Ormeau, Woodvale and Falls Park did not take place. Officers were unable to carry out any consultation with local groups, seek the views of legal services and the PSNI and put together any animation programmes for the sites in question.</p>
3.12	<p>Members will also be aware that due to Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to close our Parks during the initial lock down period. At the start this presented few problems however as we began to emerge from lock down our Parks experienced increased Anti-Social Behaviour, vandalism and damage. A number of assaults also took place. Following complaints from the public and elected representatives we began locking our parks again. There is the added concern that should Parks remain open over the winter months the absence of lighting increases the possibility of accidents, additional crime and ASB.</p>

3.13	<p>Prior to amending the opening hours of our Parks further consideration of the risks is therefore required. The opening times for our Parks can be accessed via the following link <a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks/a-z">https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks/a-z</a>. The council has currently no capacity within the existing Open Space &amp; Street Scene service to staff Parks outside of these hours.</p>
3.14	<p>If members are content officers can re-start the pilot proposal and begin consultation with local groups, legal services and the PSNI. Officers could also start to look at animation proposals for these spaces. Officers will report on the outcome of this work to the March 2021 committee.</p>
<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>Artificial Lighting In parks</u></b></p>	
3.15	<p>Members will be aware of the current limitations of the capital financing budget and that there is no capital financing associated with this proposal, therefore any proposals for lighting will be required to be recommended to the SP&amp;R Committee to be added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project and will therefore need to be considered in the context of the organisational financial position.</p>
<p><b><u>Amending the Opening &amp; Closing Times of Parks</u></b></p>	
3.16	<p>The council has currently no capacity within the existing Open Space &amp; Street Scene budgets to amend the opening and closing times of parks outside of the current working times.</p>
<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>	
3.17	<p>There are no known Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix One: List of Parks with lighting as part of capital redevelopment schemes

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14 January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS

**Restricted Reports**

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

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

Insert number

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

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

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

**Call-in**

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardens</li> <li>• Belfast Marathon Half &amp; Full – Victoria Park, Ormeau Park &amp; Waterworks Park</li> <li>• St Patricks Day Festival – Cathedral Gardens</li> <li>• Wellfest – Boucher Road Playing fields</li> <li>• Bench to Beside Run – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• Circus Vegas – Boucher Road Playing Fields</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
2.2	Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager;
2.3	<p>Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' &amp; take down' periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ol>
2.4	The fee for the use of Boucher Road playing is detailed in the departmental pricing schedule and is subject to change as part of the annual pricing review.
2.5	Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardens</u></b></p> <p>Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with</p>

	<p>ArtsEkta, the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly adds to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The event requires the closure of all or substantial areas of the park at times to allow for the safe set up and de-rig. Advice from Corporate Health and Safety over the past few years has been to seek approval for temporary park closures during the build to be managed effectively between OSS and the event organisers. Where possible disruption to other park users will be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>3.3 The keys dates required are as follows:</p> <p>Site Build - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025  <b>Main Event - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>  De-Rig - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025</p> <p>3.4 In addition, since 2013 the Mela has been engaged with a highly successful strategic partnership with Belfast City Council in relation to enhancing cultural provision in council's parks and open spaces. With this strategic partnership there has been an annual funding award of £20,000 offered in support of the event in terms of promoting one of the city's key outdoor spaces – Botanic Gardens as an accessible, welcoming and shared space. The organisers have requested this financial support again this year which will be considered at SP&amp;R at a later date.</p> <p>3.5 In order to make future planning of this event easier the organisers have also requested that the Council give consideration to a multiple year approval for the event to take place in 2026 &amp; 2027 as well as next year. The indicative dates are:</p> <p>Belfast Mela 2026 – 23<sup>rd</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September  Belfast Mela 2027 – 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September</p> <p>3.6 <b><u>Belfast Marathon Half &amp; Full – Victoria Park, Ormeau Park &amp; Waterworks Park</u></b>  Council has received a request from Belfast City Marathon to use both Ormeau Park and the Waterworks to deliver the full marathon event in May and the use of both Ormeau Park and Victoria Park to support the delivery of the half Marathon event in September. The Belfast Marathon was awarded World Label status in 2024 making it the only full marathon on the Island of Ireland to be awarded this. The event organisers have recruited 15,000 volunteers to help officiate the marathons and in 2024 the full marathon generated over £12 million for the city and the half marathon generated £8 Million with around 70,000 spectators attending the event annually.</p> <p>3.7 The event has been shown live on BBC which allows the city to be showcased to a worldwide audience as it covers North, South, East &amp; West showing the diversity of the city.</p> <p>3.8 The full Marathon will take place on 04<sup>th</sup> May and will be celebrating its 43rd year of running in Belfast and will incorporate a 26.2 mile course that will cover all areas of the city. The route for this year's full Marathon will take participants through the Waterworks and once again the organisers have requested permission to have the finish line at Ormeau Park. In previous years this has included an entertainment zone in Ormeau Park to allow food trucks, sponsors and other activities to be placed on site for the participants and spectators to partake in the celebration with friends &amp; family completing the marathon. The key dates for the full marathon are:</p> <p>Set Up – Saturday 3 May 2025 – 9am  <b>Main Event – Sunday 4 May 2025 – 9am to 6pm</b>  De Rig – Monday 5 May 2025 – 6pm</p>
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3.9	<p>The Half Marathon will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025. The event organisers have requested permission for the race to begin in Ormeau Park with the route taking the race through Victoria Park and finishing again in Ormeau. Like the full marathon there will be an entertainment zone set up at the finish line in Ormeau Park. This will include sponsors stalls along with food traders. The key dates for the Half Marathon are:</p> <p>Set up – Saturday 20 September 2025 – 9am  <b>Main Event – Sunday 21 September 2025 – 9am to 6pm</b>  De Rig – Monday 22 September 2025 – 6pm</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>St Patricks Day Festival – Cathedral Gardens</u></b>  Belfast TradFest is delivering the St Patrick’s Day weekend musical showcase programme on behalf of Belfast City Council from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The main focus of activity will be the creation of a St Patrick’s Day village around the Cathedral Quarter between 2pm – 5pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
3.11	<p>The festival village will include a live outdoor music stage, family fun activities and a food village in Cathedral Gardens, an open-air acoustic music and dance stage in Saint Anne’s Square and an ongoing afternoon Céilí in the Mac.</p>
3.12	<p>The key dates required are as follows:</p> <p>Set Up – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 9am  <b>Main Event – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 2pm to 5pm</b>  De-Rig – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 9pm</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Wellfest – Boucher Road Playing fields</u></b>  Council has received a request from Wellfest to bring their Wellness event to Boucher Road playing fields in 2025. Wellfest is an alcohol-free festival that is designed to inspire those who attend to better their own health &amp; wellbeing. The event brings together leading names in health, fitness &amp; wellness to deliver live workouts, educational talks and create memories that will inspire those who attend for the long term. The event is a two-day event will open at 9am and close at 6.30pm.</p>
3.14	<p>There will be a charge for those who are attending the event with the price of tickets being set at the following:</p> <p>Weekend early bird - £68  Saturday/Sunday early bird - £47  Weekend final release - £75  Saturday/Sunday final release - £58</p>
3.15	<p>Each ticket purchased includes free entry for up to two children under the age of 12 as it is designed to be a family friendly event. Once a ticket is purchased it will allow the attendee to have access to all work shops and classes with the only additional costs being for food and drinks.</p>
3.16	<p>The event will have five different designated areas within the event space.</p> <p><b>Main Stage</b> – This stage is designed to allow the headliners for the event to deliver movement based classes to the attendees such as HITT workouts, high intensity cardio dancing, Yoga &amp; accessible low impact mobility classes.</p> <p><b>WellTalk</b> – This stage is designed to discuss topics such as the importance of gut &amp; skin health alongside mental wellbeing and infestation. Those who will be presenting at this are fully qualified to discuss the topic they are leading.</p>

	<p><b>WellYoga</b> – This area is mat based and sessions will be designed to bring the mind and body together through a series of movement and breathwork, allowing the attendees to have a feeling of balance and support.</p> <p><b>WellKids</b> – This is a warm space for those with children to relax and allow kids to take part in yoga and dance classes.</p> <p><b>WellVillage</b> – This is a market style trading zone for local business to showcase and trade their products.</p>
3.17	<p>The key dates are as follows:</p> <p>Set Up -Tuesday 20<sup>TH</sup> May 2025, - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  <b>Main Event – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May &amp; Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - 9.30am to 6pm</b>  De-Rig – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025</p>
3.18	<p>This is the first time this organiser has applied to Council to deliver an event at a Belfast Park location. The events team have received a portfolio of work from the organisers which includes the success of this event in Park Locations in Dublin. The portfolio of work can be found at Appendix 1.</p>
3.19	<p><b><u>Bench to Beside Run – Ormeau Park</u></b>  Council has received a request from Leukaemia &amp; Lymphoma NI to host a charity run at Ormeau Park on the 28 September 2025. The event is designed to raise money and awareness for the charity with researchers in the illness encouraged to wear lab coats and members of the public to wear Pyjamas to signify the bedside element of the event. The proposed route for the event will begin at the Cancer centre moving through Queens university and finishing by using the 5km park run route around Ormeau Park finishing at the bandstand.</p>
3.20	<p>The event organiser has requested permission to be allowed to collect charity donations in the park during the event and to place banners in the park highlighting the early symptoms of Leukaemia and Lymphoma to the public to help raise awareness. They have their own volunteers who will marshall the course to ensure that all participants follow the route. They also hope to have a small bed at the finish line for photo opportunities.</p>
3.21	<p>The group have highlighted that 100% of the proceeds will go to the charity and have provided us with their charity number.</p> <p>The key dates are as follows:</p> <p>Set Up – 10am Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025  <b>Main Event – 11am to 1pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>  De- Rig – 2pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025</p>
3.22	<p><b><u>Vegas Circus on Wheels – Boucher Playing Fields</u></b>  Council has received a request from Circus Vegas to host a circus big top experience at Boucher Road Playing Fields. This event visited Boucher Road for the first time back in 2023. The organisers produce a one-of-a-kind performance, featuring the most talented dare devil performers and extreme acts from across the globe, merging Las Vegas traditions and contemporary styles with extreme stunts and classic clown escapades, audiences will be amazed by the jam-packed production with show-stopping performances that will have you on the edge of your seat.</p>
3.23	<p>The organiser wishes to host the Circus at Boucher Road Playing Fields over the Easter period delivering two shows on each day for a total of 26 shows over 13 days. They expect to have around 500 attendees at each show.</p>

3.24	<p>The key dates for the event are as follows:</p> <p>Set Up - Sunday 06th April – Wednesday 09th April  <b>Main Event - Thursday 10th April – Sunday 27th April</b>  De-rig - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</p>
3.25	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 - WellFest portfolio of work



Subject:	Invite to WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting 2025
Date:	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

	The purpose of this report is to advise members of an invite from Belfast Healthy Cities for either the Chair or Vice Chair of People and Communities committee or a suitable nominee from the Committee to attend the 2025 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference 16-20 June 2025 in Bursa, Türkiye.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the invitation and advise whether Council will be represented at the conference and if so, by whom.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b> Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.
3.2	<b>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</b> Belfast Healthy Cities contacted Council on 18 December 2024 to invite representatives to the Annual WHO Business Meeting planned for June 2025.
3.3	Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region. Further detail on the meeting and a link to the full programme will be forwarded when available.
3.4	Public sector organisations should cover the costs of a member attending. One political representative from Belfast is asked to attend, relevant BHC staff and a BHC board member will also attend but they will cover those costs. Costs for attending the meeting in person will depend on the duration of stay however will cover return flights and accommodation and is likely to be in the region of £1,000.
3.5	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b> As public sector organisations cover the cost of political members attendance at WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Meetings, the cost for a political representative to attend will have to come from council budgets. It is anticipated that the costs of attendance will be in the region of £1,000 which Belfast City Council would have to come from existing budgets, although this cost is not within planned expenditure.
3.6	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b> None identified.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	N/A





<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for naming new streets
<b>Date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

**Restricted Reports**

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

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

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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?**

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

**Call-in**

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>									
1.1	To consider the application for the naming of two new streets in the city.									
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>									
2.1	Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of the application for naming two new streets in the city. The Committee may either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant the applications, or</li> <li>• Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.</li> </ul>									
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>									
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.									
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following application for naming two new streets in the city. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council's Streets Register and do not duplicate any existing approved street names in the city. <table border="1" data-bbox="333 965 1399 1173"> <thead> <tr> <th>Proposed Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Applicant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ben Madigan Wood</td> <td>Off 722 Antrim Road, BT36 area</td> <td>Alskea Ltd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Madigan Gardens</td> <td>Will be located off new street Ben Madigan Wood, BT36 area</td> <td>Alskea Ltd</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Ben Madigan Wood	Off 722 Antrim Road, BT36 area	Alskea Ltd	Ben Madigan Gardens	Will be located off new street Ben Madigan Wood, BT36 area	Alskea Ltd
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3.3	Alskea are developing lands to the rear of 722 Antrim Road, behind St Gerard's Church. Phase 1 of the development includes two new streets containing 37 properties.									
3.4	The developer has proposed Ben Madigan Wood as their first choice for the main spine road (15 properties in phase 1). This road is accessed directly from the Antrim Road. The second name choice for the new road is Ben Madigan Place. The third name choice for the new road is Ben Madigan Drive.									
3.5	For the second road (22 properties), located off the main spine road, the developer has proposed Ben Madigan Gardens as their first name choice. The second name choice for the new street is Ben Madigan Mews. The third name choice for the street is Ben Madigan Lane.									
3.6	Both streets are linked with the surrounding local Ben Madigan area and the site itself is set within woodland.									
3.7	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.									
3.8	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> There are no direct Equality implications.									
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>									
	None									



<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for dual language street signs
<b>Date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, ext. 2430
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

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

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**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

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

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																																														
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for thirteen existing streets within the city.																																														
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																																														
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Glengoland Avenue, Rathcool Street, Suffolk Drive, Lagmore Grove, Kenard Avenue, Upper Suffolk Road, Orchardville Gardens, North Circular Road, Palace Gardens, Cloona Park, Willowvale Gardens, Rossmore Park and Ardenlee Rise.																																														
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																																														
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>																																														
3.2	<p>Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.</p>																																														
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Willowvale Gardens, BT11 9JU	Gairdíní Ghleann na Sailí	Off Willowvale Avenue, BT11	146
Rossmore Park, BT7 3LB	Páirc Ros Mór	Off Rossmore Drive, BT7	43
Ardenlee Rise, BT6 8QD	Ard Ardán Liath	Off Ardenlee Green, BT6	22

3.3 The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.4 In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

3.5 Glengoland Avenue, BT17

- 69 occupiers (45.69%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 2 occupiers (1.32%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.
- 1 occupier (0.66%) had no preference either way.

3.6 Rathcool Street BT9

- 8 occupiers (25.80%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 2 occupiers (6.45%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.

3.7 Suffolk Drive, BT11

- 32 occupiers (55.17%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 1 Occupier (1.72%) had no preference either way.

3.8 Lagmore Grove, BT17

- 52 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3.9 Kenard Avenue, BT11

- 38 occupiers (35.84%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
- 1 Occupier (0.94%) had no preference either way.

3.10 Upper Suffolk Road, BT11

- 13 occupiers (22.80%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3.11	<p>Orchardville Gardens, BT10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73 occupiers (34.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 4 occupiers (1.86%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>• 3 occupiers (1.40%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.12	<p>North Circular Road, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 occupiers (39.08%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 17 occupiers (8.62%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>• 4 occupiers (2.03%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul> <p>One resident who is not in favour of the erection of second street name plates has stated that it is a mixed area and they are concerned that road signs in Irish may have many and varied connotations, contribute little to the appearance and upkeep of the road or more importantly to the wellbeing of the residents.</p>
3.13	<p>Palace Gardens, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 occupiers (61.29%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.14	<p>Cloona Park, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87 occupiers (38.32%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 5 Occupiers (2.20%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.15	<p>Willowvale Gardens, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 occupiers (41.78%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 Occupier (0.68%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.16	<p>Rossmore Park, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 occupiers (32.55%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 6 occupiers (13.95%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> </ul>
3.17	<p>Ardenlee Rise, BT6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 occupiers (22.72%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (9.09%) were not in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>• 5 Occupiers (22.72%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.18	<p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>

3.19	<p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £4530 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	None

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