

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

30th April 2025

## **MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on **Tuesday, 6th May, 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. Restricted**

- (a) Dog Warden Service - Verbal Update
- (b) Belfast City Tribunal Service (Pages 1 - 8)

#### **3. Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Committee Plan 2024/25 (end-of-year update) (Pages 9 - 28)
- (b) Committee Plan 2025/26 (Pages 29 - 50)

#### **4. Operational Issues**

- (a) Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) - Service Report 2024 (Pages 51 - 70)

- (b) Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) - Community Engagement and Underrepresented Target Groups (Pages 71 - 104)
  - (c) Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) - Annual Policy Alignment Statement (Pages 105 - 108)
  - (d) Girdwood Hub - Progress Update (Pages 109 - 112)
  - (e) Resources and Fleet Waste - Update (Pages 113 - 122)
  - (f) Port Health - Update (Pages 123 - 128)
  - (g) Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Pages 129 - 130)
  - (h) Play Service Rental Agreement (Pages 131 - 134)
  - (i) Request to Host Events in Parks and Open Spaces (Pages 135 - 138)
  - (j) Dual Language Street Sign Applications (Pages 139 - 142)
  - (k) Playground Improvement Programme 2025/26 (Pages 143 - 154)
5. **Item Raised in Advance (Councillor Lawlor) (Chairperson to Raise)**
- (a) Somme Memorial Service at Dundonald Cemetery - Apprentice Boys of Derry

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

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<b>Subject:</b>	People and Communities Committee Plan - End of Year Update
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance, and Improvement Manager Julie Larmour-Knight, Performance and Improvement Officer

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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**1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

1.1	This paper provides the end of year update on the key actions contained in the 2024-2025 People and Communities (P&C) Committee Plan, as agreed by the Committee in May 2024.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the content of the end of year progress report against the agreed actions within the 2024-2025 People and Communities Committee Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will recall that the 2024-2025 P&C Committee Plan was agreed at the Committee meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024.
3.2	At that time, it was proposed that the Committee would receive a six-month progress update report regarding the priorities. This report outlines the end of year position of the actions against the P&C plan for 2024/2025.
3.3	The plan was developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda and considering the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that were agreed in May.
3.4	<p>The structure of the plan is themed under the following, aligned to the Belfast Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our People and Communities</li> <li>• Our Place</li> <li>• Our Planet</li> <li>• Compassionate City</li> <li>• Improving our Services</li> <li>• Organisational Priorities.</li> </ul>
3.5	The Committee Plan demonstrates that the Department is continuing to focus on the delivery of business-as-usual services while progressing the change and improvement agenda in the CNS Departmental key priority areas (Open Spaces & Streetscene; Neighbourhood Services; City Services; and Resources & Fleet).
3.6	The Committee has received specific reports on a number of these priorities, and while it is likely that some of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver, the update table in Appendix 1 provides detail and commentary on the progress of all the actions.
3.7	40 actions were identified across the Department's three Directorates. Of these, 17 are noted as achieved (marked 'green'), 23 are considered partially achieved (marked 'amber'), citing several challenges and complexities impacting progress, these included resourcing challenges, external and internal factors. It is important to note that significant progress has been made to progress and explore viable options to fulfil these actions, commitment remains ongoing to achieve these actions. Please refer to attached table in Appendix 1 for detailed summary on each action.

	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024, for 2024-25 for the People and Communities Committee, of £105,332,936.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies and plans will be subject to the council's equality, good relations, and rural needs requirements.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – People & Communities Committee 2024-2025 End of year update report on key priorities.

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# People & Communities

Committee Plan 2024- 2025

Year end Update Report



**Belfast**  
City Council



## Introduction

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

Its specific functions include:

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

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021



## People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Ruth Brooks (Chairman)  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett (Deputy Chair)  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Collin



Councillor David Bell  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Titanic



Councillor Christina Black  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Christine Bower  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley  
**Party:** Sinn FeinParty  
**Ward:** Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Fred Cobain  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Castle



Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Deputy Chair)  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Black Mountain



Councillor Paul Doherty  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Black Mountain



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



Councillor Nicola Verner  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn  
**Party:** Green Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Botanic



Councillor Ian McLaughlin  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Hedley Abernethy  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Conor Maskey  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Castle

## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

### Build capacity within our communities

Senior responsible officer (SRO) Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Action	Expected end date	RAG status	End of Year progress update
Implement the recommendations of the review of Belfast City Council Funded advice services.	Ongoing	Achieved	Recommendations of the review of Belfast City Council funded advice has progressed and all outcomes have been achieved in Q4 by our partner organisations.
Develop and implement a Community Support Plan which outlines Council's agreed approach to Community support and Neighbourhood Integration and Community Planning Priorities	Ongoing	Achieved	Draft plan has been developed and was brought to committee in March 2025 for approval. Committee approved the draft plan and have agreed to move to the next stage of the process with full consultation due to be start I Q1.

### Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Delivery and administration of DFC social supermarkets fund to deliver food/ wrap around support in areas of need	June 2025	Achieved	Projects are continuing to deliver in line with funding agreements.
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### Increase opportunities for people to be physically active

SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Development of the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and action plan	June 2025	<b>Partially Achieved</b>	The final Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy has been drafted, and consultation has been completed. Further work required from consultation findings, action plans developed, costings and delivery framework to be completed. Intention is to table for committee consideration in May 2025.
Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan	March 2026	<b>Achieved</b>	Targets have been achieved for the 2024/25 year and extension has been agreed to complete year 10 of the project.
Development of Belfast Pitches Strategy and action plan	May 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Draft presented to relevant directors. Financial implications to be developed in line with capital funding requirements. Consultation timeline to be confirmed. Committee approval planned for May 2025.
Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	April 2025	<b>Achieved</b>	At the end of Quarter 4 figures highlight full achievement of the targets set for the year.
Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-monthly contract compliance and performance report, covering quarter 1 and quarter 2 2024/25, was presented to the People and Communities Committee in November 2024. The next 6 monthly report, covering quarter 3 and quarter 4 for 2024/25, will be presented to committee in April 2025.
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Scope a review of all Council managed allotment facilities and report back to People and Communities committee	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	Committee report presented 4th March with action plan to be implemented 25/26.
Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and undertake a review of selection criteria for	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	PIP 2023/24 now complete. New play value and accessibility audit adopted by Council Sept 2024. Sites selected under 24/25 are Grampian Avenue (nearly completion), Michelle Baird (onsite), & Balfour Avenue (commence April 25).

the capital programme. (Implement the programme of development of playgrounds across the city to further improve accessibility).			Design work, community engagement and equipment ordering under way.  £ Design work, community engagement and equipment ordering under way. Design work, community engagement and equipment ordering under way.
<b>Community Safety</b> SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Review of anti-social behaviour in Parks	June 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	There are several workshops taking place with officers across CNS to progress this work area. Engagement with staff teams underway. The timescales have been revised due to complex nature of work.

## OUR PLACE

<b>Heritage Tourism</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall	July 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Tender exercise completed, however no submissions received, options for next steps currently being assessed. A report will be brought back to SDMT for update.  Decision required on best way to progress project and deliver on meeting Heritage Fund targets.
<b>Off-street Car Parking</b>			

SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city	January 2026	<b>Partially achieved</b>	<p>Engagement ongoing with DfI and BCC Legal Services on progressing OSP Order. Consultation is required on the new Off Street Parking Order which will depend on DfI revoking their order via the NI assembly. A status update report was taken to SOLACE in December 2024. BCC ready to consult on draft order in early 2025.</p> <p>Off street parking are waiting on legal advice regarding the relevant legislation, until such advice is received council will be unable to progress with implementation of Off-street parking order.</p>
<b>Open Spaces</b>			
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	Continuing to work in partnership with Planning to secure and deliver Section 76 development contributions for open spaces.
<b>Reservoir Improvement Programme</b>			
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	Contract now in place for 1 year only, need to explore a longer contract through existing Frameworks. Continued engagement with P&P required.

# OUR PLANET

Transition to low carbon			
SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members	June 2026	Achieved	<p>The council’s 2024 Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) report has been reviewed and accepted by DAERA's Technical Assessors; the report has subsequently been published on the DAERA NI Air website via the following weblink: <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/reports/district-council-reports-1">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/reports/district-council-reports-1</a></p> <p>The 2024 USA report was presented to the People &amp; Communities Committee at its meeting of 10th September 2024 and the Committee was subsequently updated on 3rd December 2024 regarding the outcome of the technical appraisal process and concerning the technical assessor’s recommendations regarding the council’s Air Quality Management Areas. Work continues this year’s local air quality management programme; a 2025 Air Quality Progress Report will be prepared and presented to the People and Communities Committee prior to submission to DAERA by 30th June 2025. The Progress Report will include details of recent ambient air quality monitoring data for Belfast, an analysis of monitoring trends and an assessment of progress with actions detailed within the Belfast Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026, together with any ambient air quality conclusions and proposed actions.</p>
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Agree council approach to funding for a fleet replacement strategy	TBC	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Challenges around infrastructure further provision of electrical charging at Duncrue to be considered as part of medium-term financial plan.
Explore opportunities to fund the conversion of the fleet to alternative non fossil fuels (electric) in conjunction with the Director of Finance.	August 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Will be part of outcome of thematic session – to be raised at WPB – No progress since July 22 feedback.
Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery	June 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	All projects successfully complete. Business case for Beechvale Farm drafted, next steps being led by Estates.  Funding for further wetlands/grass restoration project agreed in June 2024.
Implement and deliver on the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations.	October 2033	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: - A tree establishment plan for tree planting opportunities (soft and hard landscapes) has been agreed at P&C in June 2024 and due to full council in July 2024. - In June 2024, we were awarded Tree Cities of the world status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold this status. - We have changed our health in condition tree inspection cycle from once 7 years to 3 years this will improve the health safety of our trees.  Additional monies secured in the estimates to treat the impact of Ash Die Back on trees across the city.

Undertake a review of the Belfast Tree Strategy after year 1 (Oct 2024) and then every 3 years after	October 2033	<b>Achieved</b>	Year 1 review now complete.
<b>Promote sustainable circular economy approaches</b>			
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	March 2027	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Phase 1 rolled out and operational and Phase 2 being planned for Q2/Q3 of 25/26.
Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	TBC	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Options paper presented to WPB. Tender awarded for inner city dry recycling & food waste (commenced 1/8/24).
Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	Jan 2026	<b>Partially Achieved</b>	Governance arrangements with Climate team are being finalised.
Consider findings of the report on Paint Re-use scheme and seek approval for full implementation.	December 2024	<b>Achieved</b>	Contract awarded and live.
Review of litter bin provision across the City including learning from trial city centre recycling project.	October 2024	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Condition survey for litter bins is currently ongoing and due for completion end of Q2 25/26. Smart bin and dog fouling pilots nearing completion. Further update to include outworkings of pilot and recommendations for future bin provision to be brought back to committee Spring 2025. Additional resources have been secured for additional bin provision across the city. Officers are working with PMU to try to work around challenges to bin installation. New systems project officer will help support the roll out of the bin survey. Recruitment of this post has been delayed to May 25.
<b>Climate Resilience</b>			
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			



Scope and develop a Local Biodiversity Action Plan	March 2026	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Additional Biodiversity resourcing secured including new post. This programme of work will be progressed by the new biodiversity resources.  Significant delays in recruitment have resulted in the extension of the timeline. Officer due to be in place May 2025.
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## COMPASSIONATE CITY

### Belfast Youth Council

SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Facilitate, an active and engaged Belfast City Youth Council who work with relevant fora and elected members to ensure that the needs of children and young people are reflected within the Belfast agenda and council priorities	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	All vacant positions for Belfast City Youth Council were filled in February 2025.  Members of the Belfast City Youth Council will meet with P & C committee in April 2025.
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### Good Relations Action Plan

SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services

Delivery of the Good Relations action plan to promote good relations to persons of different religious belief and political opinions or racial group and promote cultural	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	Delivery for this year was completed on 31 March with full delivery and spend. Full reports and outcome on the action plan to be presented on Q1 25/26.
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diversity and positive cultural expression for all cultural identities			
<b>Community Safety</b>			
SRO: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	The PCSP action plan have been fully delivered and the 2025/26 draft action plan of PCSP has been submitted to the joint committee for approval.
Facilitation of the multi-agency 5 (D) PCSP meeting to support decision making and discussion on the People and Community Safety Action plan and Policing plan	Ongoing	<b>Achieved</b>	Meetings are scheduled monthly across the 5 partnerships- reactive meetings held as required. In Q4 there were a number of public meetings as part of the action planning process for PSCP.

## IMPROVING OUR SERVICES

<b>Bereavement Services</b>			
SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Undertake a review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	March 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Renewed focus on this required and structural work in these areas of the service are linked to other key areas workstreams in the Bereavement Services business plan e.g. Memorial Safety programme. Work to be completed to deliver and implement service review of structural

			element. Various internal stakeholders working to resolve including CI, Legal and CHR.
<b>Port Health</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Undertake a service review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	June 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Baselining exercise to look at service review has been completed, and a range of short-term development actions have been identified. Challenges remain in identifying medium/longer term actions as this work is heavily dependent on the direction from UK Government, and particularly a long-term sustainable funding model.
<b>Houses in Multiple Occupancy</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Undertake a service review of HMO services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits	June 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	The service review of HMO services is ongoing, further work is required to complete the review and implement the agreed changes. As a result, the new timeline has been agreed to change to June 25. Internal audit by AGRS minor actions to be completed by March 25.

## ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES

<b>Bereavement Services</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
CNS to work with Physical Programs and Estates to support the identification,	TBC	<b>Partially achieved</b>	A burial provision board has been established with representation from P&P, Corporate Finance and CNS as client. The objective of this board is to track

acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.			progress, manage risks and ensure good governance. The burial provision board will meet bi- monthly. The first meeting was held in November 2024. A stock take of current burial provision has been completed and will be completed on annual basis and managed via the officer lead bereavement services board
CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building	January 2026	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Work ongoing on review of OBC and FBC. Awaiting an update on the financial business case (FBC) to help inform next steps for this project.
<b>Port Health</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2026	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Conversations remain active between key partners and stakeholders in advocating for and promoting the development of a long-term funding model. Again, this is influenced and shaped by UK Government direction and discussions with EU.
<b>Digital Development</b> SRO: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core areas of City & Neighbourhood Services.	January 2030	<b>Partially Achieved</b>	The Case Management Replacement Project is progressing well. The Project Team is focused on data cleansing and developing and writing the specification of requirements. Additionally, the team are involved in the current system (Authority Public Protection) upgrade aligned to the new Food Service Delivery Model and supporting with the introduction of various new pieces of legislative work.
SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			

Development and implementation of the in-cab technology to enhance operational performance and efficiency	August 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Contract awarded to Whitespace for the new In-Cab Technology, to balance and optimise routes in Waste Collection & OSS.
<b>Asset Management</b> SRO: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Develop a container policy for parks.	Sept 2025	<b>Partially achieved</b>	Performance and Improvement Team support in place; draft report completed by P&I to be presented to upcoming asset board in 25/26.  Scope of the report has been widened resulting in the extension of the timeline. This includes a parallel audit of containers now taking place.

### Contact us:

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**Belfast**  
City Council



Subject:	P&C Committee Plan 2025-2026
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director City Services, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance, and Improvement Manager Julie Larmour-Knight Performance, and Improvement Officer

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

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4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	This report provides a draft People & Communities Committee Plan summarising the Committee's key priorities for 2025-2026.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft People and Communities Committee Plan priorities for 2025-2026
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	The 2025-2026 draft P&C Committee Plan has been developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda and considering the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the new Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that have been agreed by the P&C Committee throughout 2024-2025 and are relevant to the Standing Orders. The draft plan sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee oversees to maximise the Council's contribution to the Belfast Agenda.
3.2	<p>The structure of the delivery plan is themed under the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our People and Communities</li> <li>• Our Place</li> <li>• Our Planet</li> <li>• Compassionate City</li> <li>• Improving Our Services</li> <li>• Organisational Priorities</li> </ul>
3.3	A series of priorities fall under each theme, each with several committed deliverables for 2025-2026.
3.4	<p>Members will recall that the People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety, and well-being at a local level.</li> <li>• Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.</li> <li>• Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.</li> <li>• Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities.</li> <li>• Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.</li> <li>• Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including Environmental Health Services; Cleansing; Waste Management; Parks and Leisure service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle), Neighbourhood and Development Services; Community Services, Community Safety and Emergency Planning.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p><b>Summary of Committee Plan Priorities</b></p> <p>The draft Committee Plan identifies the following key areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity within our communities</li> <li>• Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for people to be physically active</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Heritage Tourism</li> <li>• Off-Street Car Parking</li> <li>• Open Spaces &amp; Management of the Public Realm</li> <li>• Reservoir Improvement Programme</li> <li>• Playground Improvement Programme</li> <li>• Transition to low carbon</li> <li>• Promote sustainable circular economy approaches</li> <li>• Climate Resilience</li> <li>• Biodiversity &amp; Tree Management</li> <li>• Good Relations Action Plan</li> <li>• Bereavement Services</li> <li>• Port Health</li> <li>• House in Multiple Occupancy</li> <li>• Dog Warden Service</li> <li>• Digital Development</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>It is likely many of these areas of focus will take several years to deliver. The draft plan includes and outlines the key deliverables for 2025-2026 that we are working towards achieving.</p>
3.7	<p>It is proposed that Committee receive a six-monthly progress update regarding the priorities. This will be in addition to usual reports that will be brought to Committee regarding individual priorities &amp; deliverables.</p>
3.8	<p>The Departmental Plan on which the committee plan is based reflects that the department is continuing to focus on the delivery of business-as-usual services while progressing the change and improvement agenda.</p>

3.9	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>  The Committee Plan and annual programme of work aligns with the budget agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025, for 2025-2026 for the People and Communities Committee, of £109,423,272.
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>  There are no implications directly relating to this report however individual strategies, programmes and actions will be subject to the council's equality, good relations, and rural needs requirements.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 –Draft People and Communities Committee Plan 2025-2026





# People & Communities

Committee Plan 2025-2026



**Belfast**  
City Council



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# Introduction

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

Its specific functions include:

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

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

## People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Ruth Brooks (Chairman)  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett (Deputy Chair)  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Collin



Councillor David Bell  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Titanic



Councillor Christina Black  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Christine Bower  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Fred Cobain  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Castle



Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Deputy Chair)  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Black Mountain



Councillor Paul Doherty  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Black Mountain



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



Councillor Nicola Verner  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn  
**Party:** Green Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Botanic



Councillor Ian McLaughlin  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Hedley Abernethy  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Conor Maskey  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Castle

# Belfast City Council Priorities

## The Belfast Agenda

The Belfast Agenda is the city's community plan.

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

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

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

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

## Council Planning Framework

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

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

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

The People & Communities Committee Plan for 2025 - 2026, which is aligned to the Corporate Plan, outlines the key areas of work that this committee will be responsible for delivering. These are set out on the following pages.





# City and Neighbourhood Services

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

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

## Resources and Fleet

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

## Open Spaces and Streetscene (OSS)

Open Spaces and Streetscene is about clean and well-maintained public realm, open spaces, and streets. It's a new way to provide a consistent service across the city by integrating former parks and former street cleansing - sharing management, resources, equipment, and budgets.

## Community Provision (Neighbourhood Services)

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

## City Services

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



# Our People and Communities

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

<p><b>Build capacity within our communities.</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement the recommendations of the review of Belfast City Council Funded advice services.</li> <li>▪ Develop a new Community Support Plan for the period 2025-29 which set out the basis for how we provide support to local communities and residents across the city. This will include support to the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan Director City &amp;</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast.</li> <li>▪ Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.</li> </ul>

Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scope the recommended options from the review and agree an action plan for allotments</li> <li>▪ Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to ensure that we can continue to provide high quality playground facilities and equipment across the city.</li> </ul>

## Our Place

### What we will deliver in 2024/25

Heritage Tourism	In 2025/ 26 we will:
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall.</li> </ul>
Off-Street Car Parking	In 2025/ 26 we will:
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.</li> </ul>

<b>Open Spaces</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.</li></ul>
<b>Reservoir Improvement Programme</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).</li></ul>

# Our Planet

## What we will deliver in 2024/25

<p><b>Transition to low carbon</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Siobhan Toland Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.</li> <li>Develop the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.</li> <li>Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.</li> <li>Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery.</li> <li>Deliver the Belfast City Council's Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promote sustainable circular economy approaches</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.</li> <li>Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.</li> <li>Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.</li> <li>Complete a review of litter bin provision to ensure adequate resourcing and arrangements for waste disposal across the city.</li> </ul>

**Climate Resilience**

**In 2025/ 26 we will:**

**Senior Responsible Officer:**

Stephen Leonard  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems.
- Develop a Herbicide use policy for the Council

# Compassionate City

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

<b>Good Relations Action Plan</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> <b>Jim Girvan</b> Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to implement the Good Relations Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Safety</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> <b>Jim Girvan</b> Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.</li> <li>▪ Continue to facilitate the five multi-agency (D) PCSP's which work to make communities safer, making sure that the voices of local people are heard.</li> </ul>
<b>Ending Violence Against Women and Girls</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> <b>Jim Girvan</b> Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delivery of the ending violent against women and girls' initiative</li> </ul>

# Improving Our Services

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

### Bereavement Services

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

### Port Health

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

### Houses in Multiple Occupancy

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the HMO service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

<b>Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work effectively through with CI and CHR to progress the Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Warden</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officers:</b> Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the park warden service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Events and Outreach</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officers:</b> Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the parks, events and outreach service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>



# Organisational Priorities

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

<p><b>Bereavement Services</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Siobhan Toland Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CNS to work with Physical Programmes and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.</li> <li>▪ CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Port Health</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Siobhan Toland Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Development</b></p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Siobhan Toland Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</p> <p><b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan</p>	<p><b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress plans to replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core regulatory areas of City Services &amp; community safety within Neighbourhood Services.</li> <li>▪ Procure and implement a modern booking system for parks and community facilities subject to digital services work programme.</li> </ul>

Director City & Neighbourhood Services	
Asset Management	<div>In 2025/ 26 we will:</div> <div><div>Senior Responsible Officer:</div><div>Stephen Leonard Director City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</div><div><div>▪</div><div>Develop a container policy for parks.</div></div></div>

## Key Expenditure

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

Service	Net Expenditure 2025 - 26 (£)
City Services	£ 7,958,161
Neighbourhood Services	£ 29,467,816
Open Spaces and Street Scene	£ 27,722,717
Resources and Fleet	£ 36,799,346
Support Services	£ 7,475,232
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 109,423,272</b>

### Contact us:

City and Neighbourhood Services  
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**Belfast**  
City Council



Subject:	GLL Service Report for 2024
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paul McLoughlin, Partnership Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☒

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To present members with the annual GLL service report for 2024 as required within the terms of the leisure management contract and as previously reported through Active Belfast Limited.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are requested to consider:
2.1	The information provided below and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>

3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, GLL is required to provide an annual service report for the preceding year. This report is presented through the People and Communities committee.</p> <p>GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand.</p> <p>GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping to transform leisure facilities and services across the city. GLL seeks to deliver a successful social business focusing on customer needs. As a not-for-profit organisation, GLL reinvests back into the community by developing staff, investing in BCC centres, supporting young athletes and increasing participation across all user groups.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>The 'GLL in 2024' document, attached at Appendix 1, highlights our key successes and challenges in 2024 focusing on the six guiding values at the heart of our business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner of Choice</li> <li>• Respecting the Planet</li> <li>• The Better Way of Doing Business</li> <li>• More Than a Job</li> <li>• Customers and Communities at our Heart</li> <li>• Tackling Health Inequalities</li> </ul>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided above and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p> <p><u>None</u></p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 - GLL Service report for 2024



# LEISURE IN BELFAST



Belfast  
City Council

**GLL**  
better for everyone

**BETTER**

GLL operate Belfast City Council owned leisure centres under the Better Brand



# INTRODUCTION

GLL is a charitable social enterprise operating under the Better brand. We work to provide the best leisure services available. Our mission is to get more people, more active, more often, in our 17 leisure centres and gyms across Belfast.

GLL is proud to continue its work with Belfast City Council, helping transform leisure facilities across the city. To ensure our growth, we deliver a successful social business focusing on our customer's needs. As a Not-for-Profit organisation, we reinvest all our surplus back into the community by developing staff, investing in our centres, supporting young athletes and increasing junior and senior participation.

GLL manage 17 leisure facilities across Belfast.



This document highlights our key successes and challenges in 2024 focusing on the six guiding values that sit at the heart of our business.

- [Partner of Choice](#)
- [Respecting the Planet](#)
- [A Better way of doing Business](#)
- [More than a Job](#)
- [Customers and Communities at our Heart](#)
- [Tackling Health Inequalities](#)



## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE...

WAVE  
MACHINE

**6**  
GROUP CYCLE  
STUDIOS

INDOOR  
INFLATABLE

SOFT PLAY  
AREA

**11**  
SWIMMING  
POOLS

**3**  
HIGH SPEED  
WATERSLIDES

**41**  
BADMINTON  
COURTS

CLIMBING  
WALL

**5**  
STEAM  
ROOMS

LASER  
QUEST

**8**  
3G PITCHES

**4**  
CAFES

SURF  
SIMULATOR

OVER  
**1,000**  
GYM  
STATIONS

**4**  
AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
STANDARD TENNIS  
COURTS

CONFERENCE  
FACILITIES

**10**  
SAUNAS

WATER  
BASED  
INFLATABLE

**14**  
5-A-SIDE  
PITCHES

**18**  
GROUP EXERCISE STUDIOS

**1**  
7-A-SIDE PITCH

## PARTNER OF CHOICE

- GLL has completed 9 years in Belfast and continues to deliver an extensive leisure programme on behalf of Belfast City Council. In 2024 the £650k was spent on projects across the city such as gym and studio refurbishments which is another strong example of the strength of this partnership.
- Prepaid membership increased by 297 in 2024 which represents a 1.3% improvement as prepaid membership broke beyond 23,500 for the first time in Belfast.
- Over 2,983 customers participated in our annual user survey which was up by 24.3% from the previous year. Belfast recorded 4.1 satisfaction rate out of 5, which we will continue to work to increase. Net Promoter Score was 34.8% in 2024 compared to 33.8% in 2023.
- 14 centres achieved Quest – The UK Quality Accreditation for Sport and Leisure and is a tool to help us offer 5-star service every time.
- Increased professional profile through memberships and award applications of business networks including Social Enterprise NI, Women in Business, NI Chamber of Commerce, Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Chief Executive Officers of the Third Sector.
- GLL support the Belfast Giants in providing training spaces for their athletes. In return we can reward our staff with tickets for matches as well as have the opportunity to raise the profile of our centre and activate memberships via Giants fans on match nights.
- Templemore Baths hosted a range of conference and launch events. It now competes with established and versatile venues across the region.
- Top Team Lifeguard competition was hosted at Grove Wellbeing Centre.

**4.1**  
SATISFACATION  
RATE

**1.3%**  
IMPROVEMENT  
IN PREPAID  
MEMBERSHIPS

**14**  
CENTRES  
ACHIEVED  
QUEST

**TEMPLEMORE**  
HOSTED A  
NUMBER OF  
LARGE-SCALE  
CONFERENCES  
IN 2024

## RESPECTING THE PLANET

- The Partnership reduced energy consumption by a further 1% 2023 > 2024 through focused energy management plans and investment in energy efficient technology
- The partnership completed LED lighting conversion at Falls, Shankill and Ozone which makes the city fully LED across the 16 sites. These energy investments are anticipated to reduce GLLs carbon emissions by 69 tons of CO2 per year.
- Further EV car charging points have been installed at Whiterock Leisure Centre.
- GLL have signed up to and gained member status to Belfast Business Promise. GLL are committed to deliver on pledge 3 of the promise; Protect our environment by working together to tackle the global challenge of climate change and protect our environment for future generations. GLL have signed up to the climate essentials platform to assist with lowering carbon emissions and develop a roadmap to net zero.
- The Belfast Partnership will continue to sit on the Belfast City Councils Climate projects team in 2025 along with other key stake holder, identifying co-operative projects for reducing carbon emissions and creating a greener Belfast.



Members at Girdwood enjoying a fitness class at the Summer Open Weekend



Group Exercise Studio refresh project completed in Grove Wellbeing Centre



Time for recovery in the cold-water plunge at Olympia Spa



400 Belfast staff attended the Annual Communications Day at the Europa Hotel



Crowd enjoying the GSF Awards Event at Belfast City Hall



Junior participant plays dodgeball at the Summer Celebration of Sport event

## A BETTER WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

- Our continued social impact is only possible through sound business practice. We grew our memberships and usage while continuing to offer a variety of concessionary options for everyone.
- £2m of internal reinvestment projects have been delivered to date across the partnership since 2015.
- £650K comprehensive small project schedule was delivered in 2024 including reception remodels, gym and studio upgrades, spa upgrades and R&M projects. Please see some highlighted below:
  - £150K investment in LED lighting at Falls, Shankill and Ozone
  - £74K Spa Experience upgrades at Olympia Leisure Centre
  - £70K gym refurbishment at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre
  - £80K gym refurbishment at Falls Leisure Centre
  - £41K investment in studio refurbishment at Whiterock Leisure Centre
  - £30K investment in adding a Hyrox training area at Better Gym Belfast
  - £40K of gym upgrades at Andersonstown Leisure Centre
  - £14K reception area upgrades at Grove Wellbeing Centre
  - £60K on repair and maintenance projects across the city
- Digital innovation helped attract new customers and compete with other operators in leisure with over 95% of bookings being made online and the same joining online.
- Over 60,000 people engaged with the Better brand across social media sites such as X, Facebook and Instagram. Average daily reach exceeded 10,200 and in total over 125,000 video views were achieved on Facebook.





Staff at Templemore Baths celebrate one year of opening



ukactive visit Belfast to learn about the various Health & Fitness initiatives in the city



140 Athletes celebrate their GLL Sport Foundation Award at City Hall



Aquatics for Health launched across the city in 2024



50 stakeholders attended the Tackling Health Inequalities event at Templemore



Community Sport Student Placements organise a Pickleball Tournament at Shankill

## MORE THAN A JOB

- We employ over 1,000 staff with over 80% living in the Belfast area. We have worked to create an environment where our staff understand the importance of our social enterprise message.
- GLL is an accredited Investors in People Gold organisation and one of only 132 companies in Northern Ireland to implement the Real Living Wage.
- We continue to invest in our staff with a comprehensive internal and external training and development programme delivering various courses from National Pool Lifeguarding, Pool Plant Operator and Swimming Teaching Qualifications and an array of online training courses.
- A coaching and mentoring programme was created to support teamwork and motivation among staff across the city.
- We recruited 84 Children's Activity staff to deliver Holiday Schemes at 12 centres.
- Our 2-year Trainee Manager Development Programme is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, with 4 new recruits joining us each year to gain experience across all areas of the business.
- We recruited 3 student coach placements to work within our Community Sport team, delivering a variety of young and senior sport and physical activity programmes.
- Absentee rates remained a focal point and whilst sitting slightly above the Company average, we are actively working with management teams to reduce high sickness levels.
- We made improvements to our self-service Human Resources management and payroll system continuing to give staff more control and access to their personal information.
- Staff to income ratio slightly increased from 87.4% in 2023 to 88.0% in 2024, with an ongoing focus on the management of absence levels.
- We have been shortlisted in various awards in 2024. We were recognised as the Social Enterprise of the Year in the Belfast Business Awards and Templemore Baths was highly commended in the New Build of the Year category in the ukactive Awards.
- The importance of providing fully qualified staff was again championed at the Top Team Lifeguard event with participation from 48 staff from Belfast centres and observers from other Northern Ireland Local Authorities.
- We recognised the contribution of our teams at the GLL Communications Day with over 190 nominations for local staff awards. Held in the Europa Hotel this year we had a record 400 in attendance.





Templemore Baths host the launch of the Eastside Awards



Customer enjoying the Spa Experience at Olympia Leisure Centre



Clubs Games participants play a game of Table Tennis at Girdwood



Hyrox Training Club installed at Better Gym Belfast



The 'Dug Out' Coffee Hut opens at Avoniel



Flying high at the Gymnastics Showcase Event at Lisnasharragh



## CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES AT OUR HEART

- We continued to offer our services to all user groups and actively promoted people getting involved in physical activity.
- Putting the customer at the heart of our business helped us increase our memberships to 39,209.
- Spa Experience, our award-winning day spa is accessible and affordable for the whole community. It received a refresh in 2024 with the inclusion of a Pedi Spa and cold-water plunge tank.
- Our GLL Sports Foundation supported 140 local athletes with over £88,400 bursaries, injury rehabilitation, education assistance and free memberships to all 17 centres.
- Over 6,000 children take part in swimming lessons every week learning a key life skill. This represents a 16% increase from the previous year.
- 3,111 children from across the city enjoyed our Holiday Schemes, taking part in activities such as football, swimming, dodge ball, tennis, basketball, pickleball and arts and crafts.
- The Club Games saw over 70 participants from 6 teams of over 55s competing in a range of sports and activities including pickleball, table tennis, badminton, bowls, boccia and a collection of physical challenges.
- ukactive visited Belfast in October to understand more about programmes that are ensuring more people are more active in Belfast and how we are tackling health inequalities across the city. GLL also facilitated an engagement event with 16 Sporting National Governing Bodies and organisations at Templemore Baths.
- Over 18,500 people participated in Pickleball activities throughout the year. Over 80% of these participants were ages 50 and over.



Belfast Giants take part in a sports day themed team building day



Community Sport & Health team provide smoothies for participants of the Belfast Half Marathon



Inclusive climbing summer programme at Ozone



Combined team of Shankill and Ballysillan winning the 2024 Top Team Event



Active Reality comes to Shankill Leisure Centre



The Minor Pool Hall at Templemore hosted numerous events in 2024

## TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- Our 12-week Healthwise exercise referral programme helped 1,266 people referred through their GP or other NHS services to increase physical activity and rehabilitate from cardiac, cancer, obesity and other health related issues.
- 932 came through the Physical Activity Referral Scheme and 334 through the Chronic Conditions pathways.
- We deliver several active aging mornings across the city which include activities such as danderball, pickleball, table tennis, boccia and water polo.
- Concessionary membership options across all centres offered more affordable access to leisure for all sectors of the community.
- GLL welcomed 50 stakeholders to Templemore Baths to attend our first Tackling Health Inequalities event. The event was designed to bring key stakeholders together to discuss the pivot to health within the leisure sector and further highlight how community initiatives can play an important role in tackling the health inequalities within society.
- Belvoir Activity Centre serves as a disability sports hub in partnership with Belfast City Council and Disability Sports NI.
- We partner with Autism Swimming organisation Swimming Buddies to deliver autism specific swimming lessons at Brook Leisure Centre and Templemore Baths.
- We offer an inclusive UK wide membership for people with a disability. This offers access to gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes at a discounted rate. Currently over 300 people in Belfast access this membership option.
- GLL grant free of charge admission to centres for all carers when accompanying the person in their care.
- We operate a JAM card scheme which allows people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way.
- All new LTP leisure facilities are equipped with Changing Places facilities. These accessible toilet and showering facilities were created to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who require appropriate equipment and more space.

- Currently 8 pools across the city provide Pool pods. These pool platform lifts are transforming pool access and are used by wheelchair users and other customers with mobility issues to access the water.
- In partnership with Belfast City Council, we offer a digital sign language service 'Sign Video' via our concierge teams that assists customers who are deaf to communicate effectively with staff members.





Child in Need Swimming Challenge filmed at  
Templemore Baths



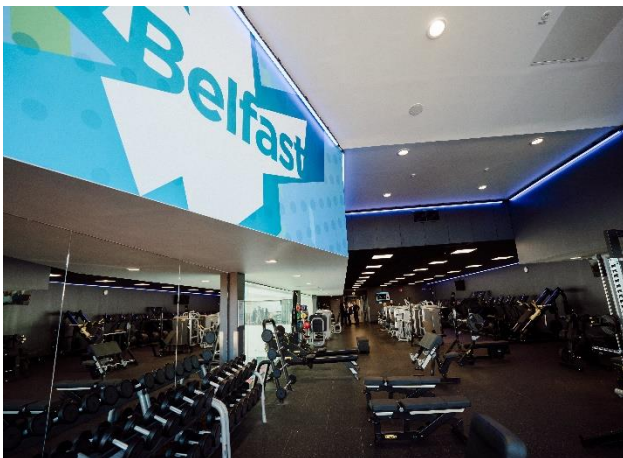
Gym refresh project completed at  
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre



Members of the Avoniel/Templemore  
Summer Scheme



Athletes celebrate their success at the GLL  
Sports Foundation Awards



Gym refurbishments at  
Falls Leisure Centre



Junior Gymnast celebrates completing her  
'Discover' level in Rise Gymnastics

## LOOKING FORWARD IN 2025

- **Partner of Choice** – What truly sets us apart is the strength of our relationships. We bring both the capability and commitment to support the wider objectives of our partners. As we continue our work, we remain dedicated to advancing not only the Belfast Agenda but also the many health and wellbeing strategies for both the city and Northern Ireland. Looking ahead to 2025, we are eager to seize new opportunities to grow and enrich our partnerships further.
- **Respecting the Planet** – We are dedicated to minimizing our environmental impact through practical actions, such as reducing waste, transitioning to a complete LED lighting solution, and collaborating with partners to identify more efficient heating solutions for our facilities. Working hand in hand with Belfast City Council, we will pursue joint initiatives to achieve these shared sustainability goals.
- **A Better way of doing Business** – We remain committed to operating high-quality facilities that integrate technology and adapt to the evolving needs of our customers. Beyond the Leisure Transformation Programme, we will continue investing in centres to ensure they meet the needs of local communities. Additionally, we will offer a diverse range of membership options and programmes, making physical activity accessible to everyone in our community.
- **More than a Job** – We are dedicated to ensuring our staff are well-trained, customer-focused, and continually growing in their professional journeys. We will continue to provide exciting development pathways within the company, empowering our employees to build rewarding careers. As we expand our services in 2025, we are committed to growing our team and enhancing our expertise to meet the evolving needs of our community.
- **Customers and Communities at our Heart** – We remain committed to providing clean, welcoming, and modern facilities that leverage technology and innovation for the benefit of our customers. Our group exercise programme will continue to grow, offering an expanded range of activities to cater to everyone, from juniors to senior participants. We are committed to providing more opportunities for people with disabilities to access and benefit from leisure services, ensuring inclusivity remains a key element of what we do. The GLL Sports Foundation continues to thrive, with plans to support over 145 local athletes. Additionally, we will focus on holiday schemes aimed at encouraging children, including those with disabilities, to explore new sports and activities, helping everyone discover the joy of movement.

- **Tackling Health Inequalities** – Our commitment remains steadfast in encouraging the less active members of our community to participate in physical activity. We will focus our initiatives on engaging juniors, over-55s, women, and people with disabilities. Our health programmes will continue to expand as we explore opportunities within musculoskeletal (MSK) care, diabetes management, neurological conditions, and weight management initiatives. In collaboration with Belfast City Council’s Disability Advisory Panel, we aim to challenge and enhance the accessibility of our facilities and programmes. To support these efforts, we will invest in extensive staff training on disability inclusion, ensuring that our team is equipped to deliver a truly inclusive experience for all.



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Subject:	GLL community engagement and underrepresented target groups update
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paul McLoughlin, Partnership Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To provide members with the annual update for 2024 on community engagement and underrepresented group focused promotional activity.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are requested:  To consider and record receipt of the information provide below and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>

3.1	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between Belfast City Council (BCC) and GLL, the organisation is required to submit an annual report detailing community engagement initiatives from the previous year. These annual service reports are presented to the People and Communities Committee.</p> <p>As a leading social enterprise, GLL prioritises ensuring full access for all members of the community, with the goal of encouraging more people to become more active, more often. CNS works in collaboration with GLL to promote community outreach and increase regular participation among traditionally underrepresented groups.</p> <p>GLL employs a Regional Business Manager (RBM) whose primary focus is to drive participation and facility usage. The RBM ensures that individuals from all backgrounds are actively engaged in sports and physical activity.</p> <p>To support this mission, the RBM oversees a team comprising three Community Sport Officers and ten Health Officers. Each team member follows a work programme aligned with strategic objectives, aiming to boost participation among both mainstream and underrepresented groups.</p> <p>GLL remains committed to fostering community access by offering a range of opportunities within centres that are accessible, affordable, and welcoming.</p> <p>Additionally, GLL reinvests in talent development through the GLL Sport Foundation, which provides ongoing support to talented individuals.</p> <p>Notably, 56% of Belfast Pay and Play and Pre-Paid GLL members benefit from concessionary charges, helping to reduce affordability barriers and promote inclusivity in participation.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Outcomes and Proposals</u></b></p> <p><b>Sport National Governing Body (NGB) and Club Programmes</b></p> <p>GLL continues to support a range of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) in delivering holiday programmes, grassroots initiatives, and performance programmes. Over the summer months, GLL collaborated with Peace Players International, British Fencing, and Ulster Boxing to provide coaching workshops.</p> <p>Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre regularly hosts All-Ireland Water Polo League events and has also been the venue for several Ulster Swimming Galas. Ulster Boxing competitions are frequently held at centres such as Girdwood Community Hub, Ballysillan Leisure Centre, Brook Leisure Centre, and Whiterock Leisure Centre. Shankill Leisure Centre accommodates the Northern Ireland Futsal Federation League for both male and female participants and, in the autumn, began hosting Northern Ireland Fencing competitions. Additionally, NGBs frequently utilise BCC leisure centres to conduct coach education courses.</p>

BCC leisure centres, managed by GLL, are home to over 200 local sports clubs and performance squads. These centres provide essential training facilities for clubs and performance programmes, as well as hosting a wide variety of local and regional competitions. Sports supported include Gaelic games, boxing, fencing, football, futsal, rugby, tennis, table tennis, cricket, basketball, baseball, netball, softball, dodgeball, swimming, water polo, and martial arts.

### **School & Youth programmes**

GLL collaborates with local Primary and Post Primary schools to provide facilities that support physical education programs. Belfast is home to 116 Primary Schools, 34 Post Primary Schools, and 13 Special Schools. Over the past year, GLL has facilitated school swimming lessons for 96 schools, comprising 84 Primary, 7 Post Primary, and 5 Special Schools.

In June, several centres hosted end-of-term celebrations for both primary and secondary schools. Schools were able to enjoy a range of junior-focused activities and swimming facilities across Belfast as part of these celebrations.

The GLL Holiday Scheme has been expanded to run during Easter, Summer, and Halloween, with 94 supervisors and instructors recruited to deliver these programmes. Across 13 centres, the scheme catered to 3,111 children during the three holiday periods, achieving 89% occupancy of the available spaces. Additional details can be found in Appendix 1.

GLL's lessons and courses programme currently focuses on swimming, gymnastics, tennis, and climbing. In 2024, enrolment numbers included over 6,000 children for swimming lessons, 50 for diving, 232 for tennis, 213 for gymnastics, and 72 for climbing lessons. In 2025, GLL plans to expand its swimming programme to accommodate 6,500 children weekly, alongside increased participation goals: 65 for diving, 250 for tennis, over 250 for gymnastics, and over 100 for climbing.

Brook Leisure Centre has partnered with several Special Needs schools to offer the Air Venture product, enhancing physical education delivery. Additionally, two Special Schools use the sensory pool weekly for lessons, establishing Brook Leisure Centre as a leader in inclusive programming.

### **Community Outreach**

In 2022, GLL introduced community engagement leads in each centre to spearhead local projects and support citywide initiatives. During December, 14 centres participated in the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas campaign, collecting over 1,000 gifts valued at approximately £15,000.

GLL continues its partnership with 'Menshed,' providing space at Girdwood Community Hub, Brook Leisure Centre, and Whiterock Leisure Centre. This initiative focuses on enhancing men's mental health.

The organisation has also supported various mental health charities and initiatives through awareness campaigns and fundraising efforts. Additional staff were provided with mental health and disability awareness training throughout the year,

Brook Leisure Centre hosts the Colin Autism Support Group, offering a space for parents of children with autism and other learning disabilities.

Additionally, Avoniel, Templemore, and Andersonstown centres organised open days, welcoming community organisations to showcase their work to centre visitors.

In October, the Belfast Community Sport team conducted an outreach event at Girdwood Community Hub for Ulster University Sports Studies students. Over 80 students participated in a range of sports and activities during the event. GLL also used the occasion to highlight employment opportunities in Belfast, including student placements and its trainee manager scheme.

### **Older Participant Programmes**

By the end of 2024, more than 20% of Belfast's Pay and Play and Pre-Paid members were aged 60+, accounting for over 8,000 members. The Council continues to offer free access for individuals aged over 60 before 11:00 AM from Monday to Friday.

GLL provides a daily programme of activities tailored to older adults, with offerings expanding steadily throughout 2024. The citywide pool programme ensures that Swim for Fitness (lane swimming) and Swim for All (casual family swimming) options are available daily across Belfast. In addition, GLL runs an introductory physical activity programme designed for members seeking low-intensity, low-impact workouts.

Active ageing activities, such as Danderball, Aqua Aerobics, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Boccia, and Water Polo, are delivered across several centres, including Avoniel Leisure Centre, Templemore Baths, Falls Leisure Centre, Girdwood Community Hub, Grove Wellbeing Centre, Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre, Olympia Leisure Centre Ozone, and Shankill Leisure Centre. Plans are already in place to further expand the programme in 2025.

Throughout the year, GLL Belfast actively participated in Senior Voice Forums and Active Aging/Age Friendly workshops, promoting physical activity and well-being for older adults. Community outreach initiatives were also undertaken, with active sessions delivered weekly for 8 weeks at 8 local Community Centres near GLL facilities. These sessions engaged over 60 participants each week, led by GLL Belfast Community Sport Coaches.

On Thursday, October 10th at Brook Leisure Centre, and Friday, October 11th at Girdwood Community Hub, the Better Club Games were held. Six centres participated, with over 70 individuals taking part in sports and activities such as Pickleball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Bowls, Boccia, Golf, Danderball, and Swimming. Further details can be found in Appendix 2.

GLL delivers specialised rehabilitation programmes for chronic conditions, including Cancer, Cardiac, Pulmonary, and MSK. Additionally, Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes are hosted and supported, with many referrals being older adults.

GLL delivers specialised rehabilitation programmes for chronic conditions, including Cancer, Cardiac, Pulmonary, and MSK. Additionally, Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes are hosted and supported, with many referrals being older adults.

Strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts are well-established between CNS, GLL, and key organisations such as the Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, and charitable partners, ensuring effective pathways for chronic condition management.

Girdwood Community Hub also collaborates with the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, offering weekly low-intensity exercise sessions paired with arts and crafts activities.

### **People with Disabilities**

Belvoir Activity Centre, in collaboration with Disability Sport NI, serves as a dedicated disability sports hub, offering a variety of wheelchair-based sports and activities, including Wheelchair Basketball, Boccia, and New Age Curling.

The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports two disabled and Paralympic athletes, providing them with facility access and physiotherapy assistance valued at £1,100 per year.

Brook Leisure Centre features a swimming pool specifically designed to accommodate sensory needs and a wide range of disabilities. The centre runs weekly 'quiet swims,' attracting approximately 20 to 30 participants per session.

GLL partners with Swimming Buddies, an organisation specialising in autism-friendly swimming lessons. These sessions are offered throughout the week at both Brook Leisure Centre and Templemore Baths. Additionally, Brook Leisure Centre facilitates inclusive Air Venture sessions tailored to meet the sensory needs of participants.

In March, Belfast recruited ten Lead Teachers to enhance the management and delivery of Swim School across the city. During November and December 2024, these Lead Teachers attained qualifications as Disability Swim Teachers through GLL's partnership with STA, preparing them to begin Special Educational Needs swimming lessons in early 2025.

### **Women & Girls**

Women represent 48% of current Belfast members, totalling 19,094 individuals.

GLL has collaborated with Netball NI to deliver their social netball programme and has also hosted competitions at Shankill and Olympia Leisure Centres.

Through the GLL Sport Foundation (GSF) programme, GLL supports 69 female athletes, accounting for 49.3% of all supported athletes. These women are empowered to compete at both national and international levels in their respective sports. Shirley McCay, Ireland's most capped sportsperson of all time, serves as the Legacy Ambassador for the GSF programme.

	<p>In partnership with WISPA, GLL delivers female-only fitness classes, including aqua aerobics, yoga, Pilates, and circuits. These sessions are offered at Avoniel Leisure Centre, Belvoir Activity Centre, Brook Leisure Centre, Olympia Leisure Centre, Shankill Leisure Centre, and Whiterock Leisure Centre.</p> <p><b>Family Programming</b></p> <p>GLL has developed a well-rounded programme of activities across its centres to encourage family participation. For instance, a 'basic group exercise offering' allows junior members to join in with older family members.</p> <p>Junior group exercise classes have been added to the timetable, with plans to expand this programme in 2025, subject to the availability of qualified staff. Junior gym sessions are also available at all gym centres during after-school hours and school holiday periods.</p> <p>Family-friendly products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown Leisure Centre, Air Venture at Brook Leisure Centre, and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre continue to attract families, especially during weekends and holiday periods.</p> <p>All centres offer birthday party packages, which are both affordable and varied, including bouncy castles, climbing walls, laser quest, and sports (both indoor and outdoor), as well as the aforementioned products. In 2025, GLL plans to enhance party room spaces to improve the overall service quality.</p> <p>Wet centres provide weekly family fun pool sessions, featuring floats and inflatables, to add to the enjoyment. Since launching the citywide family membership in August 2021, GLL has seen continued interest. By the end of December 2024, there were over 550 family memberships in Belfast, encompassing a total of 2,326 members.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>To consider and record receipt of the information provide above and at Appendices 1 and 2 attached. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – GLL Community Sport and Health Annual Report 2024</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Better Club Games Report 2024</p>

GLL

# Belfast Community Sport and Health Annual Report

2024





### Executive Summary

The past year has been transformative for our Belfast Community Sport and Health programmes. Through targeted initiatives and collaborative efforts, we have made significant strides in promoting physical activity, enhancing overall well-being, and fostering a sense of community among residents of all ages.

#### Key Achievements

- Over 6,000 children enrolled in Better Swim School
- 96 Schools involved in Education Swimming Lessons
- 45 Swimming Teachers and 15 Dry Sports Coaches trained and qualified
- 125 staff completed their National Pool Lifeguard Qualification
- Over 600 people enrolled in Dry Lessons and Courses
- Over 3,000 children attended GLL Holiday Schemes
- 140 local athletes supported by the GLL Sports Foundation
- Over 5,000 members involved in facilitated social sport activities
- Active Aging and Senior programming growing year on year
- Over 1,250 participants supported through PARS and Chronic Conditions Pathway schemes

The following annual report provides an overview of what has been achieved in 2024. Through collective effort from our Community Sport, Health and wider centre teams we are proud of the positive impact the various programmes and initiatives have had on our residents' lives, and we are excited about further developments in 2025. Together, we will continue to deliver on our purpose to improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of our local community.

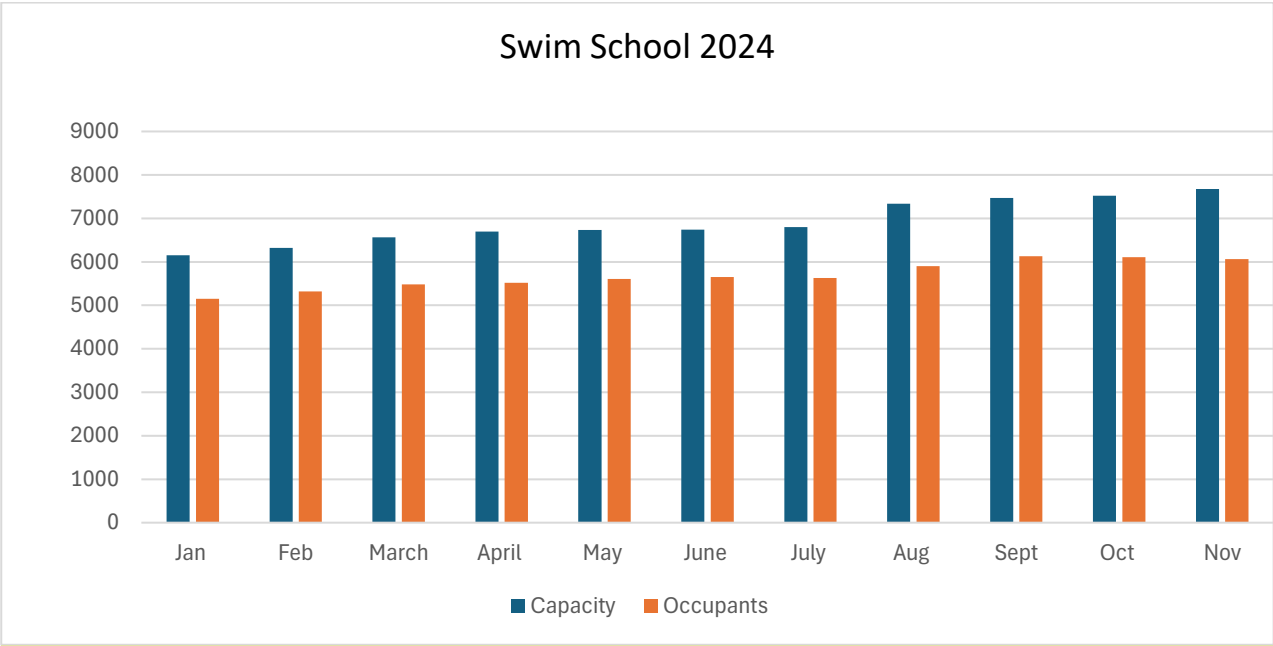
**Belfast Better Swim School and Tom Daley Diving Academy**

From January to December 2024, 10 centres delivered Swim School lessons for participants aged 6 months to adulthood. Our qualified teachers deliver the following number and type of classes:

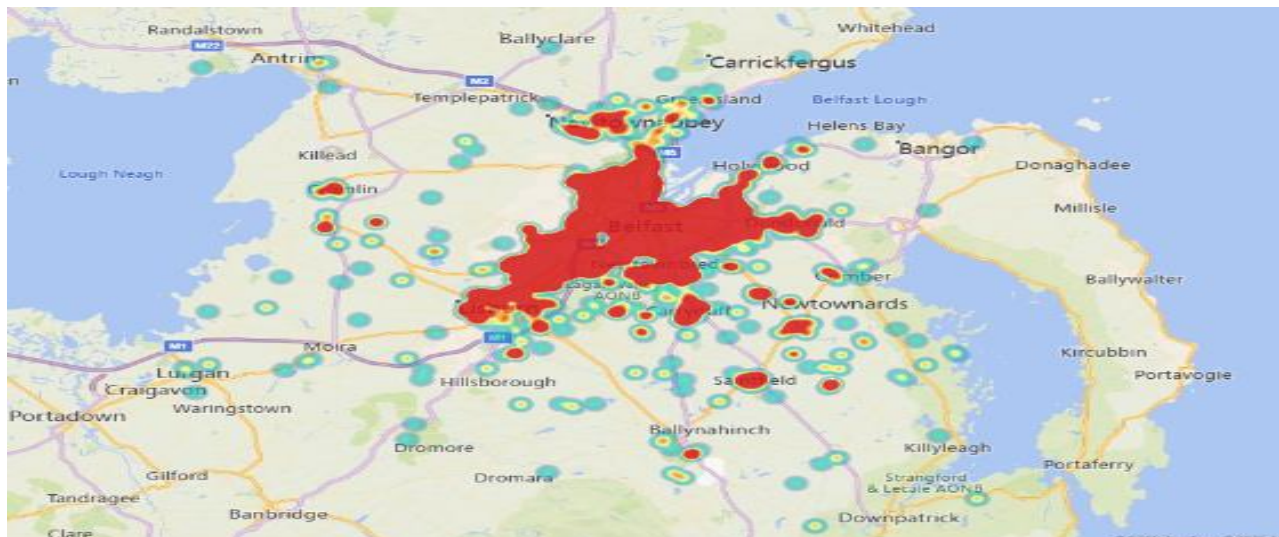
- Swimbies (29 weekly classes)
- Foundation (211 weekly classes)
- Development (122 weekly classes)
- Academy (17 weekly classes)
- Adults (17 weekly classes)
- Tom Daley Diving Academy (5 weekly classes)



At the beginning of 2024 there were 5,150 pupils enrolled in Belfast Better Swim School. The year concluded with 6,063 which equates to a growth of 893 participants. The graph below highlights the progress made throughout the year.



The map image below highlights the reach of the Belfast Swim School with a large number of participants living across all four corners of the city. There is also evidence of children enrolled on the programme who live outside the city boundary which further demonstrates the popularity of the programme and the high standard of delivery.



### Better Swim School Annual Gala

GLL Belfast Community Sport delivered the Better Swim School Gala for the second year. The competition was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre with 6 centre and over 70 children entering.

The event featured 2 races, 25m front crawl and 25m back crawl individual for boys and girls aged 7 to 16 years. This event was for pupils who had attend our Development Gold and Academy classes. All competitors received a medal and certificate for taking part. Lisnasharragh lifted the Better Swim School Cup as overall winners.

The event was supported by the Belfast Lead Swim Teachers, Swimming Teachers and Community Sport staff members. It is proposed that the event will be expanded further in 2025 to include a mixed front crawl relay for all age groups.



## **Swim Teacher Development**

2024 was another busy year for STA Swim Teacher courses in Belfast. In total 3 Award and 2 Certificate courses were delivered with 45 participants in attendance. All courses were delivered at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre. The details of the courses are below:

- Level 2 Award - commenced 8<sup>th</sup> January (5 learners /4 internal)
- Level 2 Certificate - commenced 12<sup>th</sup> February (5 learners /4 internal)
- Level 2 Award - commenced 19<sup>th</sup> June (12 learners / 9 internal)
- Level 2 Award - commenced 16<sup>th</sup> September (12 learners / 8 internal)
- Level 2 Certificate - commenced 11<sup>th</sup> Nov (11 learners /6 internal)

All internal learners from the courses were interviewed and onboarded from the Award courses plus internal learners who gained the certificate qualification were upgraded to Swim School Certificate teachers via CoreHR. External learners who attend the Award and Certificate courses above and applied for a swim teaching role within GLL were onboarded.

In March Belfast recruited 10 Lead Teachers to assist with the running and delivery of Swim School across the city. This team are working in conjunction with the General Managers at the respective centres and with the Community Sports Manger providing a regional support.

In November and December of 2024 these Lead teachers attended and were qualified as Disability Swim Teachers through our partner STA with the intention to start delivering Special Educational Needs swimming lessons in early 2025.



### Belfast Swimming Club, Water Polo Club and School Programmes

As part of the Belfast City Council Aquatics Strategy, GLL support the following Swimming clubs and Triathlon club with pool provision across the city to train and host Ulster PTL and Aqua Sprint Galas.

- Alliance Swimming Club
- Leander Swimming Club
- Olympia Swimming and Lifesaving club
- Swim Belfast
- Templemore Triathlon Club
- Olympian Triathlon Club
- Invictus Triathlon Club

In addition, the following Waterpolo clubs are supported with pool provision to train from Minipolo (aged 5-11 years old) up to senior level for male & female members of the clubs.

- Cathal Brugha Waterpolo Club
- Clonard Waterpolo Club
- Donegal Diamonds Waterpolo Club
- Cu Chulainn Waterpolo Club

In addition to the above clubs using pools to train and compete, Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre has hosted National Competitions during 2024.

- Swim Ulster Short Course (25m)
- Swim Ireland National Under 17 Cup for Boys and Girls
- Swim Ireland National Under 13 Cup for Boys and Girls
- Swim Ireland National Waterpolo League

Throughout 2024, 10 of our centres delivered lessons to over 6,000 pupils across Key Stage 2 (Primary 4-7), and Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10). Belfast has 116 Primary Schools, 34 Post Primary Schools and 13 Special Schools. Over the past twelve months GLL has delivered school swimming lessons to a total of 96 schools which is made up of 84 Primary, 7 Post Primary and 5 Special Schools.

## **Top Team NI Lifeguarding Competition**

The Top Team NI Lifeguarding competition was held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at Grove Wellbeing Centre. 8 Belfast centre teams competed along with 2 external teams.

There was a new format for the event in 2024 which included the addition of an online team quiz based upon the NPLQ test paper, a wetside scenario and a timed swim to focus on fitness. The event was warmly received by the participants and the new format was complimented.



A joint team from Ballysillan Leisure Centre and Shankill Leisure Centre were awarded first place in a well contested event.



**NPLQ Renewals**

In 2024, 125 staff completed the new Gen 10 renewal with no failures. In addition to this 4 Trainer Assessors renewed Life Support 3 to ensure they could continue to deliver Monthly Staff Training.

The NPLQ Gen 10 courses delivered during 2024 were as follows:

- 12<sup>th</sup> January at Falls Leisure Centre (4 learners - all passed)
- 29<sup>th</sup> January at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre (10 learners - all passed)
- 14<sup>th</sup> February at Andersonstown Leisure Centre (11 learners - all passed)
- 5<sup>th</sup> April at Falls Leisure Centre (10 learners - all passed)
- 21<sup>st</sup> June at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre (4 learners - all passed)
- 5<sup>th</sup> July at Grove Wellbeing Centre (11 learners - all passed / Leisure Employment Academy)
- 20<sup>th</sup> August at Grove Wellbeing Centre (8 learners - all passed)
- 28<sup>th</sup> October at Falls Leisure Centre (8 learners -all passed)

Once all learners had passed their contact details were sent onto centres to conduct interviews and onboarding as Recreation Attendants.

The Gen 10 Trainer Assessor course was delivered at Lisburn Leisureplex and 3 GLL staff attended this course. Lorraine Holden, Service Manager at Andersonstown Leisure Centre has delivered a course and will assess 6 renewals in early 2025 so to be signed off to deliver Monthly staff training and present staff renewals. Nadine Graham, Service Manager at Grove Wellbeing Centre will deliver a course at Templemore Baths starting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Sam Pyper, LCS at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre will deliver a course in the middle of February and the details of this are to be confirmed.

NPLQ Courses will be planned as and when there is a demand for recruitment of Recreation Attendants and upskilling of staff during 2025. 2025 renewals will start in early January with 250 staff due to complete Gen 10 NPLQ renewal.

## **Gymnastics Programmes**

At the beginning of 2024 GLL in Belfast launched a further two RISE Gymnastics classes (Explore and Explore Plus) in Brook Leisure Centre. This brought the total number of centres delivering gymnastics programmes in Belfast to four and the plan is for further expansion in 2025. In October the programme expanded again with the addition of five RISE classes across three of the Belfast centres and a launch of a 'Stay and Play' programme at Belvoir Activity Centre.

During the February half term break gymnastics taster classes were delivered in Belvoir Activity Centre, these were priced at £1 per class and there were 3 classes per day. Over this period 95 spaces were booked and over 10% of these participants then booked onto the weekly classes.

Belfast's first RISE Gymnastics Competition was delivered in April with 59 gymnastics competing, who all attended weekly lessons in one of the four delivering centres. Participants each competed in 3 strands of competition within their class level: Core Skills, Small Apparatus, and Large Apparatus. This was a great event to bring gymnasts from across the city together and to promote the great programme that is delivered in Belfast.

In addition to this at the end of the year Each Explore, Explore Plus, and Excel class invited their parents/guardians into their class before Christmas to watch a display that they have been learning and practicing and to see the new skills they can complete.



During the year a Pre-School Gymnastics course and a Gymnastics Activity Instructor course was delivered with 8 and 5 respectively coaches qualified. These were organised in partnership with British Gymnastics. One course was delivered by a British Gymnastics provided tutor and the other was taken by a GLL provided tutor. In addition to these courses British Gymnastics also hosted online focus meetings quarterly covering the RISE gymnastics programme and award scheme, best practice, programming, and workforce. In October Belfast had one coach take on a 'you choose' contract allowing more stability in classes delivery and now provides a 'go to coach' for sharing information across the wider gymnastics' workforce.

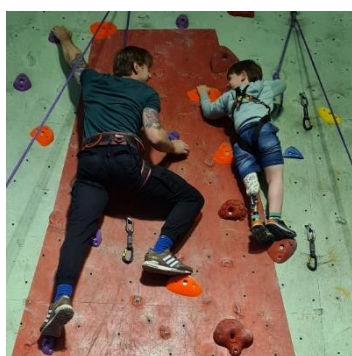
The Belfast gymnastics programme also extended to delivery within Primary School curriculum time. Lessons were delivered to two Primary schools (9 classes) in 2024 at Belvoir Activity Centre and Brook Leisure Centre.



## **Climbing Programmes**

The Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex is the venue for climbing lessons which are delivered in 6-week programmes for both juniors and adults, of varying abilities. Each course has 7 weekly lessons for junior's 4-16 years old, and 7 lessons for adults split between beginners and improvers, with an average of 48 participants taking part monthly across the year.

Throughout July and August, GLL Belfast Community Sport and Mountaineering Ireland worked in partnership to deliver an inclusive climbing programme. 34 participants over seven sessions took part with the aim to highlight access and increase participation of those who have a physical or learning disability.



The programme was targeted at children, but some young adults were also included with the goal to provide them with the opportunity to try a new sport in climbing.

It is envisaged that this partnership programme will be able to develop further throughout 2025 and will extend beyond the summer holiday period.

## **Tennis Programmes**

Our tennis programme running at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex provides weekly lessons for both juniors and adults. Each week there are 24 junior lessons catering for 3–16 year olds, and 17 adult lessons divided by ability (beginners, improvers, and advanced). 2024 saw over 210 participants taking part in these weekly lessons to build their skills and ability of the game.



During 2024 four new coaches become qualified in the LTA YouthGo tennis programme which enabled GLL Belfast Community Sport to offer primary school curriculum coaching from September onwards. Two primary school classes took part in the 6-week programme and it is hoped that this can be expanded upon in 2025.

Two wheelchair tennis sessions were delivered during July and August to encourage increased participation in the sport and highlight opportunities for access for those participants who are wheelchair users.

Two tennis product forums took place online over 2024 with representatives from GLL, tennis centres and LTA. Belfast was represented at these forums and throughout 2025 will continue to push to raise the standard of tennis delivery within the city.

## **Community Sport Coaching Programmes**

During the February half term week, the GLL Belfast Community Sport team delivered taster sessions for fencing, boxing, short tennis and diving, in partnership with NI Fencing, Ulster Boxing, and with Our Club, Our Community. These sessions took place in different centres across the city; Andersonstown, Templemore, Grove, Lisnasharragh, Whiterock, and Girdwood. These were a huge success having 75 participants in fencing, 57 participants in boxing, 60 participants of short tennis and 30 participants in diving across the week.

GLL Belfast Community Sport in partnership with Northern Ireland Fencing facilitated a Fencing Level 1 course which was held at Girdwood Community Hub in September. A total of 7 staff were upskilled and qualified with the aim to support Fencing delivery as part of the wider Community Sport offer in 2025. This offer will entail both school session delivery, holiday scheme activity, and further taster sessions to determine the demand for weekly sessions and appropriate location.



The GLL Belfast Community Sport team supported the Commonwealth Games NI Schools' Sports Day in partnership with PWC. The event took place at Olympia Leisure Centre and GLL delivering fencing for each class alongside the NGB's delivering boxing, indoor bowls, football, and basketball.





### GLL Sports Foundation

In 2024 GLL Belfast has supported 140 athletes through the GLL Sport Foundation (GSF) programme. Belfast remains the largest GSF programme in the UK and it is envisaged that this support will increase further in 2025.

The 2024 GSF Awards night was held in May with 56 athletes and over 100 family and friends in Belfast City Hall to celebrate their awards. Since then, Belfast athletes compete in the World Aquatics Championships and Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships.



At the end of 2024 GLL Belfast Community Sport sent out a survey to find out what more could be offered to assist the supported athletes. This information will help the team plan workshops and other events for 2025.

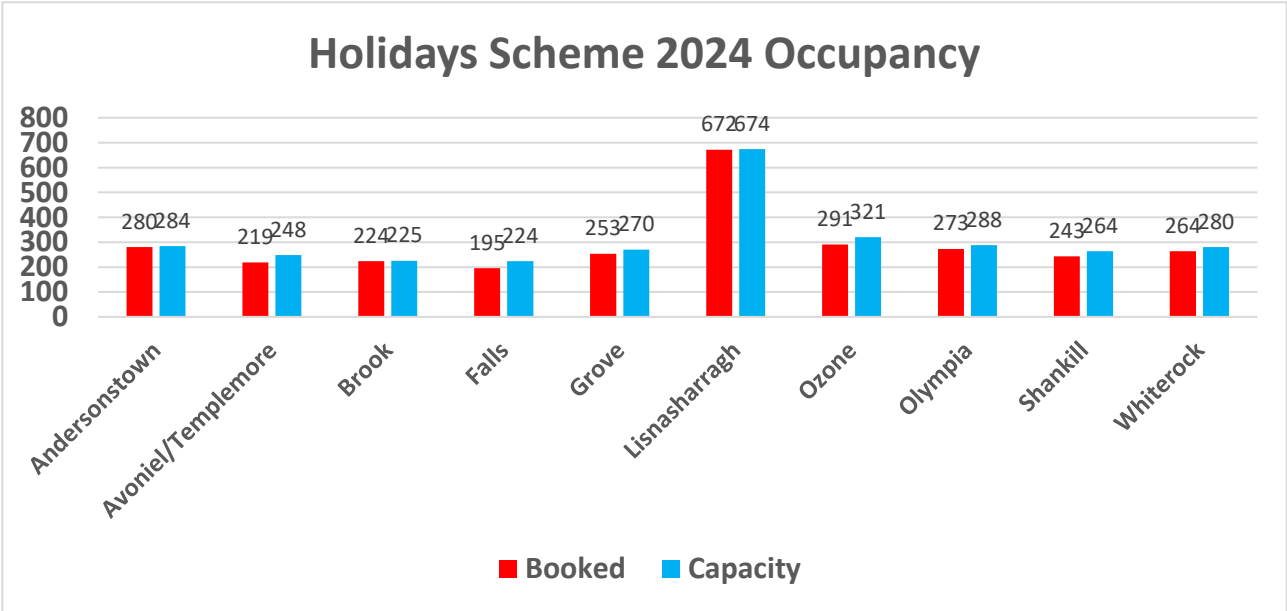
Holiday Scheme Programme

In 2024, GLL Belfast Community Sport once again delivered a highly successful Holiday Scheme Programme during the Easter, Summer and Halloween school holidays.

This year’s primary focus was on recruitment, aiming to meet the high demand experienced in previous years while maintaining the highest standards of quality, experience and skills among the staff to enhance service delivery. Following an effective marketing campaign, over 200 applications were received and Belfast successfully appointed 14 Children’s Activity Supervisors and 80 Children’s Activity Instructors to support the programme throughout the year.

In total, 42 different schemes were delivered across 13 centres, ranging from traditional and sport-specific schemes to disability inclusion schemes. This diverse range of activities ensured the Holiday Scheme Programme catered to the varied interests and needs of participants, contributing to its success.

The programme accommodated 3,111 children, filling 89% of the available spaces. This represents an increase of 658 children compared to 2023.



As part of the Holiday Scheme Programme, GLL Belfast Community Sport hold an annual Sporting Celebration Day. This event brings together all the participating centres for a day of varied sports, some of which the children may never have encountered before, let alone played. On Thursday, 1st August, the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex hosted the event, welcoming over 400 children from 10 centres, making it Belfast’s largest Celebration Day to date.



## **Pickleball Programme**

This year, the Belfast Pickleball programme expanded significantly, increasing from 3 sessions per week with a capacity of 64 participants to 8 sessions per week with a total capacity of 136 participants. Over the course of the year, Belfast centres hosted more than 5,000 participants in coached Pickleball sessions, with utilisation of available spaces consistently remaining above 85%.



In addition to this, there has been a marked rise in demand for external Pickleball bookings. Organisations such as the University of the Third Age and Belfast Pickleball Club have secured weekly block bookings at various sites, alongside one-off bookings from Pickleball Ireland and other groups.

As part of the Belfast Racquets offering, Pickleball has driven a substantial increase in sports hall bookings from members, outpacing traditional activities such as badminton and table tennis. In response to this demand, every centre capable of accommodating Pickleball now offers it as booking option and has invested in the necessary equipment.



This year also witnessed a number of landmark achievements. GLL Belfast Community Sport partnered with Pickleball England, Pickleball Ireland, and the Lawn Tennis Association to host multiple Pickleball Coaching Qualification courses. These courses enabled 12 of our Belfast staff members to become certified in delivering Pickleball sessions.

Additionally, GLL Belfast Community Sport organised two Pickleball tournaments, one at Easter and another at Christmas. Each event attracted over 40 participants and the team in Belfast plan to expand on this programme further in 2025.



## Active Ageing Programme

Active Aging continues to grow in Belfast with an increase in a number of Basic classes being delivered by fitness instructors across the city. As part of the GLL Belfast Active Ageing Programme, two weekly Active Ageing mornings are hosted at Belvoir Activity Centre and at the Girdwood Community Hub. These sessions aim to combat social isolation, particularly among older adults, while encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle. Approximately 25 people attend these sessions each week.

At the beginning of the year, GLL Belfast Community Sport and Health also organised a Winter Wellness Scheme, which included 3 sessions held over one week across 4 centres. These sessions featured activities such as Arts and Crafts, nutrition workshops and physical activities. Over 20 participants attended the scheme.

Throughout the year GLL Belfast have been represented on Senior Voice Forums and Active Aging/Age Friendly workshops to support people being active in older age.

Additionally, the team carried out community outreach, delivering active sessions in 8 local Community Centres near our own facilities. This initiative ran for 8 weeks at each centre, with GLL Belfast Community Sport Coaches engaging over 60 participants on a weekly basis.

Belfast's flagship Active Ageing event each year is the Better Belfast Club Games. In 2024, the event was held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Brook Leisure Centre and Girdwood Community Hub. The two-day event welcomed over 70 participants aged 60+ from various centres across Belfast, who took part in a range of sports.

Team Falls triumphed, winning the Danderball, Indoor Bowls, and Boccia events, reclaiming the trophy for the second consecutive year. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, making it a fantastic occasion for everyone involved.





## **Belfast Marathon and Half Marathon Programme**

This year, Better in Belfast continued the ongoing partnership with the Belfast City Marathon. As part of this collaboration, Belfast actively participated in the Belfast City Marathon, Belfast City Half Marathon, Women's 10K, and Belfast City 5K Fun Run. At each event, the team engaged with the running community through fitness challenges, prize giveaways, fitness warm-ups and smoothie blender bikes.

The fitness challenges included the Slam Ball Challenge, Step-Up Challenge and Squat Hold Challenge. Top scores were recorded for both male and female participants in each challenge, with winners receiving either a Family Day Pass to Andersonstown Aqua Play Park or a complimentary Swim and Spa Session for two adults at Templemore Baths. The team members involved also distributed merchandise, including hoodies, t-shirts, balls, lanyards, keyrings and much more to everyone who participated.

The fitness warm-ups were led by qualified personal trainers, who hosted 10-minute workouts to help participants prepare for their events. These sessions not only provided practical benefits for competitors but also showcased the Better brand and the expertise of our staff.

The smoothie blender bikes were a highlight, attracting significant attention as many attendees had not seen them before and were eager to give them a try. The fruit combinations proved very popular, offering runners a much-needed energy boost post-race. This activity was a real crowd-pleaser, with many participants enjoying the smoothies and capturing photos and videos of the experience.

The Belfast partnership also extended to supporting the Belfast City Marathon's 26.2 Ambassador Group, which saw 12 individuals complete their first-ever full marathon. Better contributed to their journeys by providing workshops on strength and conditioning, Pilates, swimming, recovery and nutrition. In return, the ambassadors shared their experiences on social media, tagging Better and promoting our state-of-the-art facilities. Notably, GLL's own Jessica Hanna and Anthony Cavanagh successfully completed their first marathons while continuing their full-time roles within Better.

Overall, the partnership was a great success and has been renewed for the upcoming year. The Belfast team are already planning further activities to enhance our community engagement and outreach during these flagship events.



## **Belfast Health Programme**

The GLL Belfast Health Team, commissioned through Active Belfast (AB) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) via Belfast City Council (BCC), continued to deliver a range of performance-based health services in 2024.

These services were provided under two main contracts: the Level 3 Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) and the Level 4 Chronic Condition Pathways. Both contracts facilitate a 12-week intervention programme through a referral process.

In addition to the initial 12-week programme, reduced membership options are provided to participants who graduate for the programmes so that they can continue their fitness journey with GLL in Belfast.



During 2024 the following health intervention programmes were managed by the GLL Belfast Health Team:

- Level 3 Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) - value £95K
- Level 4 Chronic Condition Pathways - value £114K, including:
  - Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation
  - Level 4 Cancer Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation
  - Level 4 Pulmonary Rehabilitation and COVID-19 Rehabilitation
  - Musculoskeletal Physical Activity Pathway



To date, GLL's Belfast Health team have received over 3,000 referrals onto our Health intervention pathways including PARS, Cardiac, MSK, Cancer Prehab/Rehab and Pulmonary/Long Covid.

The GLL Belfast Health team continue to also work in partnership with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in with provision of community facilities to deliver NHS programmes as well as supporting the West Belfast GP Federation - Multi Disciplinary Teams and community-based programmes with Versus Arthritis and Connected Community Care

### Summary of Health Contracts

#### Summary of Q1 (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 24)

This period is the final quarter of the contractual year with AB and PHA. All targets and KPIs were completed in line with the contract which ensured that GLL received full funding allocation.

The Health Team in Belfast continue to receive above target referrals for PARS and it was agreed that any completers above the target of 667 would be reallocated to support the chronic conditions contract.

According to the PARS regional system, GLL completed 932 referrals by year-end which represented an over achievement at 137%, distributed as follows:

Centre	Grand Total
Andersonstown Leisure Centre	105
Avoniel Leisure Centre	23
Ballysillan Leisure Centre	45
Belvoir Activity Centre	5
Brook Activity Centre	59
Falls Leisure Centre	74
Girdwood Community Hub	88
Grove Wellbeing Centre	113
Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex	4
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre	259
Olympia Leisure Centre	90
Shankill Leisure Centre	27
Whiterock Leisure Centre	40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>932</b>

The Level 4 Chronic Condition Pathway concluded the quarter with the following completers:

Programme	Completers
Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation	13
Level 4 Cancer Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation	36
Level 4 Pulmonary Rehabilitation and COVID-19 Rehabilitation	16
Musculoskeletal Physical Activity Pathway	34
Diabetes Pathway	0 (0 referrals received)

There was an under-spend recorded in the Level 4 Chronic Condition Pathway but it was agreed with the commissioners that this could be re-profiled and would include the over-performance of the PARS Level 3 programme. Therefore, Belfast received the full allocation of funding for the contractual year.

### Summary of Q2 (1<sup>st</sup> Apr to 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 24), Q3 (1<sup>st</sup> Jul to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept) and Q4 (1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec)

The new PARS contractual year commenced with AB and PHA in Quarter 2. The contract value increased by £928.22, bringing the total to just over £95.5K.

The KPI target was again set at 667 completions annually which was divided into 169 completions per quarter. Below is the breakdown of referrals received by GLL, per centre, for Quarter 2, 3 and 4:

Centre	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Grand Total
Andersonstown Leisure Centre	131	95	60	286
Ballysillan Leisure Centre	45	42	26	113
Belvoir Activity Centre	8	13	36	57
Brook Activity Centre	52	51	36	139
Falls Leisure Centre	80	77	66	223
Girdwood Community Hub	41	48	31	120
Grove Wellbeing Centre	82	89	84	255
Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex	8	10	7	25
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre	140	132	110	382
Olympia Leisure Centre	82	89	46	217
Shankill Leisure Centre	32	19	23	74
Templemore Baths	84	74	53	211
Whiterock Leisure Centre	44	27	27	98
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>2,199</b>

As we approach the end of Q4 GLL are currently sitting on 713/677 referrals to complete PARS. GLL have forecasted to overachieve by 132%. Leaving GLL in a strong position to negotiate a higher value contract for the 2025-2026 year commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025.

The Chronic Conditions new contractual year with AB also commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The contract value with AB totalled £100,351 plus an additional £10K was secured from BCC to support the Cancer pathway in light of Macmillian no longer being part of funding the pathway.

The KPI target for each condition is outlined below:

Programme	Completer Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation	116	13	14	28	16	72
Level 4 Cancer Prehabilitation & Rehabilitation	170	36	38	46	46	166
Level 4 Pulmonary Rehabilitation & COVID-19 Rehabilitation	N/A (Funding to support coach)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Musculoskeletal Physical Activity Pathway	140	34	23	26	13	96
Diabetes Pathway	TBC (pathway not established)		0	0	0	0



### Health Programme Summary

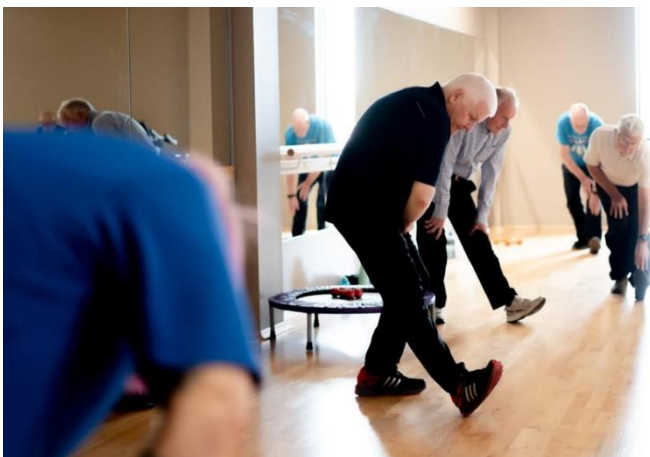
GLL in Belfast is leading the way in Northern Ireland in regard to Community Health Intervention Programmes. As the highest value contract holder in Northern Ireland, we deliver more interventions than any other council.

Our strong partnership with AB and the PHA has positioned GLL at the forefront of the new regional obesity strategy, supporting a comprehensive, whole-system approach.



Throughout the year, we have actively participated in several task and finish groups for this model, which will lead to future further funding opportunities through an adult Tier 2 weight management scheme.

The framework aims to empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. It is key for GLL to be involved in this planning phase to ensure that leisure remains viewed as a vital industry to support the strategy when it is launched.



In addition, GLL Belfast are also supporting a research study with Ulster University to develop a pathway for adults with neurological conditions affecting their physical abilities. Belfast identified a gap in the service, and this initiative is currently being presented to commissioners with the aim of securing additional funding to enhance the value of our contracts. GLL have agreed to support the pilot for a short period, a physio will lead the class and a health coach with a Level 1 PD warrior qualification will support the group exercise class. Potential funding is proposed to be allocated to upskill coaches in Level 4 Neurological conditions.

In 2024 the GLL Belfast Health team has also been upskilled in BACPR Level 4 Cardiac Rehabilitation and Level 4 Diabetes and Obesity Management qualifications.

## Health Case Studies

The following 3 case studies are from Belfast referrals in 2024. In their own words, the participants describe the benefits of the work delivered by the GLL Belfast Health team and highlight the significance of these services.

### Lee - PARS Referral

Lee was referred by his dietitian, who had successfully used the programme with other patients in the past. Lee, who lives with autism, learning difficulties, and verbal dyspraxia, had been facing significant challenges. His mother shared with his health coach that Lee had gained a considerable amount of weight and was also struggling with high blood pressure.

Finding a supportive and understanding environment for Lee had been difficult. His mother explained that they had tried many places but struggled to find one that could effectively address his needs while making him feel comfortable and understood.



Now, Lee attends Grove three times a week and meets with me once a week. His mother is pleased to report that, in just six weeks, Lee has lost nearly a stone. He enjoys swimming at the weekends at Grove, and it's clear that the programme has not only been effective but has also become a positive part of his routine.



### JM - Cardiac Referral

I started this programme on the recommendation of Cardiac Rehab. I hadn't done any physical exercise for many years. Although somewhat hesitant at first, I thoroughly enjoyed the classes and actually looked forward to going in subsequent weeks. The exercises loosened up muscles that I had forgotten I had, and I would have suffered from cramps in my legs pretty much daily. I'm glad to report that the cramps have all but disappeared and I now feel stronger as a result.

The benefits to attending the program were not only physical though. I found that from a mental health perspective the interaction and socializing was really beneficial to me. Sharing stories and being with people who have been on the same health journey has helped increase my confidence as this is not something I would normally have done. As my confidence improved so too did my interest in maintaining and developing my health and I now look after myself much more than I ever did. I now even workout at home!

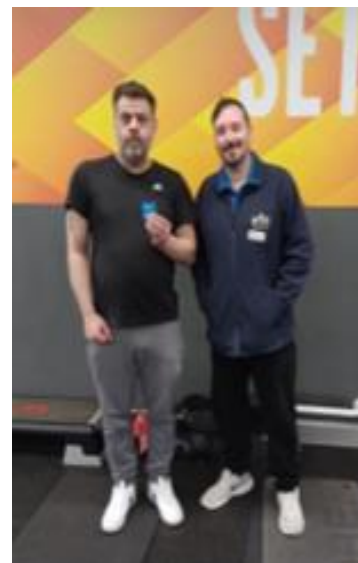
I want to thank Sean and the team for building my confidence and providing a positive environment for growth. The participation of the classes along with the one-to-one sessions has inspired me to make positive changes in my life. I have discovered that health is an on-going process and now look forward to the next session with greater confidence!



#### AMcM - PARS Referral

When he was referred to me, he was very nervous when he came in, he told me he was on anxiety tablets and put on a lot of weight as he doesn't go out to much and not use to being around crowds. He said he was hoping to get fitter and lose weight and maybe try a few classes but needed a bit of support as he felt talking so openly to friends or family isn't easy.

Our first week was all about understanding the issues that has been holding him back and building that trust and relationship going forward, to help improve physically and mentally. With his help we devised a workout plan that was easy to follow and also make it fun, within the first three weeks I saw a big changes in Andrew. He would be in the centre when I was in and he was smiling and was very motivated to improve. I'll never forget the day he said to me "guess what at I've booked a circuit class". I remember that evening him texting saying "loved it bro tough but great can't wait until next week".



By our week eight review Andrew had been coming to the gym four days a week this included classes. We had also updated his training programme and he had also added Group Cycling and HITT classes to his programme. He had made new friends that has helped not only motivate him but also in his own words help keep up with a lot more fitter people in the class.

On our week 12 review Andrew had told me this is the best thing I've ever done, and he had lost nearly three stone and couldn't be happier. He signed up for the Healthwise membership and still attends my drop in gym with continued support.

"I started my 12-week GP Referral Programme with some trepidation and many questions. I was met with a warm and friendly greeting by Paul, who had a genuine interest in addressing my specific needs and goals. I would like to personally thank him for his time and patience I'm sure I haven't been the easiest client to deal with."

## **Tackling Health Inequalities Event**

In September GLL welcomed 50 stakeholders to Templemore Baths to attend our first Tackling Health Inequalities event. The event was designed to bring key stakeholders together to discuss the pivot to health within the leisure sector and further highlight how community initiatives can play an important role in tackling the health inequalities within society.

Guests were welcomed with a walk through the slipper baths and onto the heritage space for some networking over a healthy breakfast. The event was compered by BBCNI's Jo Scott who had visited the centre the previous evening and was overwhelmed by the "buzz" and sense of community. She introduced Gareth Kirk for opening remarks.



### Panel 1 Discussion

This panel included:

- Liz Kimmins, Sinn Féin MLA for Newry and Armagh, party spokesperson on Health, Chair of the Committee on Health
- Nuala McAllister, Alliance Party MLA for Belfast North, party spokesperson on Health: Primary & Community Care; and member of the Committee on Health
- Gary Maxwell, Head of the Health Policy Branch of the Department of Health
- Michelle Toland, Programme Manager, West Belfast Primary Care MDT for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Each provided an overview from their perspective on how large-scale health inequalities could be tackled through community-based initiatives. It was noted that health inequalities cost Northern Ireland £1.3B a year and that a cross departmental approach would be required to tackle to root causes of health inequality.

It was also highlighted that initiatives such as GLL's Health Programme in Belfast could be replicated in other areas of Northern Ireland and that Social Enterprise needs to be valued as a partner by government.

### Panel 2 Discussion

This panel included:

- Jonathan Michael, Regional Business Manager for GLL
- Richard Honeyford, Executive Manager for the Northern Ireland Sports Forum
- Gráinne Close, Northern Ireland Director for Mencap
- Alice Boyle, East Belfast Mission

Numerous topics were discussed by the panel such as the requirement for primary school children to achieve 60 minutes of exercise a day (current figure is 21%), how more work is required in terms of facility and programme provision to ensure that people with disabilities deserve access local leisure services and how health intervention programmes need to have a holistic approach to ensure social and mental wellbeing is also being cared for and not just physical wellbeing.

The event highlighted how connected GLL are in Northern Ireland to key stakeholders in local government, Health organisations, Sporting Governing Bodies and charities. Our footprint in health and community sport is well regarded and we are leading the way in terms of health provision and programming.

### ukactive Belfast Visit

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October Belfast hosted Huw Edwards and Conor Sheehan from ukactive for their very first trip to Belfast. They were provided with a tour of five centres and spent some time with GLL and Belfast City Council staff to understand more about programmes that are ensuring more people are more active in Belfast and how we are tackling health inequalities across the city.

In the afternoon GLL facilitated an engagement with 16 Sporting National Governing Bodies and organisations at Templemore Baths.



Sporting bodies from Ulster GAA and the Irish FA to the NI Commonwealth Games Council and NI Sports Forum were represented at this key engagement. This was an opportunity for ukactive to outline the role they could play in Northern Ireland and support the interests of the groups in attendance.

Themes that were explored were:

- Access to and increasing sources of sport and physical activity funding - exploring opportunities within multiple government departments, grants and private investment
- Access to school and community facilities - discussions with government in permitting access to facilities during evenings, weekends and holiday periods
- Sport Governing Bodies being included in facility discussions to ensure new venues were fit for purpose and fully utilised as a consequence - ensuring best use of funds
- Consistency of data reports across all four home nations in order to follow trends and highlight regional similarities or differences - the power of social value reporting was also discussed and GLL were praised for what they were already doing in this area

### 2024 in numbers

Lessons and Courses		
Area	Target	Achieved
Better Swim School	6,000 members	*
Swimbies	200 members	*
School Swimming	6,000 pupils from 80 schools	
Tom Daley Diving Academy	50 members	
RISE Gymnastics	200 members from 5 centres	
Tennis Programme	250 members across Youth, Adult and Squad	
Climbing Programme	150 Junior members (annual target)	

Outreach Programmes		
Area	Target	Achieved
Traditional Holiday Scheme	2,800 participants	
Sports Specific Holiday Scheme	200 participants	
Celebration of Sport Events	4 events with 1 centre hosting each	
Drop-in / Social Sport Sessions	6 sessions across the city each week	
Active Aging Programme	2 sessions across the city each week	
Inclusive Sport & Physical Activity	2 initiatives delivered with partner	

Grassroots Sport Support		
Area	Target	Achieved
Club & Triathlon Swimming	7 clubs - 172 lane hours & 900 participants	
Water Polo Club Activity	4 clubs - 168 lanes hours & 500 participants	
Wider Sport Facility Use	200 clubs and organisations	

Performance Programmes		
Area	Target	Achieved
GLL Sports Foundation	140 supported athletes	
Facility Provision	8 Domestic & 2 International	
Sporting Events	Host a minimum of 10 events	

Health Programmes		
Area	Target	Achieved
Physical Activity Referral Scheme	677 completers	
Cancer Pre/Rehab Programme	170 completers	#
Cardiac Rehab Programme	116 completers	#
Pulmonary / Covid Programme	50 completers	#
MSK Programme	100 completers	#
Diabetes Programme	50 completes	#
NHS Programmes	Support Falls Prevention and Strength & Balance	

Training & Development		
Area	Target	Achieved
Swim Teacher Development	6 x Lead Teacher / 15 x Certificate / 25 x Award (FTE)	
Diving Coach Development	1 x Level 1 and 1 x Level 2 (FTE)	
Gymnastics Coach Development	8 x GAI	
Other Coach Development	Fencing x 6	

\*Collectively Swim School and Swimbies achieved 6,063 children enrolled on the 2024 programme

#Chronic Conditions pathway targets were not fully met due to less referral numbers, but full funding was still obtained due to over performance in PARS

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## Belfast Club Games

2024 Report



The Better Belfast Club Games, held on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th October at Brook Leisure Centre and Girdwood Community Hub, were a resounding success. Over 70 participants aged 60+ from various centres across Belfast took part in a range of sports over the two-day event.

Thursday's activities included Danderball and Swimming, while Friday featured Pickleball, Indoor Bowls, Table Tennis, Boccia, Badminton, and Cornhole. Upon arrival, participants signed in, selected their preferred sports, and were given a Better t-shirt, with each centre represented by its own dedicated colour.

The competitions were highly competitive yet maintained an excellent spirit of sportsmanship throughout. Between sessions, participants were treated to tea, coffee, scones, and tray bakes, adding to the social atmosphere of the day. There was also a special visit from members of the Belfast Giants, who joined in alongside the participants and assisted in umpiring some of the games.

In the end, Team Falls triumphed, winning the Danderball, Indoor Bowls, and Boccia events, reclaiming the trophy for the second consecutive year. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, making it a fantastic occasion for everyone involved.





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Subject:	Annual GLL Policies and Operational Procedures Alignment Statement
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paul McLoughlin, Partnership Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☒

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To present members with annual assurances on GLL policy and procedure alignments as set out within the leisure management contract.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are requested to consider:
2.1	The information provided below and note the statement of policy alignment as presented at 3.2.5 below.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Under the terms of the leisure contract between BCC and GLL, Council (previously via ABL) is required to assess and provide assurance that specified GLL policies and operating procedures reflect those of Belfast City Council. This requirement is set out in the partnership specification and leisure management contract documentation. The last annual policy and procedure alignment report was presented to committee in May 2024.</p> <p>GLL are not required to adopt BCC policies and procedures but are required to have policies and operational procedures in place that are substantially aligned to those of the Council. Key policy areas specified within the leisure management contract are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Equality &amp; Diversity</li> <li>b) Health &amp; Safety (including safeguarding)</li> <li>c) Human Resources</li> <li>d) Emergency Support &amp; PSNI/BCC Public Safety</li> </ul> <p>Each policy area is continually monitored as part of the CNS contract compliance and performance assurance programme. GLL policy documents and operational method statements are held by CNS and are confirmed/updated annually.</p> <p>Assurance statements are scheduled to be presented to committee annually in May.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>GLL policies and procedures related to the above four areas remain under ongoing review. Each is monitored by CNS officers in consultation with corporate colleagues where appropriate. The CNS Partnership Manager liaises directly with the relevant dedicated BCC departments/sections and co-ordinates any necessary actions with GLL.</p> <p>Since contract commencement in 2015 it has been standard practice to conduct intermittent in-depth reviews of GLL policies and procedures around Equality &amp; Diversity and Health &amp; Safety in line with updates in legislation.</p>
3.2.1	Independent assessment and monitoring of equality and diversity was quantified and reported upon in Autum 2024 via Article 55 with the Equality Commission. Internally, EDI is monitored on a monthly basis using KPIs. The next in-depth assessment of Equality and Diversity alignment will be carried out in the Autumn of 2025.

3.2.2	Health and Safety is rightly regarded as a key BCC corporate risk. Consequently, GLL compliance with H&S legislation, including safeguarding, is closely monitored and has been independently reviewed by external consultants on three separate occasions over the last nine years. Currently 14 leisure centres in Belfast hold Quest accreditations which includes a health and safety compliance declaration.
3.2.3	GLL Human Resources practices, including TUPE transfer conditions as set out in the leisure management contract, are standard agenda items at monthly CNS/GLL strategic meetings and are the subject of regular meetings at Director and Chief Executive level.
3.2.4	Under Emergency Support & PSNI/BCC Public Safety GLL are required to make Council leisure facilities and GLL staff available when required. The CNS Partnership Manager sits on the Councils Emergency Planning Group to co-ordinate any activities or issues relevant to the leisure estate or the GLL management contract.
3.2.5	<p>Ongoing contract compliance monitoring alongside a review of previous analysis concludes that key GLL and BCC policy and operating procedures remain substantially aligned. Consequently, we are satisfied that the current arrangements and outputs support the following statement:</p> <p><b>‘At 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, BCC and GLL policies and operational procedures in relation to Equality &amp; Diversity, Health &amp; Safety (including safeguarding), Human Resources and Emergency Support &amp; PSNI/BCC Public Safety are closely aligned with no significant variances or areas of concern to address.’</b></p>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider the information provided above and note the statement of policy alignment assurance presented at 3.2.5 above.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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Subject:	Girdwood Hub Progress Update
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan - Director of City & Neighbourhood services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney – Good Relations Manager Leanne Holmes – Community Engagement Co Ordinator

<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>
<b>1.1</b>	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress to date at Girdwood Community Hub.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The Committee is asked to note that a proprietary funding agreement regarding the Collaborative Shared Space Programme will be agreed via delegated authority for a period of up to 2 years until 31 March 2027 and to endorse the emerging business case to support the proprietary use of local community organisations to deliver a robust youth engagement and activity programme.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	Background
3.1	In relation to the Girdwood site, Members will be aware that Council manages the delivery of the Hub, and the Department for Communities (DfC) are currently leading on the wider development of the Girdwood Park site.
3.2	Girdwood Community Hub has the principles of shared space built into its core and, to enable the facility to benefit inter and intra community relations, the Council set up a dedicated. Community Hub Forum whose role is to promote and help advise on enhancing the hub as a welcoming, open, shared, and safe space. The Girdwood Community Hub Forum is chaired by the Council with representation from local community and voluntary representatives, stakeholders, and statutory agencies alongside two Elected Members.
3.3	A working group which reports to the Forum has been set up to cover the programming of the youth space within the Hub and delivery of shared space programmes. This was set up to ensure that work was focussed and coordinated prior to any proposals being brought forward to manage the youth space from the Girdwood Community Trust. As part of this process in the interim, the youth organisations on the working group have been drawing up proposals to deliver shared space programmes to animate the space on the Girdwood site.
3.4	Given the importance of subsidiarity in the delivery of youth services at Girdwood and as an interim measure to ensure that the space is animated appropriately, Council has previously supported a collaborative activity programme which is designed and delivered in partnership with local youth providers, namely those from six-neighbouring community/youth organisations - Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and New Lodge Arts, TAMHI and Our Club Our Community. Since the opening of the centre, the Girdwood Hub Forum have supported these neighbouring organisations as they are best placed to deliver youth-based engagement and activity programmes being delivered and have positively impacted on the current aims and objectives around good relations, shared space, and interventions. Critically, these locally based youth organisations have the capacity and grassroots relationships to expedite a rapid response to address issues which arise as well as ASB in parallel to the delivery of an activity-based programme that seeks to change the attitudes of the young people using the Hub.
3.5	The period would be for one year with a caveat of a break clause included. This would reduce the risk to Council in the event of a proposal being submitted by Girdwood Community Trust regarding management of the Youth Space and approved by Council in future. (More detail on the background to this is provided in paragraphs 3.10 & 3.11.) This would bring a stop to the short-term funding and the proprietary agreement would cease.
3.6	Programme delivery from the local organisations has been shown to contribute to the reduction of ASB at the site and has also delivered on other important outcomes linked to good relations and shared space. The summer programming has always contributed towards Girdwood being considered a safe and welcoming space for all and proves important during times of potential tension. The programme offer is diverse and makes use of the different and innovative aspects of the facility.
3.7	Delivery is collaborative in nature involving local community youth providers, primarily funded by the Council. The programme is agreed quarterly in advance with the Working Group and includes sessions in arts, IT, sports, personal development, and good relations and encourages access to other services within the Hub. The programmes also include outreach and detached work which aims to support local young people at risk, reduce ASB on site and

	<p>encourage involvement in the Youth Space and Hub. The youth programme has developed and evolved and now offers activities 6 days week. In a climate where central government are announcing reductions in budget such as the Education Authority and TEO, this provision at Girdwood would be most needed to keep a consistency of relevant programming at the surrounding site.</p> <p><b>Request</b></p>
3.8	<p>Therefore, as in previous years, Officers have developed a business case for approval under the scheme of delegation for the Director of Neighbourhood Services to procure services for youth programming promoting shared space from the six-neighbouring community/youth organisations - Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and New Lodge Arts, TAMHI and Our Club Our Community. The request is for members to note that a proprietary funding agreement which has been previously agreed, however it will now cover the period from April 2025 to end March 2027, with a break clause in place should a Youth Space with a Management proposal in draft to be considered for approval for handover to the Girdwood Community Trust.</p>
3.9	<p>To date financial support for the youth programme has been funded through the Girdwood Youth Space budget and includes procurement of facility hire, coaching and facilitator costs, tools and materials and sessional fees for youth workers. Community based staffing in the form of sessional youth workers is currently largely funded by The Executive Office, however, with some organisations facing delays in their letter of offers from TEO delays, this poses financial difficulties for some of the organisations.</p> <p><b>Proposal for Youth Space Management</b></p>
3.10	<p>Over the development of this project, the local community have expressed an ambition for future community management of Girdwood Community Hub. Given the stated ambition of the local community to develop the capability to support community management in the future, Council agreed that a useful first step to develop confidence by all parties would be to develop and consider an SLA for community management of the dedicated Youth Space. This identified pilot will in effect support the development of trust, relationships, and capacity among the local community groups towards their aspiration of community management.</p>
3.11	<p>Members may wish to note that Girdwood Community Trust have submitted a preliminary draft proposal to Council regarding management of the Youth Space and that details are being worked through with Council Officers. When discussions have been finalised, a report will be brought to Members for consideration in due course</p>
3.12	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b> Programme resources for these services are within service revenue estimates.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b> The aim of the Community Hub and the associated programme is to promote shared space which will contribute to the enhancement of good relations.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Resources and Fleet Waste Update
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources and Fleet)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>To provide an update to members on waste Collections, management and performance, including data on the ongoing pilots in relation to difficult to access streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park With us in Mind Pilot</li> <li>• Small Vehicles for Difficult to Access Streets</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p><b><u>Waste Performance &amp; Recycling Rates</u></b></p> <p>The most recent waste statistics published by the NIEA are the July to September 2024 quarterly statistics. The report is a snapshot of the second quarter of the 24/25 financial year versus the same period for the previous year.</p>
3.2	<p>The overall picture for NI was one of; an increasing quantity of waste collected (267,145 tonnes collected, up 0.9%), a static municipal reuse and recycling rate (52.9%) combined with a decrease in the landfill disposal rate, down to 15.5%.</p>
3.3	<p>An examination of the figures for Belfast City Council, indicates the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Municipal Waste Arisings</b> - the total tonnage of all types of waste collected by the Council was 41,883 tonnes, an increase of approximately 1,109 tonnes (2.7%) on the same quarter last year.</li> <li>• <b>Municipal Waste Recycling Rate</b> – the percentage of all types of waste collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 0.7% to 41%.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Household Waste Recycling Rate</b>– the percentage of household waste only collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 0.9% to 44.2%.</li> <li>• <b>Landfill Diversion Rate</b> – the percentage of all Council waste sent to landfill was 0.2%, a further reduction on the 0.6% figure for the same period in the previous year.</li> </ul>
3.4	The provisional year-to-date position at Q2 shows the Local Authority Collected Municipal Recycling Rate at 40.86%, up 1% on the same period the previous year. The main contributor to the uplift in the figures was the increased tonnage of recyclables captured through the arc21 interim residual waste treatment contract, being delivered by Regen, in Q1 of 24/25.
3.5	<p>As noted within this report and brought to the attention of Members through various consultation responses, there are a number of legislative, strategic and financial drivers which are going to shape future waste management arrangements. Whilst we await further and clear guidance from DAERA, the full nature and implications of these policy drivers still remain somewhat unclear and in the absence of sufficient clarity, radical, systemic change aimed at delivering significant improvements in NI environmental targets is unlikely.</p> <p><b>Waste Framework Update</b></p>
3.6	As a reminder, at the People & Communities Committee meeting of June 2017, Members approved the Waste Framework document. It provides an overview of options on how waste could be managed within the city over the next decade. It was developed to align with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy), designing out waste, improving the quantity and quality of recycling and supporting local jobs.
3.7	<p>The Waste Framework focuses on four themes (i) Collection Arrangements, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Behaviour Change and (iv) Technology. The following sections provide an insight on the work and initiatives currently being undertaken under the four main workstreams.</p> <p><b>(i) Collection Arrangements</b></p> <p><b>Kerbside Glass</b></p>
3.8	As part of the 2024/25 revenue estimates setting process, Members committed to delivering phase one of this scheme which involves an expansion of kerbside glass to approximately 23,000 households. Internal funding and support funding from DAERA under the Household Recycling Collaboratives Change Programme was secured to deliver phase 1 of the project.
3.9	Kerbside collections commenced to all low-rise households during February and March 2025. At the time of writing, a delay on the delivery of the wheeled bins for apartment properties has resulted in a delay to the roll-out to these properties. It is anticipated that the apartment roll-out will now be completed by 30 April 2025.
3.10	Initial kerbside surveys indicate lower than anticipated set-out rates and tonnages. Once the apartments have been onboarded the Service will conduct a full set-out survey and tonnage assessment.
3.11	As part of the rates setting process Members agreed to the phase 2 expansion plans which will see an additional 23,000 households included on the scheme in 2025/26. Officers have



	<p>started the initial planning stages for phase 2 and will present a report in the near future regarding the proposed streets.</p> <p><b><i>Community Repaint Scheme</i></b></p>
3.12	<p>East Belfast Mission (EBM) has been appointed as the contractor for the Repaint scheme. This initiative, delivered through the Household Waste Recycling Centres went live with a soft launch on 1 April 2025. This will now be promoted through the Council's usual communication channels.</p> <p><b><i>Laptop Reuse</i></b></p>
3.13	<p>At the members workshop on Household Waste Recycling Centres held on 5 March 2025, officers were requested to provide information on the laptop reuse scheme operating from Ormeau recycling centre.</p>
3.14	<p>The project set a target figure of 100 units to be refurbished and re-used at Ormeau. During the course of the initiative (1/9/22 -31/3/24) 47 units were prepared for re-use with distribution to digitally excluded individuals or organisations. A number of possible factors influenced the lower than anticipated figures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following feedback from the initial trial at Ormeau HWRC the scheme was revised to accept laptops and tablets which were no more than 5 years old as these were more likely to be repairable and upgradeable but this more selective approach may have influenced numbers disposed of</li> <li>• The cost-of-living concerns may have resulted in increased retention of laptops and people less likely to purchase new models and hence dispose of their older models.</li> <li>• Increase in the number of retail outlets and online suppliers offering cash-back when customers purchased new laptops or tablets.</li> </ul>
3.15	<p>While the number of laptops captured were below the target figures, the project has delivered some key benefits;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of a circular economy project delivering environmental and social benefit.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the importance of re-use amongst staff and external partners</li> <li>• Delivering on one of the recommendations of the More Circularity, Less Carbon report (Prevention &amp; Reuse)</li> <li>• Supporting local economy/repair outlet via the contractor</li> <li>• Reducing digital exclusion for those individuals in receipt of the laptops</li> </ul>
3.16	<p>The Service is exploring the potential of linking in with Digital Services in a future computer and laptop reuse and recycling contract aligned with the disposal of BCC Equipment.</p> <p><b>(ii) Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b><i>Recycling Centres &amp; Dargan Road WTS</i></b></p>
3.17	<p>Following SP&amp;R approval for capital funding, the Service has completed a procurement exercise for a multi-year, container provision contract. Phase 1 of this contract has been delivered in 2024/25 with the arrival and installation of 40 skips and 6 new compactor units. The 2025/26 financial year will see a similar investment and the conclusion of this</p>

	<p>refurbishment exercise. This will deliver an improved health and safety environment at the sites along with improved logistical efficiency from the new compactor units.</p> <p><b><i>Recycling Centres and Pedestrian Access</i></b></p>
3.18	<p>The service has requested that colleagues in Property &amp; Projects (P&amp;P) commission a feasibility study regarding pedestrian access for Palmerston Road and Blackstaff Way HWRC. A procurement exercise has been initiated by P&amp;P for this work and further updates will be provided as this project moves through the governance process.</p> <p><b><i>Recycling Centres and Repair Works</i></b></p>
3.19	<p>Members will be aware that at the committee meeting of 8 October 2024, it was noted that Park Road/Ormeau HWRC and Palmerston HWRC would have to undergo temporary closures in order to carry out essential repair works to the service bay aimed at maintaining health and safety on site and securing long-term service continuity for site users.</p>
3.20	<p>The works at Park Road recycling centre were completed as planned within the three weeks with the site re-opening on the 10 March 2025. Palmerston recycling centre closed on 10 March 2025 and following the service bay repairs, re-opened on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025, ahead of the scheduled date of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p>
3.21	<p>The Service intends to work with colleagues in Property &amp; Projects to complete this programme of essential repair works with the inclusion of Blackstaff Way in 2025/26.</p> <p><b><i>arc21 Residual Waste Project and Interim Residual Waste arrangements</i></b></p>
3.22	<p>Members will be aware that there is a legal challenge against the award of the arc21 contract pertaining to the treatment of the Council's residual waste by ReGen. An indicative date of 9 June has been put forward for the hearing of this case.</p> <p><b>(iii) Behaviour Change</b></p> <p><b><i>Household Waste Recycling Centres - Workshop</i></b></p>
3.23	<p>A members workshop was held on 5 March 2025, to examine the performance of HWRCs and the challenges they face, particularly in light of policies and procedures adopted by neighbouring councils, ranging from simple proof of residency within the council catchment area to online booking systems for all users and fair use policies.</p>
3.24	<p>At present, other than a pre-booking system for light goods vehicles, the Council lacks similar policies aimed at ensuring only permitted, household waste is disposed of at the recycling centres aimed at improving recycling performance and to ensure safe, efficient operational practices at the sites.</p>
3.25	<p>During the course of the workshop, members discussed the key issues summarised as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Booking systems</li> <li>• Waste access &amp; acceptance policies including fair use policies</li> <li>• Impact of policies on fly-tipping</li> <li>• Counter systems</li> <li>• Opportunities for further circular economy initiatives and materials</li> </ul>

	<p>Members agreed that the Service should investigate the above with a view to bringing back a report to committee.</p> <p><b>(iv) Information Technology</b></p>														
3.26	<p>As previously reported to Committee a project to procure an 'inCAB' technology system was progressing to modernise processes and controls around Waste Collections, vehicle monitoring and efficient routing, with the potential to amongst other things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold all safety information on vehicles and routes.</li> <li>• incorporate live time information flows to and from the operating centre to crews.</li> <li>• capture all the functionality of the Report IT App</li> <li>• optimise routes as the city grows to ensure operational efficiency.</li> <li>• link in with Customer Hub software to deliver customer service.</li> <li>• monitor vehicle condition and driver behaviour.</li> </ul>														
3.27	<p>A contract was awarded in February 2025 to Whitespace, a well-known expert company in this field of work. The project has now moved from procurement phase to implementation phase. One of the first key steps in this process is to ensure that all Waste Collections Route data covering in excess of 500 routes is cleansed and verified before being uploaded into the new system. Thereafter work will begin on a route balancing exercise, the review all routes and ensure balanced workloads for crews. At the same time multiple workstreams are being developed to fully implement the full operational capabilities of the new system over the next 12 months.</p>														
3.28	<p>Further updates will be brought to Committee as the project team develops its detailed work plan</p>														
3.29	<p><b>Restricted Access Streets Pilots Updates</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that this pilot was launched on 6th May 2024, The overall scheme envisaged three 'cycles' in these areas over a period of approximately 18 months. A report was presented to People and Communities Committee in December 2024 after the first cycle.</p>														
3.30	<p>Since then, the second cycle was planned as follows and is now complete.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th><th>Start Date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stranmillis Rd Area</td><td>21/10/2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Donegall Road / Village Area</td><td>18/11/2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cregagh / Loopland Area</td><td>16/12/2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Springfield Road Area</td><td>13/01/2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lower Ormeau Road/ Park Road Area</td><td>10/02/2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Iveagh / Broadway Area</td><td>10/03/2025</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	Start Date	Stranmillis Rd Area	21/10/2024	Donegall Road / Village Area	18/11/2024	Cregagh / Loopland Area	16/12/2024	Springfield Road Area	13/01/2025	Lower Ormeau Road/ Park Road Area	10/02/2025	Iveagh / Broadway Area	10/03/2025
Area	Start Date														
Stranmillis Rd Area	21/10/2024														
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Springfield Road Area	13/01/2025														
Lower Ormeau Road/ Park Road Area	10/02/2025														
Iveagh / Broadway Area	10/03/2025														
3.31	<p>Officers are now in a position to provide some analysis and data to compare both crew reports and customer contact levels covering the 6 weeks prior to intervention, the results from the first cycle and now the results from the second cycle.</p>														
3.32	<p>As before, the data comes from two sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational crew reports of not being able to access streets or blocked alleyways, entrances etc</li> </ul>														

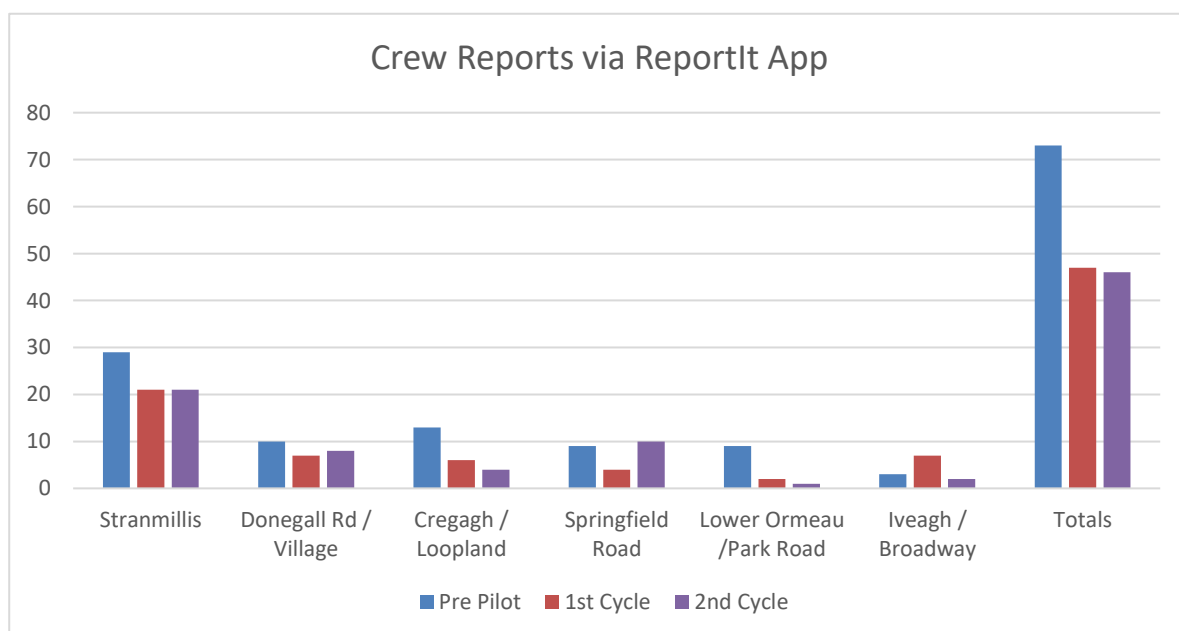
- Customer contact data in relation to residents in the relevant streets reporting non collections

Table 1 summarises the data from both sources and is illustrated in Chart 1 and Chart 2

**Table 1 Reported instances by crews and Customers**

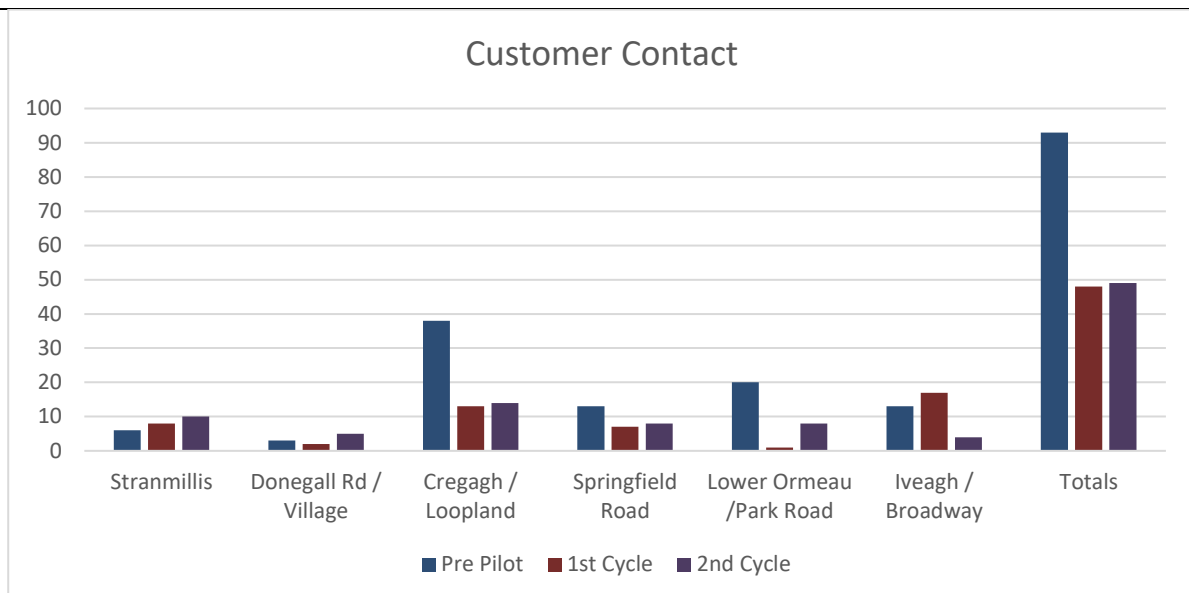
Area	Crews via Report it App						Customer Contact					
	Pre Pilot	1st Cycle	% change	2nd Cycle	% change		Pre Pilot	1st Cycle	% change	2nd Cycle	% change	
Stranmillis	29	21	28%	21	28%	↓	6	8	-33%	10	-67%	↑
Donegall Rd / Village	10	7	30%	8	20%	↓	3	2	33%	5	-67%	↑
Cregagh / Loopland	13	6	54%	4	69%	↓	38	13	66%	14	63%	↓
Springfield Road	9	4	56%	10	-11%	↑	13	7	46%	8	38%	↓
Lower Ormeau /Park Road	9	2	78%	1	89%	↓	20	1	95%	8	60%	↓
Iveagh / Broadway	3	7	-133%	2	33%	↓	13	17	-31%	4	69%	↓
Totals	73	47	36%	46	37%	↓	93	48	48%	49	47%	↓

**Chart 1 Reports by Crews by target area**



**Chart 2 Customer contacts from residents for missed collections**

3.35



3.36

From this set of data it would seem that the improvements in relation to both crews reporting issues and from customer contacts has been maintained during the second cycle of monitoring and enforcement by DFI.

- In 5 of the 6 areas crew have reported less instances of non-access with an overall reduction of 37% compared to the 6 week period prior to pilot launch. There has been an improvement in the Iveagh/ Broadway area but there has been a slight increase in the Springfield Road area.
- In 4 of the six areas there was a reduction of customer contacts with an equivalent overall reduction of reports by 47% against baseline. There was again an improvement in the Iveagh / Broadway area, exceptions to this are in the Stranmillis and Donegall Road / Village areas.

3.37

An officer review meeting with BCC and DFI will take place at the in May to discuss the data and to see if any improvements can be introduced to improve on the first cycle.

#### **Introduction of Small Vehicles for Difficult to Access Streets**

3.38

Members will be aware that the pilot for this initiative, consisting of two leased 18 tonnes Dennis Eagle Refuse Collection Vehicles and temporary crews, commenced collection in identified and agreed difficult to access streets on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The pilot has been full rolled out since December 2024.

3.39

Following the initial success of the first three months of the pilot, reported to the Committee in December 2024, officers submitted a growth proposal for the addition of two additional crews and vehicles to make this scheme permanent, and members approved this proposal as part of the 2025/26 rate setting process. Resources and Fleet are now working through the financial governance process to procure vehicles and recruit staff on a permanent basis.

3.40

In all, the number of streets being serviced by the two smaller vehicles is as follows in Table 2

Bin Type	Streets with Bin Type
----------	-----------------------

		<table><tr><td>Black/Grey Non-recyclable</td><td>126</td></tr><tr><td>Brown Food/ Garden Compostables</td><td>84</td></tr><tr><td>Blue Dry Mixed Recyclables</td><td>77</td></tr></table>	Black/Grey Non-recyclable	126	Brown Food/ Garden Compostables	84	Blue Dry Mixed Recyclables	77	
Black/Grey Non-recyclable	126								
Brown Food/ Garden Compostables	84								
Blue Dry Mixed Recyclables	77								

3.41

The latest data is outlined below in Table 3. The table shows the performance of the pilot in the last three months against the three months before pilot launch and the equivalent three months of the prior year. Again, two measures are captured in relation to this; crews reporting issues via Report It App and customers raising service requests received via the Customer Hub.

3.42

Data has been produced comparing the amount of crew reports and customer contacts in relation to missed collections as follows

- The latest three months of small vehicles in operation against the three months immediately prior to their introduction
- The latest three months in operation against the same period the previous year (Jan-Mar 24 vs Jan-Mar25)

3.43

Table 3 - Reported incidents 3 months prior and three months same time last year

	3 months pre pilot	3 months Jan-Mar 25	% reduction		3 months Jan-Mar 24	3 months Jan-Mar 25	% reduction	
Crews Via Report it App	209	49	77%	↓	262	49	81%	↓
Customer Contacts	403	192	52%	↓	316	192	39%	↓

3.44

Chart 3 - Incidents Jan-Mar 25 versus 3 months prior to pilot launch and Jan-Mar 24

Small Vehicles Pilot

Comparison	Measure	Value (Jan-Mar 25)	Value (Comparison Period)	% Reduction
3 months pre pilot vs Jan-Mar 25	Crews Via Report it App	49	209	77%
	Customer Contacts	192	403	52%
Jan-Mar24 vs Jan-Mar 25	Crews Via Report it App	49	262	81%
	Customer Contacts	192	316	39%



3.45	<p><b><u>Retrieval of empty bins post waste collection</u></b></p> <p>A Member requested information in relation to the legislative powers the Council has in relation to enforcing the (non) retrieval of bins after waste collection.</p>
3.46	<p>In relation to this matter, relevant legislation outlines several powers the council has in relation to the collection of Waste from Households (and Commercial entities). They include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the council may require the occupier to place the waste for collection in receptacles of a kind and number specified. Separate receptacles or compartments of receptacles may be required to be used for waste which is to be recycled and waste which is not.</li> <li>2. In making requirements as respect to receptacles, the placing of the receptacles for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them, and access to the receptacles for that purpose including the placing of the receptacles for that purpose on roads.</li> </ol>
3.47	<p>It can be seen that the Council can ask for receptacles (bins) to be placed on roads for collection purposes. <b>Specifically, however, in relation to the retrieval of receptacles from the street, the legislation does not give the Council any powers of enforcement.</b></p>
3.48	<p>It is our understanding that enforcement powers in relation to the removal of obstructions from the pavement or from roads the public are under the remit of the Department for Infrastructure.</p>
3.49	<p>As the Council has no powers to enforce retrieval, the service has for many years tried to engage with residents on a local basis, through the use of tags and stickers on bins, leafleting and lettering households. On occasions where it has finally been determined that a bin has been abandoned, then arrangements may be put in place to remove it permanently.</p>
3.50	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b></p>
3.51	<p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <p>Nil</p>





<b>Subject:</b>	Port Health update
<b>Date:</b>	6 May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒ N

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
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☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒ X

No

☐

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide a Members with an update on the Council's Port Health operations and transition plans for moving to a new purpose built product inspection facility at Dargan Drive in July 2025.
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the report
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>Port Health operations:</b> Members will be aware that Belfast City Council's Port Health service have been working jointly with DAERA at Belfast Port for many years, and this has continued in an enhanced form since the UK's exit from the European Union. Since the beginning of 2021, the Port Health function services an increased volume of food consignments entering via Belfast Port, ensuring that food is fit and safe to eat.
3.2	<b>Legislative Change:</b> Following publication of the Windsor Framework Agreement by the UK/EU, new arrangements for food and other products entering NI ports commenced from 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2023, including under Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) and the Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) scheme.
3.3	BCC Port Health undertakes official controls on certain food products (including fish and fish products, high risk food not of animal origin, organic products and plastic kitchenware on consignments that may be at risk of entering the EU (red lane). In the main the Windsor Framework has not resulted in significant direct impacts on BCC operation and work volumes have remained generally steady over the past 4 years.
3.4	The Windsor Framework has been implemented in phases, and the latest phase sees delivery of newly constructed inspection facilities at NI Ports by July 2025. This programme of work has been led by DEFRA in consultation with key delivery stakeholders, including DAERA, Food Standards Agency, Border Force and the relevant NI Councils. Forthcoming changes to labelling requirements for goods moving under the NIRMS scheme are also due to be introduced within the next few months, together with updated arrangements for pet travel and post and parcels. This work is being led by DEFRA and DAERA.
3.5	Some uncertainties remain in areas where UK Government ministers have yet to provide direction, however we are aware that discussions between the UK Government and the EU are continuing.

3.6	<p><b>Funding:</b> The service is currently funded on an annual basis via the Central Competent Authorities for the respective food policy areas (Food Standards Agency for fish, high risk food and plastics/kitchenware from China/Hong Kong and DAERA for organic products and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing). Officers have submitted details (of the Councils requirements to retain our current staffing resource assigned to this work) to the relevant central competent authorities (FSA and DAERA) for the 2025/6 year and we anticipate that these will be successful.</p>
3.7	<p>The Council has been advocating for a longer term sustainable funding model for these services. Whilst the Council has been engaged in assessing requirements over a longer term period, no confirmation of a longer term funding period, or how uncertainties in future work volumes might be addressed has yet been received. It anticipated that as UK/EU discussions progress, further clarity over future arrangements and funding models will emerge.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Staffing:</b> To facilitate increased service levels, the Port Health team was expanded in late 2020, however recruitment and retention challenges have existed throughout the past 4 years. Whilst a number of recruitment campaigns have reduced the number of vacant posts and have supported stability, a small number of Environmental Health Officer posts remain unfilled. This continues to create a risk should existing staff leave to take up posts elsewhere.</p>
3.9	<p><b>IT systems:</b> Officers are engaging with DAERA, FSA and DEFRA on emerging developments at regional, national and global levels, to ensure that IT systems used by the Council are fit for purpose and effectively integrated to ensure a more efficient and streamlined approach. To facilitate this work, DAERA have been developing and enhancing the system used by Port stakeholder including Councils, to address Council needs. This will support closer joint working on the shared Port sites, while increasing efficiency of processes.</p>
3.10	<p><b>New inspection facility:</b> A new SPS Product Inspection Facility on Dargan Drive is scheduled for operational readiness in summer of 2025 and construction is occurring at pace under the direction of DEFRA. Finalised timelines will be confirmed in the coming weeks – operational readiness is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025, however this could be subject to change depending on delivery of key milestones in handover of the site to DAERA, and finalisation of site processes, procedures, risk assessments and site inductions for all staff.</p>
3.11	<p>DAERA will act as the site operator leading on facilities management. Users of the site will include DAERA Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group and Plant Health, Belfast City Council Port Health, and Border Force. All users will move operations to the new site from day 1.</p>
3.12	<p>A joint Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared for agreement of all site users – this will set out the roles responsibilities and procedures for management and operation of the facility. This is currently being developed with input from officers across the Council, including</p>

	<p>Port Health, Legal Services, Corporate Health and Safety, Digital Services, and Finance. It is envisaged this will secure continuation of the arrangements that operate at the temporary facilities at Belfast Port.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Current facility at Corry Place:</b> Belfast City Council's Port Health service continues to operate from the existing inspection facility at Corry Place, which is shared with DAERA for some inspections. The majority of Council inspections are undertaken at Corry Place with some additional inspections at a Temporary SPS Inspection Facility currently operated by DAERA on Duncrue Street.</p>
3.14	<p>Following construction of the new permanent facility in summer 2025, the Council will retain the inspection facility at 5 Corry Place as an operational contingency to support transition for a short period. During this period consideration will be given to the most appropriate options for retention or disposal of the site as a Council asset (currently leased from Belfast Harbour Commissioners).</p>
3.15	<p><b>Consumer Product Safety – Ports and Borders Programme</b></p> <p>The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is responsible for developing national capacity for product safety to manage risks related to consumer product safety across the UK. The objective of the OPSS Ports and Borders Programme is to strengthen the UK's market surveillance activities to the interception of unsafe imported goods at ports using risk and intelligence led approach in a way that minimises disruption to trade in compliant goods. The programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide effective deterrent to prevent importers from importing unsafe goods;</li> <li>• build capability to respond to national threats related to imported goods;</li> <li>• be able to demonstrate the adequacy of this approach to trade partners and meet our obligations under relevant trade agreements. This is primarily in relation to imports into GB, including goods imported from the EU which may be non-qualifying goods moving via Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>
3.16	<p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>32 Fixed term contract posts are included in the Port Health structure (of which 27 are filled) for delivering this function. Funding for these posts is provided on an annual basis from UK Government via both the Food Standards Agency and DAERA</p>
3.17	<p>To support the Councils work on Consumer product safety, Belfast City Council has received funding from OPSS for the past 5 years; funding for this programme in 2025/26 has been confirmed at £135k.</p>



3.18	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None

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**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

INTEGRATED ADVICE PARTNERSHIP FUND

<b>Subject:</b>	Integrated Advice Partnership Fun
<b>Date:</b>	6th May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Director, Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
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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?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues								
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members that following the decision by P&C committee in April, the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund has been fully allocated.								
2.0	Recommendation								
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.								
3.0	Main Report								
3.1	<b>Background information</b> Members will recall that at April P&C committee they considered the outcome of a second call for applications to the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund and approved the funding of the bids received from the providers/organisations within the existing advice consortia.								
3.2	The committee also agreed, in principle, that any in-year underspend would be redistributed equally across the four providers/organisations identified within the report, subject to officers ascertaining that capacity existed within the aforesaid organisations to deliver the proposed service in 2025/26. Officers have now consulted with all delivery partners and they have confirmed that they have the capacity to deliver services with the additional allocation.								
3.3	Officers will allocate the remaining £46,103.75 equally across the 4 applicants; which will mean an additional allocation of £11,525.94 to each organisation. The final allocations are listed below: <table><tr><td>Upper Springfield Development Trust</td><td>£57,448.94</td></tr><tr><td>The Vine Centre</td><td>£60,392.94</td></tr><tr><td>South City Resource and Development Centre</td><td>£36,389.94</td></tr><tr><td>Advice Space</td><td>£94,022.94</td></tr></table>	Upper Springfield Development Trust	£57,448.94	The Vine Centre	£60,392.94	South City Resource and Development Centre	£36,389.94	Advice Space	£94,022.94
Upper Springfield Development Trust	£57,448.94								
The Vine Centre	£60,392.94								
South City Resource and Development Centre	£36,389.94								
Advice Space	£94,022.94								
3.4	<b>Financial and Resource Implications</b> 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. <table><tr><td>24/25</td><td>25/26</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>£160,804.82</td><td>£87,448.66</td><td>£248,253.48</td></tr></table> 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.	24/25	25/26	Total	£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48		
24/25	25/26	Total							
£160,804.82	£87,448.66	£248,253.48							
3.5	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b> Belfast City Council is developing a screening and rural needs assessment for this fund.								
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached								
4.1	N/A								



<b>Subject:</b>	Play Services Rental Agreement for Benview Residents Association
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Israel Hontavilla – Community Services Unit Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
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☐

## 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	Members to consider the extension or expiry of rental agreement with Benview Residents Association.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	That committee notes the report and considers the extension or expiry of rental agreement with Benview Residents Association.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b>Background – Benveiw Residents Association</b>
3.1	<p>Belfast City Council entered into an informal agreement with Benview Residents Association (BRA) in 1997. A formal agreement was put in place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003 for an initial term of three years. This agreement has been extended in two-year periods since then. The rental agreement to Benview provides Play Service with access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storeroom.</li> <li>• Outdoor space for a container.</li> <li>• Office space Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00.</li> <li>• Main Hall for activities on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday from 13:30 to 16:30.</li> </ul>
3.2	The Play Service pays Benview Residents Association a rental amount of £4,225 for this access and locates a Play Team and part-time cleaner in an office. Council is also required to pay £800 rent to BRA to provide a short summer scheme in the centre.
3.3	<p>Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Play Service operated from two Council owned buildings and three rental venues. To improve service provision the Play Service began the process to locate all staff within Belfast City Council building to ensure a standardised approach to staff facilities, programme design and implementation and outreach provision.</p> <p>This approached has enabled the service to design and deliver targeted programmes working closely with local schools, service providers, residents and voluntary groups on the most impactful days and times. This targeted approach has resulted in Play Teams creating increased connections with local communities, increasing the overall outputs of the Play Service and improving outcomes in line with the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.4	<p>Play Service engaged with officers from across the Department to identify under-utilised buildings which could be transformed into Play Centres. In 2022 Play Service agreed access to new venues at under-utilised Downshire Hall, Botanic Bowling Pavilion and Woodvale Bowling Pavilion. They terminated two of the three historical rental agreements and fully re-located two teams to re-purposed buildings with supporting outdoor spaces at Downshire Hall and Botanic Bowling Pavilion.</p> <p>Full daytime access and control of the buildings enables the Play Service to programme services in line with local need. Hours delivered and attendance increased by 27% (average). The financial resources that were allocated to the rental agreements were re-invested in direct service delivery.</p>



3.5

At the end of 2022, Play Service advised Benview Residents Association that they were considering re-locating the team based in Benview to Woodvale Bowling Pavilion in line with the new delivery model.

3.6

This change enabled the relocation of Belfast City Council staff to both an office and play facility within our owned facilities whilst having increasing service provision. The Play Service currently provides seven weekly sessions, to other organisations in their facilities, where we provide staff free of charge to deliver a wide range of programmes targeted to the needs of the children and group.

3.7

The Play Service recognises that the delivery of their after-school and summer programmes is highly appreciated by residents. It also recognises that BRA delivers similar after-school and summer scheme services in their building themselves. At the start of 2024, after conversations with BRA, a one-year extension was agreed to provide the organisation with sufficient time to identify alternative sources of income or delivery models to suit their requirements. This notice period will expire on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

3.8

The Play Service has relocated its office space and staff to Woodvale Play Centre, has made arrangement for removal of the storage container and continues to provide after-schools programming at Benview three afternoon’s each week.

3.9

Belfast City Council would like to continue our work with Benview Residents Association where we will continue to deliver an afterschool and summer scheme service to children. This service would be in line with our outreach service across the City where we provide staff to deliver a high-quality play experience to children with no cost to an organisation or charge incurred by Belfast City Council.

3.10

The table below illustrates the financial support which Benview Residents Association received from Council in 2024 – 2025 and what it will be offered by Council in the 2025 – 2026 financial year, based on the decision on this report.

Funding	2024 - 2025	2025 – 2026 incl. rental	2025 – 2026 excl. rental
Community Summer Scheme	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500
Revenue Grant for Community Buildings	£20,623	£41,246	£41,246
Play Service Rental Agreement	£4,225	£4,225	£0
Rent of room for summer scheme	£800	£800	£0
Total amount	£28,148	£48,771	£43,746

3.11

Belfast City Council has received a request from Benview Residents Association for an extension of the current rental agreement for a period of 5 years. Members are asked to consider the request with the consideration that the Play Service no longer requires office space, outdoor space for a container and does pay other organisations while delivering services at their facilities.

3.12	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> This decision will either continue with a rental agreement or enable improved service delivery through re-allocation of resources.
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications from the implementation of this decision.
4.0	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	None.



**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the use of Parks for 2025 Events</b>
<b>Date:</b>	6th May 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.

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<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>	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <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/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 our parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullapalooza – CS Lewis Square</li> <li>• Live at C.S. Lewis Square – C.S. Lewis Square</li> <li>• Finaghy Cultural Festival – Wedderburn</li> <li>• North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City &amp; Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ol>
2.2	<p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
<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>Bullapalooza – CS Lewis Square</u></b></p>
3.3	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Bullhouse Brew Co to host their Bullapalooza event at CS Lewis Square. The event will take place over the course of three days and is designed to promote local business, independent performers and small breweries and distilleries across Belfast &amp; Northern Ireland.</p>
3.4	<p>The event marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday of the opening of Bull House East.</p>
3.5	<p>On the Friday and Sunday there will be a selection of food vendors and Welfare facilities. There will also be free wellness activities such as yoga and relaxation sessions.</p>
3.6	<p>The Saturday of the event will be ticketed with a cost of £20 per adult &amp; £5 per child. The activities on the Saturday will include a children's entertainer from 12pm to 2pm and this will then be followed by comedians and live music until 10pm in the evening.</p>
3.7	<p>10% of the money raised is being donated to Larder East who are community food hub who try to make food affordable for the local community.</p>

3.8	Bullhouse Brew Co have engaged Urban Events to carry out the completion of the event management plan and on-site risk assessments to ensure all health and safety guidelines are adhered to. Urban Events are regular health and safety consultants for the site supporting a lot of events delivered by East side Partnership.
3.9	<p><b>The Key Dates are as follows:</b>  Set Up – Friday 13 June 2025 from 9am – 3pm  <b>Live Event dates – Friday 13 June 2025 from 4pm – 10pm,</b>  <b>Saturday 14 June 2025 from 12pm – 10pm &amp;</b>  <b>Sunday 15 June 2025 from 1pm – 8pm</b>  De Rig – Sunday 15 June 2025 from 8pm – 10pm</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Live at C.S. Lewis Square – C.S. Lewis Square – Thursday 25 to Monday 29 July 2025</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Eastside Arts to host a three day music event followed by a free family funday at C.S. Lewis Square in July. The events are due to be part of this years upcoming East Side Arts Festival and will have a Live Band that will perform on the Friday &amp; Sunday night. Saturday will play host to an Electronic music event. Each of these events will be ticketed. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year this event will take place at CS Lewis Square and has passed off previously without issue.</p>
3.11	The funday on the Sunday will be a free event aimed at families to attend throughout the day. It will include arts & crafts along with market stalls.
3.12	<p><b>The Key Dates are as follows:</b>  Set up – Friday 25 July 2025 – 8 am onwards.  <b>Van Morrison tribute band – Friday 25 July 2025 from 7pm to 11pm</b>  <b>Electronic Music – Saturday 26 July 2025 from 3pm to 11pm</b>  <b>Family Funday– Saturday 26 &amp; Sunday 27 July 2025 – 12pm to 4pm</b>  <b>Oasis Tribute band – Sunday 27 July 2025 – 7pm to 11pm</b>  De-Rig– Monday 28 July 2025 – 12pm</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Finaghy Cultural Festival – Wedderburn – Friday 08 to Saturday 09 August 2025</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Finaghy Community Association to host their annual Finaghy Festival. It is organised by a small group of local people from the community who started out through the first lockdown back in March 2020. They started up a residents group volunteering and organizing events for the community.</p>
3.14	They will have a bar serving alcohol so a drinks license will be in place. The event will have a live singer and DJ on the Friday & Saturday evening and during the day on the Saturday there will be a family fun day which will include amusements and other entertainment. They have requested use of the grass at the side of the pavilion and pitch 2 at Wedderburn Playing Fields. Further to this they have also requested use of the Bowling Pavilion.
3.15	This will be the third time this event has taken place at the site. There have been previous noise issues that were rectified last year with Council officers working very closely with the group.
3.16	<p><b>The Key Dates are as follows:</b>  Set up – Thursday 7 August 2025 from 10am – 9pm  <b>Event time – Friday 8 August 2025 from 8pm to 10pm &amp;</b>  <b>Saturday 9 August from 12pm to 10pm</b>  De Rig – Sunday 10 August 2025 from 10am – 6.30pm</p>

3.17	<p><b><u>North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park – Thursday 30 October 2025</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from New Lodge Arts to host their Annual Lantern Parade. The event is designed to promote good relations in the shared space of Alexandra Park with a fee of £2 per person being charged for those wishing to attend.</p>
3.18	<p>This event has been held annually for a number of years without any issues arising during the course of the event.</p>
3.19	<p>The event will include art and crafts workshops, interactive music, dance and theatre shows, inflatables, walk about acts and an interactive bubble show.</p>
3.20	<p>The event will then finish with a live Firework display taking place in the park. New Lodge Arts will be responsible for providing all necessary documentation for the firework display prior to the event taking place.</p>
3.21	<p>In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion, organisers have requested that the park might be closed to members of the public for a period of time on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October and that only members of the public with tickets, can access the park on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> from 12.00pm until the event ends.</p>
3.22	<p><b>The Key Dates are as follows.</b>  Set up – Wednesday 29 October 2025 from 8am onwards  <b>Events – Thursday 30 October 2025 from 12pm to 3pm &amp; 5pm to 8.30pm</b>  De Rig – Friday 31 October 2025 from 8am - 3pm</p>
3.33	<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>
	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
	<p>None</p>





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposals for dual language street signs</b>
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May 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.

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never


## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<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 ten 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 Friendly Place, Stanfield Place, Stanfield Row, Friendly Row, Veryan Gardens, Thornberry Mews, Bearnagh Glen, Meadowhill Grange, Willowbank Gardens and Rossmore Drive.																																														
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																																														
3.1	<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.																																														
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																														
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Friendly Place</td><td>Plás na gCarad</td><td>Off Stewart Street, BT7</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stanfield Place</td><td>Plás Stanfield</td><td>Off Upper Stanfield Street, BT7</td><td>59</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stanfield Row</td><td>Rae Stanfield</td><td>Off Upper Stanfield Street, BT7</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr> <td>Friendly Row</td><td>Rae na gCarad</td><td>Off Friendly Street, BT7</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Veryan Gardens</td><td>Gairdíní Veryan</td><td>Off Whitwell Road, B36</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thornberry Mews</td><td>Eachlann Thornberry</td><td>Off Thornberry Road, BT14</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bearnagh Glen</td><td>Gleann Shliabh Bearnach</td><td>Off Bearnagh Drive, BT11</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Meadowhill Grange</td><td>Gráinseach Chnoc na Cluana</td><td>Off Glencolin Manor, BT11</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr> <td>Willowbank Gardens</td><td>Gairdíní Bhruach na Sailí</td><td>Off Antrim Road, BT15</td><td>131</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rossmore Drive</td><td>Céide Ros Mór</td><td>Off Rossmore Avenue, BT7</td><td>90</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Friendly Place	Plás na gCarad	Off Stewart Street, BT7	16	Stanfield Place	Plás Stanfield	Off Upper Stanfield Street, BT7	59	Stanfield Row	Rae Stanfield	Off Upper Stanfield Street, BT7	48	Friendly Row	Rae na gCarad	Off Friendly Street, BT7	22	Veryan Gardens	Gairdíní Veryan	Off Whitwell Road, B36	64	Thornberry Mews	Eachlann Thornberry	Off Thornberry Road, BT14	18	Bearnagh Glen	Gleann Shliabh Bearnach	Off Bearnagh Drive, BT11	18	Meadowhill Grange	Gráinseach Chnoc na Cluana	Off Glencolin Manor, BT11	65	Willowbank Gardens	Gairdíní Bhruach na Sailí	Off Antrim Road, BT15	131	Rossmore Drive	Céide Ros Mór	Off Rossmore Avenue, BT7	90
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.
3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.
3.6	<p>Friendly Place, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 occupiers (37.5%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p>Stanfield Place, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 occupiers (16.94%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>Stanfield Row, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 occupiers (20.83%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p>Friendly Row, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 occupiers (68.8%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>Veryan Gardens, BT36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 occupiers (18.75%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>1 occupier (1.56%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>1 occupier (1.56%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.11	<p>Thornberry Mews, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 occupiers (22.22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.12	<p>Bearnagh Glen, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 occupiers (44.44%) were in favour of the erection of a second name plate.</li> <li>1 occupier (5.55%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.13	<p>Meadowhill Grange, BT11</p> <p>23 occupiers (35.38%) were in favour of the erection of a second name plate</p>

3.14	<p>Willowbank Gardens, BT15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37 occupiers (28.24%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.76%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (0.76%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.15	<p>Rossmore Drive, BT7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 occupiers (30%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 6 occupiers (6.66%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.16	<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> <p>All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
3.17	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £2880 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
3.18	<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 for 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



**Belfast**  
City Council

Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2025 – 2026
Date:	6th May 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

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 Members on the ongoing 2024-2025 Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and outline plans for new playground refurbishments under the 2025-2026 programme.
1.2	Members are asked to note that refurbishments are to be funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed for this work in this financial year.
1.3	Members should also note that scores from the independent Play Value and Accessibility audit carried out in 2024 have again informed this year's site selection.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>

2.1	<p>The Committee are asked to agree refurbishment works at the sites below as part of the Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) 2025-2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Rise</li> <li>• Ohio Street</li> <li>• Roddens Crecent</li> <li>• Finvoy Street</li> </ul>
3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Playground Improvement Programme</u></p> <p>Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme continues to make a positive impact to the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds, providing new equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. Under last year's programme the following playgrounds refurbishments are either complete, currently underway or planned to start soon (see Appendix 1 - Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2024-25 Images).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grampian Avenue (complete)</li> <li>• Michelle Baird (underway)</li> <li>• Balfour Avenue (due to start May 2025)</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Members will be aware that, as agreed at P&amp;C Committee in December 2023, the Play Value and Accessibility Audit informed site selection for 2024-2025 and will inform selection for all subsequent improvement programmes. Total scores allocated for each playground relate to the types of play opportunities available and their accessibility for a range of age groups and abilities (See Appendix 2 Play Value &amp; Accessibility Results Table).</p>
3.3	<p>Members should note that Cathedral Gardens, which received the second lowest score, was not selected for refurbishment under PIP 2024-25 as this is a temporary facility on a site to be redeveloped under the Capital Programme. Bridge End playground, the third lowest scoring site, was also omitted from selection in 2024-25 as this facility is due to be improved using a developer contribution by way of a Section 76 Planning Agreement.</p>
3.4	<p>Based on estimated costs to deliver improvements within the available budget of £580k, the next lowest scoring playgrounds selected for refurbishment this financial year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Rise</li> <li>• Ohio Street</li> <li>• Roddens Crecent</li> <li>• Finvoy Street</li> </ul>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All proposed playground improvement works will be funded through the Capital Programme within an allocated budget of £580,000. CNS Landscape Planning &amp; Development Officers will continue to re-design play facilities and project manage all works associated with the delivery of PIP 2024-25.</p>

3.7	As with previous years, CNS OSS Managers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to elected members, local communities, and user groups.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.8	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2024-25 Images Appendix 2 – Play Value & Accessibility Results Table



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## Appendix 1 - Playground Refurbishments Under PIP 2024-25 Images



Grampian Avenue Playground – complete



Michelle Baird Memorial Park Playground – underway

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## Appendix 2 - Play Value and Accessibility Results Table

	Refurbished under PIP 2024-25							
	Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2025-26							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
1	BT4	Grampian Avenue	12	10	1	1	12	24
2	BT15	Cathedral Gardens	15	2	8	0	10	25
3	BT5	Bridge End	9	8	6	3	17	26
4	BT13	Michelle Baird	17	9	1	1	11	28
5	BT7	Balfour Avenue	12	14	2	2	18	30
6	BT17	White Rise	13	13	3	2	18	31
7	BT13	Ohio Street	10	9	10	2	21	31
8	BT5	Roddens Crescent	13	13	3	3	19	32
9	BT5	Finvoy Street	12	14	3	3	20	32
10	BT5	Carema Allen	13	14	4	2	20	33
11	BT17	Mount Eagles	13	16	2	2	20	33
12	BT12	Lemberg Street	11	13	6	3	22	33
13	BT12	Willowbank	11	15	4	3	22	33
14	BT13	Browns Square	10	14	6	3	23	33
15	BT12	Divis Back Path/ Páirc an Lonnáin	18	8	8	1	17	35
16	BT15	Alexandra Park Upper	15	15	3	3	21	35
17	BT36	Finlay	13	16	3	3	22	35
18	BT15	Alexandra Park Lower	12	14	6	3	23	35
19	BT4	Ballymacarrett	11	17	3	3	23	35
20	BT13	Highfield	12	14	6	3	23	35

	Refurbished under PIP 2024-25							
	Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2025-26							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
21	BT15	New Lodge	11	15	6	3	24	35
22	BT6	Cregagh Play Area	15	15	3	3	21	36
23	BT15	North Queen Street	14	16	3	3	22	36
24	BT11	Horn Drive	13	17	3	3	23	36
25	BT12	McCorry Park	13	17	3	3	23	36
26	BT12	Springfield Site A	11	16	6	3	25	36
27	BT14	Ardoyne	14	17	3	3	23	37
28	BT13	Bull Ring Senior (Shankill)	14	15	6	2	23	37
29	BT4	Tommy Patton Park	13	18	3	3	24	37
30	BT12	Dunville Park	18	15	3	2	20	38
31	BT14	Alloa Street	16	16	3	3	22	38
32	BT4	Knocknagoney	16	14	5	3	22	38
33	BT12	Springhill	15	17	3	3	23	38
34	BT5	Erin Thomson Memorial	14	12	10	2	24	38
35	BT14	Ardoyne Community Centre	13	16	6	3	25	38
36	BT9	Musgrave Sensory	13	4	18	3	25	38
37	BT12	Nubia Street	13	16	6	3	25	38
38	BT14	Tyndale	13	15	7	3	25	38
39	BT17	Hannahstown	17	14	6	2	22	39
40	BT6	Eversleigh Street	14	15	7	3	25	39
41	BT13	Glencairn	14	17	5	3	25	39
42	BT17	Sally Gardens	14	19	3	3	25	39
43	BT5	Mountforde	13	17	6	3	26	39

	Refurbished under PIP 2024-25							
	Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2025-26							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
44	BT5	Flora Street	12	21	3	3	27	39
45	BT4	Skippers	13	17	7	3	27	40
46	BT17	Jubilee Park	12	14	11	3	28	40
47	BT12	Blythefield	11	20	6	3	29	40
48	BT5	Clara Street	16	17	3	5	25	41
49	BT10	Geeragh	15	13	10	3	26	41
50	BT17	Poleglass	10	17	11	3	31	41
51	BT11	Carnamore Play Area	16	17	6	3	26	42
52	BT6	Daddy Winkers	15	17	3	7	27	42
53	BT8	Edenderry	15	17	3	7	27	42
54	BT10	Wedderburn	15	18	6	3	27	42
55	BT13	Dover Street	14	19	6	3	28	42
56	BT3	Victoria Park	18	19	3	3	25	43
57	BT17	Areema Drive	13	16	11	3	30	43
58	BT12	Olympia Leisure Centre	18	17	6	3	26	44
59	BT11	Glassmullin	17	19	5	3	27	44
60	BT14	Ballysillan	16	19	6	3	28	44
61	BT36	Navarra Place	16	19	6	3	28	44
62	BT7	Stewart Street	12	18	11	3	32	44
63	BT7	McClure Street	11	19	11	3	33	44
64	BT14	Glenbank Park	15	16	11	3	30	45
65	BT5	Hanwood	14	17	11	3	31	45
66	BT9	Taughmonagh Park	14	25	3	3	31	45

	Refurbished under PIP 2024-25							
	Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2025-26							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
67	BT12	Whiterock Leisure Centre	14	17	11	3	31	45
68	BT12	Grosvenor Community	13	18	11	3	32	45
69	BT15	Queen Mary's Waterworks	23	17	3	3	23	46
70	BT6	Cherryvale	21	19	3	3	25	46
71	BT4	Belmont Park	18	19	6	3	28	46
72	BT17	Fullerton Park	17	15	11	3	29	46
73	BT5	Tullycarnet Park	16	16	11	3	30	46
74	BT15	Castleton	14	18	11	3	32	46
75	BT15	Duncairn Gardens	14	22	7	3	32	46
76	BT8	Belvoir Drive	13	19	7	7	33	46
77	BT5	Clarawood	13	19	11	3	33	46
78	BT13	Woodvale Park	18	17	9	3	29	47
79	BT7	Rev Robert Bradford	15	18	11	3	32	47
80	BT13	Hammer	14	19	11	3	33	47
81	BT12	Vere Foster	14	19	11	3	33	47
82	BT15	The Grove	18	18	8	4	30	48
83	BT13	Blackmountain	15	19	11	3	33	48
84	BT9	Drumglass	18	19	6	6	31	49
85	BT12	Falls Park	16	19	11	3	33	49
86	BT14	Glenbryne Park	13	22	11	3	36	49
87	BT17	Lady Dickson	21	14	11	4	29	50
88	BT15	Cavehill	16	20	10	4	34	50
89	BT9	Barnett Demesne	14	23	10	3	36	50



	Refurbished under PIP 2024-25							
	Proposed to be refurbished under PIP 2025-26							
	BT Zone	Site Name	Features Total	Physical Play	Sensory Play	Social Play	Play Score (Combined)	Total Play Value & Accessibility Score
90	BT7	Botanic Gardens	18	19	11	3	33	51
91	BT10	Old Golf Course Road	18	19	11	3	33	51
92	BT14	Tir Na Nog	18	19	11	3	33	51
93	BT17	Brook activity centre	19	19	11	3	33	52
94	BT6	Lower Ormeau	18	20	11	3	34	52
95	BT14	Westlands	17	21	11	3	35	52
96	BT11	Northlink	15	24	11	3	38	53
97	BT14	Marrowbone Junior	21	19	11	3	33	54
98	BT4	Dr Pitt Park	18	18	11	7	36	54
99	BT5	Orange Field	16	22	11	7	40	56
100	BT6	Clonduff	14	23	11	8	42	56
101	BT11	Pairc Nua Chollan	18	20	11	8	39	57
102	BT7	Ormeau Park (Park Road)	20	23	12	4	39	59
103	BT15	Loughside	20	27	12	4	43	63
104	BT36	Belfast Zoo	20	18	19	7	44	64
105	BT10	Blacks Road (combined)	18	18	20	8	46	64

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