

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

3rd September 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, 9th September, 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. **Deputations**

- (a) Request for Deputation - Stranmillis Neighbourhood Association (re: Pilot Opening Hours Scheme at Botanic Gardens)
- (b) Deputation from Belfast Healthy Cities (as per the Committee's decision of 14th January) (Pages 1 - 2)

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

- (a) Notice of Motion - Review of Funding Levels for Summer Scheme Fund (Pages 3 - 4)

4. **Restricted Matters**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Support for Leisure Workers (to follow)

- (c) Departmental Finance Report - Quarter 1 (Pages 5 - 12)

5. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Invite to Parliamentary Launch of Nature Towns and Cities (Pages 13 - 14)
- (b) Reference Group on Older People - Update (Pages 15 - 26)
- (c) Forth Meadow Greenway and Council Park - Update on 24-hour Opening Pilot Scheme (Pages 27 - 40)
- (d) Department for Infrastructure - Consultation re: Grant Support for Inspection Requirements (Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015) (Pages 41 - 48)

6. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Resources and Fleet Waste - Update (Pages 49 - 56)
- (c) Events in Parks and Open Spaces (Pages 57 - 62)
- (d) Dual Language Street Sign Survey - Update (Pages 63 - 66)
- (e) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 67 - 70)
- (f) Proposals for the Naming of New Streets (Pages 71 - 74)

7. **Issue Raised in Advance**

- (a) Alleygate Key Provision (Councillor Canavan to Raise)



**Belfast**  
City Council

**PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**  
**PRESENTATION FROM BELFAST HEALTHY CITIES**

|                    |                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:           | Presentation from Belfast Healthy Cities            |
| Date:              | 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                      |
| Reporting Officer: | Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS |
| Contact Officer:   | Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS    |

## 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 or Summary of main Issues**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | The purpose of this report is to provide background to the presentation that will be provided by Belfast Healthy Cities CEO, Charlene Brooks at the September P&C meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2.1        | Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.1        | <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Belfast's membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.2        | <p><b>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</b></p> <p>Belfast Healthy Cities invited representatives from Belfast City Council to attend the Annual WHO Business Meeting in June 2025. Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region. As no Elected Members were available to attend, Belfast Healthy Cities were invited to attend a later meeting of committee to update on the key issues discussed at the Annual Business meeting in Turkiye.</p> <p>The event, held from 17–19 June 2025 at the Atatürk Cultural Center in Bursa, brought together city leaders, public health experts, policymakers, and practitioners from the WHO European Region under the theme 'Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All'. Over three days, delegates explored how urban environments can be designed and governed to improve health, tackle inequalities, and respond to pressing challenges such as climate change and demographic shifts.</p> |
| 3.3        | The conference showcased a range of innovative projects through abstract presentations, including Belfast's own "Greening the City" initiative, which was warmly received as an example of urban transformation that supports community health and environmental resilience as well as the Healthy Places Healthy Children programme which focuses on the link between children's health and wellbeing and the built environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.4        | In addition to providing an overview of the key issues discussed at the meeting, Ms Brooks will also highlight the key work areas that BHC are involved in at present and provide detail on the approach for developing Phase VIII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.5        | <p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Belfast Healthy Cities receives annual funding of £81,294 from Belfast City Council. The current three year funding agreement concludes on 31 March 2026. Council is a core funder of Belfast Healthy Cities alongside BHSCT, PHA and NIHE.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.6        | <p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>None identified.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>4.1</b> | Copy of presentation from Belfast Healthy Cities – to follow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



|                           |                                                                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Notice of Motion – Review Funding Levels for the Summer Scheme Fund</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9th September, 2025                                                        |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services           |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.                                   |

**Restricted Report**

**Is this report restricted?**

Yes

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No

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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/Summary of Main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1.1        | To bring to the Committee's attention a motion in relation to 'Reviewing Funding Levels for Summer Scheme Fund' which the Standards and Business Committee considered on 21st August.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2.1        | Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report. At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications. |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.1        | The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 21st August, referred the following motion to the Committee for consideration:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.2        | <p><b><u>Reviewing Funding Levels for Summer Scheme Fund</u></b></p> <p><i>To ask Council officers to review the funding levels for the summer scheme fund and to provide costings for an updated level of funding to allow providers to adequately run schemes.</i></p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Fiona McAteer<br/>Seconder: Councillor Christine Bower</p>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**5.0**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.

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>           | Heritage Lottery Nature Towns and Cities - Launch Event            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9th September 2025                                                 |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer                            |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.1        | To seek the Committee's retrospective approval for the Chairperson's attendance at the parliamentary launch of the Heritage Lottery's Nature Towns and Cities project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to grant retrospective approval at outlined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.1        | The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 5th August, it had noted that the Council, in conjunction with Ulster Wildlife, had been awarded £850,514 from the Heritage Lottery's Nature Towns and Cities to oversee the delivery of a range of initiatives across Belfast and surrounding areas. The Council's initiatives would build on existing initiatives, such as the Future of Northern Ireland's Urban Green Spaces report, and work undertaken on Nature Recovery Networks and Belfast 2024.                  |
| 3.2        | Subsequent to the August meeting, an invitation was extended to the Chairperson to attend the parliamentary launch of the initiative on 8th September at the Terrace Pavilion in the House of Commons, an event sponsored by Clive Betts M.P. Given the significance and scale of the project, it was considered appropriate that the Council be represented at the event. However, given the timing of Committee meetings, it has not been possible to seek prior approval, hence authority is being sought retrospectively. |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Financial Implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | The costs associated with attendance at the event, including flights and accommodation, is estimated at £350.00, provision for which exists within departmental budgets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

OLDER PEOPLE'S REFERENCE GROUP

|                    |                                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:           | OLDER PEOPLE'S REFERENCE GROUP                                                           |
| Date:              | 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                           |
| Reporting Officer: | Jim Girvan – Director of Neighbourhood Services                                          |
| Contact Officer:   | Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager<br>Joanna Holland, Age Friendly Co-ordinator |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 10th June 2025.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2,1        | Members are asked to note the contents of the paper and consider the recommendation from the OPRG to invite the Alzheimer's Society to a future P&C committee meeting to learn more about the work of the organisation.                                                                                                        |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.1        | <u>Key Issues</u><br>The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval. |
| 3.2        | The meeting was held on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 in the City Hall. Members may wish to note the following update on the main items discussed.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.3        | <b>Age Friendly Belfast Update</b><br>The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.<br>Alzheimer's Society Overview                                                 |
| 3.4        | <b>Alzheimer's Society – Overview of services</b><br>Ms. Hanna from the Alzhiermers Society provided the Reference Group with a presentation on the work of the Alzheimer's Society and outlined available local services.                                                                                                     |
| 3.5        | The Chair of the Reference Group thanked Ms Hanna for the information provided and it was agreed that members of P&C should be asked to consider hearing a presentation from Alzheimer's Society at a future committee meeting.                                                                                                |
| 3.6        | <u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u><br>All work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing budgets and staff resources of Age Friendly Belfast and the partners involved.                                                                                                                            |
| 3.7        | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u><br>This work is part of The Age Friendly Belfast Plan which has been equality and rural needs screened in line with the Council's agreed processes.                                                                                                      |

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| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>                             |
| 4.1        | Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Older Person’s Reference Group 10.6.25 |

# Reference Group on Older People

Tuesday, 10th December, 2024

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

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

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

### **Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Councillor Smyth,  
Seconded by Alderman Copeland and

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

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

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

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

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

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

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023 – 2027

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

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

3.2 Infrastructure

Age Friendly Design Principles

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

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

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

3.3 Social Connections /health and wellbeing

Connection Hub update

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

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

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

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

### **Isolation and Loneliness Training**

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

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

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

### **Positive Ageing Month**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Tuesday 8th October

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

#### Tuesday 15th October flags to bags workshop

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

#### Two movie afternoons

(15th & 22nd Oct)

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

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

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

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

#### Tea dance

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

#### The Volunteer Celebration Event

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

#### 2025 Age Friendly calendars

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

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

### **3.4 Financial Security/ cost of living**

#### **Winter Planning**

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

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

#### **Winter Warm Packs**

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

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

#### **Fuel Stamps**

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

#### **Affordable Warmth Scheme**

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

#### **Cost of Living Booklet**

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

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

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noted.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

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

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

Chairperson



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|                    |                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:           | Update on 24 hour opening pilot for Forth Meadow Greenway and 5 Council Parks Sites |
| Date:              | Tuesday 9th September 2025                                                          |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Leonard, Operational Director of Resource, Fleet and OSS                    |
| Contact Officer:   | Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS                                               |

|                                                   |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |                                                                     |
| Is this report restricted?                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? |                                                                     |
| After Committee Decision                          | <input type="checkbox"/>                                            |
| After Council Decision                            | <input type="checkbox"/>                                            |
| 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"/> |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1.1        | In August this committee considered a report on the findings of the two consultation exercises on the possible extension of the opening hours of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway (FMG) and five other park sites. This report provides an update on information the committee requested following consideration of that report.                                                                                                                              |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2.1        | Members are asked to note further information in relation to the lighting schemes for 5-pilot park sites and the proposed timeframe for trialling 24hr opening of FMG.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.1        | Members will recall that at P&C Committee on 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 <b>[see Appendix 1]</b> officers provided an update on the key findings of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway Opening Hours (FMG) and Opening Hours Pilots (5 park sites) consultation exercises; and in relation to both - noted residents feedback, including views on opening hours preference for each greenway section/ park site, programming and further physical enhancements. |

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| 3.2 | Members agreed to trial the 24 hour opening of the FMG. Members requested further information to be brought back on trialling extended gate opening hours along the Greenway for a one-year period. Members deferred consideration of the 5 Opening Hours Pilots to allow further information to be submitted on each park to the Committee. This paper is to be considered by way of update to that request.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|     | <b><u>Opening Hours Pilots (5 sites) - Next Steps</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.3 | Ensuring park safety through artificial lighting and additional security was highlighted by residents as a requirement to extended opening hours at all park sites (Botanic Gardens, Belmont Park, Falls Park, Ormeau Park, Woodvale Park), and in particular those currently not benefitting from lighting (Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park, Belmont Park).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.4 | Members are reminded that the installation of any new lighting infrastructure requires significant capital investment. Further to Members discussion at August' P&C Committee, officers can confirm that artificial lighting at the park sites have been included within the 'Park Improvement Programme' which is currently a Stage 1- Emerging under the Capital Programme which has enabled feasibility monies to be allocated. This feasibility support will now allow studies to be progressed to develop costed options for each park site to include lighting and other safety measures and will be informed by ecological assessments and further engagement. There is no timetable for the work at present however officers are aware that members would like to see this work completed as soon as possible and are working with colleagues in Physical Programmes to expedite this work. Once this has been completed for each park officers will bring proposals back to members that will also include animation plans, security /patrolling measures including costings. |
|     | <b><u>Forth Meadow Community Greenway Next Steps</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.5 | In considering optimal timeframe for trialling of extended/ 24-hour gate opening hours along the Greenway for a one-year period, Members are reminded that additional security and warden staff are currently being considered as part of Council's Park Warden Review. Officers plan to take a proposal to a future meeting of this committee on the future.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.6 | Members will recall that at P&C Committee on 10th October 2023 in seeking to promote and enhance the usage of newly established or refurbished park properties it was agreed that an 'annual programming budget of £15,000 is allocated to all new Parks' <b>[See Appendix 2]</b> . Taking account of the scale of the FMG and two large park sites within one of its 5 sections (Falls Park and Springfield Park / Dam) potentially 6 separate animation plans would therefore be required at a cost of £90,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.7 | Officers are proposing to commence the pilot in April 2026 as this would allow time to develop operational and animation plans over the coming months, and have them ready to implement in parallel to the pilot ensuring increased participation and positive and safe use of the FMG. These plans will be developed in consultation with colleagues in Community Provision to consider any additional diversionary monies are required to support sites which continue to be impacted upon by ASB. Similar to other Council parks sites at community interfaces – a 'Forth Meadow Community Greenway Gate Closure Protocol' will be in place throughout the pilot which can be activated for any of the gates in response to a security assessment by the PSNI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.8 | At the end of the consultation period there will an opportunity to carry out a further consultation exercise to gauge community perception in advance of formalising opening hours into the Greenways By-Laws. Learning from Forth Meadow Greenway extended opening hours 1 year pilot will also help inform operational requirements to facilitate later opening hours across the 5 park sites from a park warden service and security perspective.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.9        | <u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u><br>There is currently no revenue budget in place to support both the required animation of and the additional patrolling of the Greenway during the pilot phase. Growth bids for both will be submitted into the revenue estimates process for 26/27. |
| 3.10       | Lighting at the park sites have been included within the 'Park Improvement Programme' which is currently a Stage 1- Emerging under the Capital Programme. Feasibility monies are now in place to allow costed lighting options to be developed.                                                    |
| 3.11       | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u><br>Both consultation exercises were equality screened. There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.                                                          |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | <b>Appendix 1</b> – 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 P&C Committee report, Forth Meadow Community Greenway Opening Hours and Opening Hours and Opening Hours Pilots (5 park sites) – Consultation Findings<br><b>Appendix 2</b> – 10th October 2023 P&C Committee Report - Páirc an Lonnáin             |

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|                    |                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:           | Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation and Opening Hours Pilots (5 park sites) Consultation – Key Findings |
| Date:              | 5th August 2025                                                                                                               |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene                                                      |
| Contact Officer:   | Eiméar McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS                                                                                         |

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes



No



|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.1        | To update Members on key findings of two community consultation exercises - Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation, and Opening Hours Pilots (5 park sites) consultation exercise and agree next steps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2.1        | <p>Members are asked to note key findings for both consultation exercises and consider and approve next steps as follows.</p> <p><u>Forthmeadow Greenway</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note resident feedback and opening hours preference for each section/site</li> <li>- Note comments on programming or further physical enhancements to the FMG</li> <li>- Consider trialling alternative gate opening hours (24/7 or other) for any of section/sites within the Greenway for a one-year period; or alternatively agree to officers formalising standard dawn-to-dusk opening hours into the Greenways By-Laws</li> </ul> <p><u>Opening Hours Pilots</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note resident feedback on each of the 5 park sites, including combined feedback on Falls Park from both consultation exercises</li> <li>- Note the need for artificial lighting and additional security to ensure park safety were highlighted as barriers/concerns to extended opening hours across all five park surveys.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.1        | Members will recall that at P&C Committee on 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 [see Appendix 1] officer's updated on planned consultation exercise into residents views on the opening hours of the Forth Meadow Greenway, as well as a separate consultation exercise - Opening Hour Pilots at 4 park sites (Botanic gardens, Falls Park, Ormeau Park and Woodvale Park). The inclusion of a further site, Belmont Park, was agreed at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.2        | Since its construction the Forthmeadow Community Greenway, as well as the 5 Park sites that are the focus of the Opening hours consultation follow Council's standard 'dawn (7.30am at earliest) to dusk (10pm at latest)' opening hours pattern with times changing throughout the seasons as daylight lengthens or shortens. This report sets out the findings of both consultation exercises on extending Greenway gates/ parks opening, and sets out associated recommendations for Member's further consideration and agreement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.3        | <p><u>Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours Consultation</u></p> <p>Officers ran an open survey on Council's Your Say platform from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and held three drop-in sessions in late January at Highfield Community Centre, Springfield Park (Dam) and Falls Park Bowling Pavilion. The aim of the consultation was to capture residents' views on 24 hour /7 day a week (24/7) opening of 14 gates across the Greenway that connect on to its main lit spine, as well as any other suggestions relating to the opening hours of individual gates. It was also an opportunity to get view on concerns/ barriers to supporting and suggested programming/activities and further physical improvements required to facilitate extended hours of use.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.4        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| 3.5                                                         | <p>The consultation was promoted through Council's social media pages and communications to a range of stakeholders including local resident groups, environmental groups, community groups and elected members. In addition to the erection of posters (that included QR codes linking to the survey) in the local community facilities and at entrances to the Greenway, at Member's request, an additional leaflet drop took place within residential areas in proximity to the Greenway. Whilst only two of the drop-in sessions were well attended, the online survey inviting views on 24/7 opening of 14 gates on the Greenway that connect directly onto its lit spine/pathway, attracted 156 responses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| 3.6                                                         | <p><u>Findings</u></p> <p>Consultation feedback confirmed community preference for existing operational hours pattern to be retained for all sections, with the exception of Glencairn Park to Forthriver Linear Park Section (Forthriver Crescent and Forthriver Road gate) where views on 24/7 opening were mixed. The overwhelming reason given by respondents for not supporting of 24/7 opening was anti-social behaviour and safety concerns.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.7                                                         | <p>14 alternative suggestions were made in relation to opening the various sections of the Greenway 24/7. These included retaining existing dawn to dusk opening (5), and closing later in the evening [during wintertime] 9pm (4), 9/10pm (1) and 8pm (3). 85 comments on programming or further physical enhancements were received ranging from cycling, (dog) walking/ running groups to enhanced lighting to improve safety and exercise/outdoor gym facilities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.8                                                         | <p>An overview of the consultation findings for each section are summarised in the table below, and a detailed analysis of feedback on each gate within is within '<b>Appendix 1 – Forthmeadow Greenway Consultation – Detailed Analysis</b>'</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Section Gates Consulted Upon</th><th>Consultation Finding</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Section 1 - Glencairn Park to Forthriver Linear Park</b></td><td>Overall respondents were <b>not opposed</b> to both pedestrian gates consulted upon remaining open 24/7 (over 56% in favour or undecided for each gate); however out of those recorded as living in close proximity to this Section (5 minutes' walk or less away) – half (50%) were against Forthmeadow Crescent gate remaining open 24/7.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Section 2 - Ballygomartin Road to Springfield Road</b></td><td>Respondents overall, and those living in close proximity to the section, were marginally <b>against</b> the two pedestrian gates consulted upon in this part of the Greenway remaining open 24/7. (48% of respondents overall &amp; 56% of those living 5 mins walk away from the Section were against)</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Section 3 – Springfield Park (Dam) to Falls Park</b></td><td> <p><u>Springfield Dam</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those living in close proximity to Springfield Dam, were <b>against</b> the three pedestrian gates and one vehicular gate within the site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><u>Falls Park</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those specifically living in close proximity to Falls Park, were <b>against</b> the two pedestrian and one vehicular gate consulted on within the Falls Park site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><i>Note: Falls Parks gate opening hours were subject of both consultation exercises.</i></p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Section Gates Consulted Upon | Consultation Finding | <b>Section 1 - Glencairn Park to Forthriver Linear Park</b> | Overall respondents were <b>not opposed</b> to both pedestrian gates consulted upon remaining open 24/7 (over 56% in favour or undecided for each gate); however out of those recorded as living in close proximity to this Section (5 minutes' walk or less away) – half (50%) were against Forthmeadow Crescent gate remaining open 24/7. | <b>Section 2 - Ballygomartin Road to Springfield Road</b> | Respondents overall, and those living in close proximity to the section, were marginally <b>against</b> the two pedestrian gates consulted upon in this part of the Greenway remaining open 24/7. (48% of respondents overall & 56% of those living 5 mins walk away from the Section were against) | <b>Section 3 – Springfield Park (Dam) to Falls Park</b> | <p><u>Springfield Dam</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those living in close proximity to Springfield Dam, were <b>against</b> the three pedestrian gates and one vehicular gate within the site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><u>Falls Park</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those specifically living in close proximity to Falls Park, were <b>against</b> the two pedestrian and one vehicular gate consulted on within the Falls Park site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><i>Note: Falls Parks gate opening hours were subject of both consultation exercises.</i></p> |
| Section Gates Consulted Upon                                | Consultation Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Section 1 - Glencairn Park to Forthriver Linear Park</b> | Overall respondents were <b>not opposed</b> to both pedestrian gates consulted upon remaining open 24/7 (over 56% in favour or undecided for each gate); however out of those recorded as living in close proximity to this Section (5 minutes' walk or less away) – half (50%) were against Forthmeadow Crescent gate remaining open 24/7.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Section 2 - Ballygomartin Road to Springfield Road</b>   | Respondents overall, and those living in close proximity to the section, were marginally <b>against</b> the two pedestrian gates consulted upon in this part of the Greenway remaining open 24/7. (48% of respondents overall & 56% of those living 5 mins walk away from the Section were against)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Section 3 – Springfield Park (Dam) to Falls Park</b>     | <p><u>Springfield Dam</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those living in close proximity to Springfield Dam, were <b>against</b> the three pedestrian gates and one vehicular gate within the site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><u>Falls Park</u></p> <p>Respondents overall, including those specifically living in close proximity to Falls Park, were <b>against</b> the two pedestrian and one vehicular gate consulted on within the Falls Park site remaining open 24/7.</p> <p><i>Note: Falls Parks gate opening hours were subject of both consultation exercises.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                              |                      |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| 3.9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Section 4 - <b>Bog Meadows Nature Reserve</b> | Respondents overall, including those living in close proximity to the section, were <b>against</b> the two pedestrian gates and one vehicular gate in this section remaining open 24/7 (59% against); however the 31 residents recorded as living in close proximity to this section (5 minutes' walk or less away) – were marginally in favour or undecided (52%) about the Donegall Road (Broadway) pedestrian gate remaining open 24/7. |
| <p data-bbox="272 443 906 479"><u>Opening Hours Pilots Consultation (5 park sites)</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 499 1461 734">Officers ran an open survey on Council's Your Say platform from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and held five drop-in engagement sessions - one at each of the park sites throughout March and April. The aim of the consultation was to capture residents' views on extending opening hours of the parks. Similarly to the previous consultation exercise, it was also an opportunity to get views on concerns/ barriers to supporting, suggested programming/activities and further physical improvements required to facilitate extended hours of use.</p> <p data-bbox="272 757 1461 965">The consultation was promoted on Council's social media pages and through communications to a range of stakeholders including local resident groups, environmental groups, community groups and elected members. In addition to the erection of posters in the local community facilities and at entrances, (all included QR codes linking to the survey) - a leaflet drop took place within residential areas in close proximity to each of the park sites and banners were erected within the parks.</p> <p data-bbox="272 994 1461 1167">The 5 online surveys inviting views on extending opening hours at each of the park sites attracted a total of 1678 responses overall, which are broken down as follows: Botanic Gardens (652), Ormeau Park (593), Woodvale Park (308), with smaller levels of interest for both Belmont Park (51) and Falls Park (47) - however the combined number of responses for Falls Park across both consultation exercises was 203.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1196 1461 1541">Consultation feedback has confirmed community support for extended park opening hours at Botanic Gardens (70% in favour, 4% undecided), Ormeau Park (70% in favour, 3% undecided), and Belmont Park (71% in favour 6% undecided). Across these sites the most favoured opening hours pattern was overwhelmingly 24/7 opening however there were a number of concerns were raised in relation safety and ASB and the need for more security to facilitate extended use. The need for artificial lighting to ensure park safety was highlighted as the main physical barrier to extended opening hours across all park surveys. Concern over the impact of artificial lighting on wildlife was a theme across all park surveys, with the need for ecological assessments and use of wildlife/bat friendly lighting suggested by a number of respondents.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1570 1461 1877">Although there was support for Fall Parks' opening hours being extended, this was not in line with the views of the majority of overall respondents for both consultation exercise including to the more detailed Forthmeadow Greenway (FMG) consultation. Overall circa 58% of the 203 respondents for both consultation exercises were against changes to opening hours of specific gates/ park in general. There was no clear support for extending the opening hours of Woodvale Park (65% against) at this time with the main reason being ASB concerns. Detailed analysis of all park surveys are found in <b>Appendix 3 – 'Parks Opening Hours Consultation – Detailed Analysis (5 sites)'</b>, and an overview of Falls Park's finding in <b>Appendix – 4 'Falls Park Combined Analysis'</b>.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1906 1461 2000">The requirement for artificial lighting to facilitate extended park use and ensure safety during darker hours was raised a total of 956 times across all surveys. Members are reminded that the installation of any new lighting infrastructure would require significant</p> |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 3.15 | <p>capital investment, and that any requests for lighting schemes to be considered for any sites must be directed through to Council's Capital Programme for progression through standard stages. This will also be an opportunity for ecological assessments to be carried out in respect to potential gate/route options, and for wildlife friendly lighting options and any associated path improvements that may be required to be explored.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is currently no revenue budget in place to support any potential animation and patrolling of the Forthmeadow Community Greenway or any of the pilot parks should their opening hours be extended. There is currently no budget in place to fund any requests for lighting schemes at the park sites or any other physical enhancements along FMG. These would be required to be taken through the Council's capital process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report. Both consultation exercises have been equality screened.</p> |
| 4.0  | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|      | <p><b>Appendix 1</b> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 P&amp;C Committee report, Update on two planned consultation exercises - Forthmeadow Community Greenway Opening Hours and Opening Hours Pilots (4 park sites)</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> - Forthmeadow Greenway Consultation – Detailed Analysis</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> - Parks Opening Hours Consultation – Detailed Analysis (5 sites)</p> <p><b>Appendix 4</b> - Falls Park Combined Analysis</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                           |                                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Páirc an Lonnáin                                |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Tuesday 10 October 2023                         |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Cormac McCann, Lead Officer Community Provision |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                     |
| <b>Is this report restricted?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                     |
| 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> |                                                                     |
| <b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                     |
| 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>                               |                                                                     |
| <b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

|            |                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b> |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1        | To provide a report as requested by Councillor Black at Council on 4 September 2023 in relation to the operation of the Páirc an Lonnáin and the reinstatement of the temporary facility management agreement that had previously been in place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1.2        | To agree an approach to local management and programming of the facility.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2.1        | That Council enters into a five-year Agreement with Falls Residents Association to enable local operation of the site, to include keyholding, litter picking and community programming which will maximise the opportunities from the capital investment and minimise the negative impact which anti-social behaviour had on the area prior to the site development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2.2        | That an annual programming budget of £15,000 is allocated for all new parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2.3        | Where Council approves management arrangements with a local organisation, this budget is made available to the Agreement holder, subject to officer approval of a planned programme and subsequent reporting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2.4        | If People & Communities Committee are in agreement with the suggested approach of providing £15k pa funding for all new parks, then this matter should be referred to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration as part of the estimates process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|            | <u>Key Issues</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.1        | People and Communities Committee of 6 November 2018, within a report on asset acquisition, approved the establishment of a bespoke management arrangement at the Building Successful Communities regeneration project at Páirc an Lonnáin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.2        | Officers worked with the local community organisation and developed a key holding agreement which supported access and activity at the site outside normal park opening hours. The group have been providing key holding for the site and continue to deliver a diverse range of programmes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.3        | Whilst the Agreement holder is undertaking duties previously undertaken by Open Spaces and Street Scene operatives, the key holding Agreement does not include an annual amount which Council would provide to the Agreement holder. Following opening of the regenerated park, Council provided financial support of £15,000 for the initial year of operation for evidenced activity programming costs. Council provided further financial support of approximately £2,000 through Parks Outreach budgets for Halloween and Christmas activity in 2022. No further payments have been made to the group. |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.4        | The work of this group at the site is saving Council revenue budget in terms of litter collection and maintenance, whilst their work in promoting positive animation at the site also safeguards against ASB behaviour and damage/repair costs which are high at nearby sites such as Dunville and Falls Parks. The group is currently receiving no funding from council and a revised Agreement would remedy this situation and ensure local supervision and community operation of the site.                                      |
| 3.5        | Officers have recognised the need for significant growth in budgets to support operational and maintenance activity at all new parks. It is also important that specific budgets are in place to animate new spaces to ensure achievement of planned outcomes from capital investment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.6        | Existing budgets within the Parks Events and Outreach team are stretched to support planned programming and development activity at current sites. Animation of new assets requires intensive delivery of programmes to kick start local activity which in some locations will move towards long term self-sufficient programming. Currently there are seven new parks assets, recently operating or due to come into operation, which do not have specific animation budgets for early development of local community programming. |
|            | <u>Financial &amp; Human Resource Implications</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.7        | This report will commit an amount of £15,000 per annum to support a revised Agreement at this site, this amount is not currently included in any revenue budgets. Consideration should be given to adopting this programming budget at all new parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|            | <u>Asset and Other Implications</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.8        | This approach at Páirc an Lonnáin will ensure that the local community manage key holding of a Council asset and develop appropriate programming at the site for local community benefit. The availability of a programme budget at all new parks will help to ensure that positive animation is in place from the outset of the asset's life.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|            | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.9        | There are no known implications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|            | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|                    |                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject:           | <b>Department for Infrastructure consultation on proposals for Grant support for initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Reservoirs Act</b> |
| Date:              | 09 September 2025                                                                                                                                          |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene                                                                                   |
| Contact Officer:   | Gary McNeill, Lead Officer, OSS, Landscape Planning & Development                                                                                          |

## 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/Summary of main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1.1        | The Department for Infrastructure opened consultations on 23 June 2025 on proposals for a grant scheme to support reservoir managers with the initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015. The consultation closes on 16 September 2025. |
| 1.2        | This paper provides background information and includes a draft response, for Members' approval.                                                                                                                                                                             |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to agree the proposed consultation response attached in Appendix 1 and to agree to officers forwarding the response to the Department by the closing date of 16th September 2025 and advising it remains draft and subject to full Council ratification on 01 October 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.1        | The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is seeking views on a proposal for a grant scheme to support reservoir managers with the initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.2        | <p>The Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015 (“the Act”) provides a regulatory framework for reservoir safety that will mitigate against potential harm that may arise in the event of an uncontrolled release of water or flooding as a result of reservoir failure. It aims to mitigate the flood risk from reservoirs capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres of water above the natural level of any part of the surrounding land. These reservoirs are known as “controlled reservoirs”, Council currently manage five at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springfield Dam</li> <li>• Half Moon Lake</li> <li>• Waterworks Park (Upper)</li> <li>• Waterworks Park (Lower)</li> <li>• Alexandra Park</li> </ul> <p>All are registered with the Department, and each holds more than 10,000 cubic metres of water.</p> |
| 3.3        | The Act sets out the fundamental components of the Assembly’s reservoir safety policy, which is based on industry best practice, for the safety of reservoirs. The implementation of the Act will mean that those reservoirs within the scope of the Act, are subject to a regulated system, which in turn will provide assurance in terms of the protection of people, property, the environment and economic activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.4        | In advance of the further commencement of the Act, which is expected following passage through the NI Assembly in 2025, the consultation provides information on how the Department seeks to support those reservoir managers who are deemed to need financial support, to comply with the initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Act.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.5        | Members should note that since 2015, Council have been managing our reservoirs by adhering to best practice recommendations set out in the Act. This includes daily inspections of three of the dams (undertaken by Council officers), and the appointment of AECOM as Supervising Engineers who undertake monthly / annual safety inspections and prepare on-site emergency plans at all five reservoirs. More detailed inspections, by a UK All Reservoirs Panel Engineer are also required every 10 years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.6        | Members should also note that the Council has planned major capital investment to enhance reservoir safety at Waterworks Park and Alexandra Park in the coming years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.7  | In advance of the further commencement of the Act, in order to ensure those eligible reservoir managers may be able to obtain financial support for initial safety inspections required under the Act, DfI have proposed a number of criteria as follows:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.8  | <p><u>Criterion 1 – The reservoir must be registered with the Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only reservoirs capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water and registered with the Department will be eligible for the grant.</li> </ul> <p><u>Criterion 2 – The reservoir is not managed by a public sector organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department is not proposing grant support for reservoirs managed by the public sector such as Government Departments, Local Authorities and NI Water, as these public sector organisations have established mechanisms for securing budget to maintain their assets.</li> </ul> <p><u>Criterion 3 – The reservoir must be designated as ‘High’ or ‘Medium’ consequence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A ‘High’ consequence reservoir is when a reservoir failure could result in a loss of 1 or more lives, or the significant impact on economic activity.</li> </ul> <p><u>Criterion 4 – Reservoir Manager must demonstrate a clear financial need for grant support for initial inspection costs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department is proposing that grant funding will only be provided to those reservoir managers who are deemed to need it to pay the initial costs of supervision and inspection. It should be noted that the grant will only be provided to cover the costs of appointing a supervising engineer and an inspecting engineer, to provide an initial inspection.</li> </ul> |
| 3.9  | The Department have asked consultees to respond to eight questions, the full draft response for Council is included in Appendix 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.10 | Members should note that while the Council’s five reservoirs would be suitable for funding under Criteria 1 and 3, Criterion 2 excludes grant support to local authorities, and Criterion 4 details that grants will only be made for initial supervision and inspections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.11 | <p>Our response confirms we would welcome financial assistance. However, given the risk associated with Council’s five ‘high consequence’ reservoirs and ongoing revenue costs in the region of £20k per annum for the established cycle of safety inspections, we further recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consideration is given to widening the eligibility of reservoir owners who could apply to a grant scheme</li> <li>the scope of the grant scheme is widened to help support all reservoir managers with ongoing costs associated with safety inspections</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3.12 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost of independent safety inspections / reports at all five council reservoirs is circa £20k per annum and is included in existing revenue budgets.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.13 | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u><br><br>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report. |
| 4.0  | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|      | Draft responses to Department for Infrastructure consultation on proposals for Grant support for initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Reservoirs Act      |

## **Consultation on a Grant Scheme to support reservoir managers with the initial supervision and inspection requirements of the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.**

In order to ensure those eligible reservoir managers who need it receive help with the initial costs of complying with the Act, the Department proposes a number of criteria as follows:

### **Criterion 1 – The reservoir must be registered with the Department.**

Only reservoirs capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water and registered with the Department will be eligible for the grant.

### **Criterion 2 – The reservoir is not managed by a public sector organisation.**

The Department is not proposing grant support for reservoirs managed by the public sector such as Government Departments, Local Authorities and NI Water, as these public sector organisations have established mechanisms for securing budget to maintain their assets.

### **Criterion 3 – The reservoir must be designated as ‘High’ or ‘Medium’ consequence.**

A ‘High’ consequence reservoir is when a reservoir failure could result in a loss of 1 or more lives, or the significant impact on economic activity.

A ‘Medium’ consequence reservoir is when a reservoir failure could impact on people but no loss of life can be foreseen or may result in significant damage to environment / heritage.

It is important to remember that the consequence designation is not a reflection on the current management or condition of the reservoir. Instead, it considers the potential impact on the surrounding area if an uncontrolled release of water were to occur.

Grant support for the initial supervision and inspection requirements will only be provided for reservoirs that have been designated high and medium consequence by the Department’s Rivers Directorate.

The Department is not proposing grant support for reservoirs with a low consequence given they are not subject to the same level of regulation and obligations (as set out in the Act) as high and medium consequence reservoirs and subsequently will not incur the initial costs this grant scheme covers.

High and medium consequence reservoirs that have undertaken a precommencement inspection report not more than 8 years before the commencement date, as set out in Section 33 (1) are not required to undertake a further inspection report but are still required to meet the requirements in relation to supervising requirements.

### **Criterion 4 – Reservoir Manager must demonstrate a clear financial need for grant support for initial inspection costs.**

The Department is proposing that grant funding will only be provided to those reservoir managers who are deemed to need it to pay the initial costs of supervision and inspection.

The Department is proposing to assess the financial need through the bank statements of the reservoir manager.

The reservoir manager will therefore be required to supply:

- Their previous 6 months bank statements related to the management of the reservoir; and
- Details of the monthly income and outgoings related to the management of the reservoir.

It is assumed that the threshold for need to qualify for a grant is met if the bank statements demonstrate that there have been insufficient funds over the last 6 months to meet the costs of inspection (i.e.£10,000) once all other operating costs have been taken into account.

The Department is considering 2 options for the payment of grant: (i) Make payments directly to the supervising and inspecting engineers on receipt of the respective reports (as set out in the Act), up to a combined value of £10,000; or (ii) Make payments to reservoir managers in arrears on receipt of respective reports (as set out in the Act), allowing them to then pay the engineers.

It should be noted that the grant will only be provided to cover the costs of appointing a supervising engineer and an inspecting engineer, to provide an initial inspection.

## Consultation Questions

### Eligibility Criteria

**Question 1 – Do you agree with eligibility criterion 2 that only reservoirs not managed by a public sector organisation are eligible?**

☐ Yes

☒ **No**

If no, please provide information on your suggested changes to the above proposal.

**Response: Grant funding should be made available to all reservoir managers including local authorities who need financial assistance with the initial costs of complying with the Act**

**Question 2 – Do you agree with eligibility criterion 3 that the reservoir must be designated as ‘High’ or ‘Medium’ consequence?**

☒ **Yes**

☐ No

If no, please provide information on your suggested changes to the above proposal.

**Question 3 – Do you agree with eligibility criterion 4 that Reservoir Managers must demonstrate a financial need for grant support for initial inspection costs?**

☒ **Yes** but needs to be more flexible to allow access to help should an emergency/high risk situation arise.

☐ No

If no, please provide information on your suggested changes to the above proposal.

### Assessing Affordability

**Question 4 – Do you agree with the Department’s method for assessing affordability?**

☒ **Yes** but should Councils become eligible then there needs to be flexibility to ensure it complies with Council’s Financial Policy & regulations.

☐ No

If no, please provide information on your suggested changes to the above proposal.

### Level of Funding

**Question 5 – Do you agree with the level of funding ie up to a maximum of £10,000?**

☐ Yes

☒ **No**

If no, please provide information on your suggested changes to the above proposal.

**Response:** while it seems appropriate to provide a limit to the grant funding that will be available, the cost of initial inspections will depend on the size, complexity, site and number of reservoirs maintained by the reservoir owner, and it may not be expedient to limit total funding available

## **Payment of Grant**

**Question 6** – Which of the Department’s proposals for payment of grant do you prefer?

☐ Department pays engineers directly?

☒ Yes Department pays reservoir manager?

Please provide any additional relevant information below.

**Response:** this will depend on whether initial inspections have already taken place, and paid for by the reservoir owner, once the proposed grant scheme comes into effect, and whether in such circumstances reservoir owners will be able to retrospectively claim back these costs (and in what time frame), or whether the initial reservoir inspection takes place after the new grant scheme is established.

## **General**

**Question 7** - If you any further comments on the potential grant scheme for initial supervision and inspection requirements please provide any relevant information below.

The Department has recognised that there is significant cost in maintaining these facilities.

The Council has the responsibility for the management of five reservoirs, and has already established a thorough, regularised system of inspection (graduated daily, weekly, monthly, annual and decadal), utilising both Council officers and external, specialist consultants.

While the Council is not in a position to apply for a grant for the initial costs of supervision and inspection as per the proposals, the department should consider providing grant funding for the process of continued inspections, to a proportionate level against total annual costs, rather than solely for ‘initial’ supervision and inspection.

Given the number of reservoirs managed by the Council, the potential consequences of failure and the cost of the Council’s established programme of inspections and future capital development, consideration should be given to widening both the eligibility of reservoir owners who could apply to the grant scheme, the broadening of the scope of inspections such grants might be made available for, as well as considering the value of any grant being awarded.

## **Draft Impact Assessments**

**Question 8** – Do you have any comments to make on any of the draft impact assessments that accompany this consultation?

The link to all the impact assessments is available on page 5 of this consultation.

☐ Yes – please use the comment box below

☒ No

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|                           |                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Resources and Fleet Waste Update                            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 09 September 2025                                           |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Stephen Leonard, Director (Operational) CNS                 |
| <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        | To provide an update to People and Communities Committee on the work being carried out in relation to the overfilled bins and bin liner collection issues (Bin Safety Campaign).                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <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>Members will recall this matter was discussed in June and members requested that updates were presented to P&amp;C Committee at the August and September meetings.</p> <p>This report provides an update to members on progress to date in relation to the campaign.</p>                                                                     |
| 3.2        | <p>It should be noted that Corporate Communications have supported and continue to provide support and resource to Resources and Fleet the Service through the external and internal communications and awareness raising elements of the plan. The Project team engage with Corporate Communications regularly around the campaign, resident feedback and progress.</p> |
| 3.3        | <p>The Project Team and their Resource Advisor colleagues within Waste Management have produced an engagement plan based on the Implementation and Communications Plan approved by Council.</p>                                                                                                                                                                          |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | Key campaign dates:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.4 | <b><u>Monday 4 August</u></b> – the beginning of <b>Amber tagging</b> bedding in period for 8 weeks. Collections continue as normal (i.e. overfilled bins and bins with liners still collected) with warning tag placed on bins and reporting by crews. Resource Advisor Teams on ground raising awareness and messaging.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.5 | <b><u>Monday 29 September</u></b> – planned start date for the beginning of <b>Red tagging</b> collecting strictly to policy phase. Overfilled containers will be tagged and will not be collected, and instances reported. Temporary additional Special Waste Collection Operational teams (SWCO) to be engaged Resource Teams, OSS and Enforcement Teams will be deployed to targeting remaining hot spot areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.6 | Project Team progress as at time of writing of this update report:<br><br><u>Overfilled and lined Bins – Domestic and Commercial Waste</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.7 | The following actions are ongoing or scheduled to be carried out as detailed. Summary of data and metrics around the campaign are below for reference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Resource Advisor Staff have been deployed and began operating in Urban Belfast from Monday <b>21st July</b>. In terms of direct communications by the Resource Advisor Team and Waste Management colleagues, all is going to plan. <b>890 streets</b> equating to <b>34342 urban households</b> have received direct communications around the campaign.</li> <li>• The Project team have continued to hold <b>weekly briefings</b> with operations managers and assistant managers and their crews. Further briefings are planned at the end of August around the collection to policy (red) phase. These briefings will include Customer Hub colleagues, OSS and relevant FAQs will be reviewed and updated.</li> <li>• <b>Red tags (domestic) and red stickers (commercial)</b> have been ordered and delivered – these will form part of the briefings above and be circulated to stakeholders including the customer hub.</li> <li>• A <b>new Special Waste Operations Team (SWOT)</b> will be required from the end of September when we collect to policy. It is envisaged that these posts will be in situ for <b>15<sup>th</sup> September</b>, for training, in advance of the red collecting to policy phase on Monday 29 September.</li> </ul> |

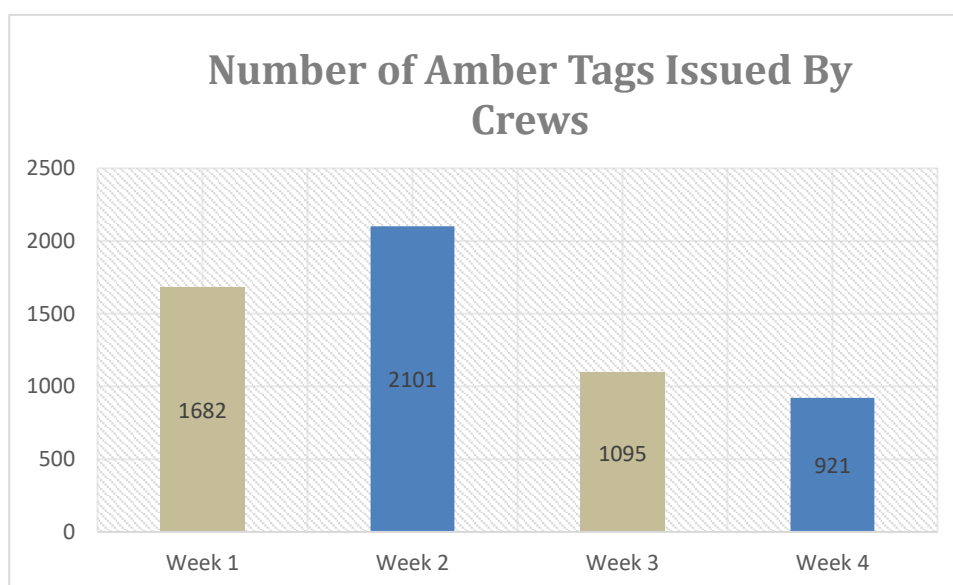
- **Translations** - the 5 versions required have been printed and are in hand for staff on the ground, including Outreach Teams. See Appendix 1 for examples.
- **Performance/Campaign impact** – In the first 2 days of the campaign, we experienced some teething problems. This did lead to small instances of non-collection at a number of sites and location which were corrected very quickly. After day 3, operationally, the campaign began to bed in well with crews on the ground and has also highlighted or magnified some of the “business as usual” issues at some of collection sites and areas e.g. overfilled euro bins and lidless euro bins at apartments. These issues are relatively small in number and being noted in issues log and issues managed case by case by Waste Collection and via colleagues in Waste Management. Issues raised to date are either resolved or in hand and we expect to see more of these as we go through the campaign.
- The comms and engagement on the ground is having an impact. Resource Advisor **home visits are up significantly as are orders for boxes and bins**. Increases in orders and requests for service show a positive trend around better recycling messaging. The WM section is keeping close track of container stocks and orders coming in. Levels are currently comfortable in the context of increased demand and further orders are in progress to replenish stocks. Waste Management will continue to monitor this closely.
- At the time of writing this report, 4 full weeks data has been gathered. Graph 1 below shows tag use/consumption for the first 4 weeks of the amber phase. **The average rate of tagging vs number of collections during the period equates to less than 2% overall**. The project team are content with progress to date and will continue to monitor the data, which is summarised in more granular detail in Table 1.
- The Service introduced the quick report of **workplace violence** to crews at the start of the campaign and as of 29 August 2025, there were **no reports made**.
- **Customer Hub Feedback** - There was a spiked increase in customer contact at the start of the amber tagging period due to teething issues with tags in some areas, however returned to normal levels quickly when resolved with only 14 service requests attributed to the bin safety campaign logged on CRM Dynamics during the month of August. A small number of residents have reported that they were not aware of the campaign prior to receiving a tag on their bin. Two comments have been recorded about the

3.8

campaign to date, with residents raising concerns about bins stored on streets/entries being overfilling by neighbours and bins being returned to their bin collection point by crews. The use of Report it app by squads to report matters impacting the collection of bins continues to be critical to assist the hub with handling customer contact. It is anticipated that customer contact will increase when the red tagging commences and the customer hub are working with Resource and Fleet Collections to ensure preparedness for the handling of enquiries this is expected to generate.

3.9

Graph 1 – summary of amber tag use cycle 1 and cycle 2 (4 weeks)



3.10

Table 1 – headline summary of campaign metrics

|                                      | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of Amber Tags Issued By Crews | 1682   | 2101   | 1095   | 921    |
| Percentage of Bins Emptied Tagged    | 2.08%  | 2.59%  | 1.35%  | 1.14%  |
| WPV Reports                          | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Total number of houses posted        | 19587  | 23917  | 28104  | 34342  |
| Number of Black Bins Ordered         | 134    | 162    | 109    | 71     |
| Number of Boxes Ordered              | 564    | 479    | 321    | 215    |

3.11

**Corporate Communications summary** of campaign feedback so far includes:

Social media content has already reached over 300,000 views, with widespread media coverage achieved. This has included TV news on both BBC and UTV.

The most successful post alone generated 245,000 views and 1,175 interactions (comments, likes, and reactions).

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <div> <div> <div>Overview</div> <div> <div>Views <sup>👤</sup></div> <div>245,895</div> </div> <div> <div>Reach <sup>👤</sup></div> <div>93,568</div> </div> <div> <div>Interactions <sup>👤</sup></div> <div>1,175</div> </div> <div> <div>Link clicks <sup>👤</sup></div> <div>2</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div>📊 This post received more views compared to your recent Facebook posts.</div> <div> <div>Views <sup>👤</sup></div> <div>245,895</div> </div> <div> <div>Total</div> <div>Followers</div> </div> <div> <div>300K</div> <div>200K</div> <div>100K</div> <div>0</div> </div> <div> <div>15m</div> <div>9h</div> <div>1d 6h</div> <div>7d</div> </div> <div> <div>— This post's views</div> <div>— Your typical post views</div> </div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Feed preview</div> <div> <div> <div>Belfast City Council</div> <div>Published by Hootsuite · 29 July at 16:00 · 🌐</div> </div> <div>Important bin collection update. ... See more</div> <div> <div> <div>leaving bins</div> <div>ut for collection</div> </div> <div> <div>our collection day, make sure your bin:</div> <div> <div> <div>7am</div> <div>Is out by 7am</div> </div> <div> <div>7pm</div> <div>Is brought back in by 7pm*</div> </div> <div> <div>6</div> <div>Has your house number marked on</div> </div> </div> <div> <div> <div>not overfilled and lid is fully closed</div> <div>Has no extra bags or waste beside it</div> <div>Doesn't have a bin liner</div> </div> <div> <div>Follow the tips if you have a recycling or wheelie bin at home today</div> </div> </div> </div> </div> </div></div></div> |
| 3.12 | <p>Corporate Communications will continue to share regular reminder posts. As we move closer to the red tagging stage at the end of September, messaging will be adapted to highlight what red tags signify and why they are important. We plan to issue another media note ahead of the red tagging phase to generate a fresh wave of coverage.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.13 | <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this report. All costs will be covered from within existing revenue estimates.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.14 | <p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4.0  | <p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 – Translated campaign material</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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## Appendix 1 – translations of campaign material

**Belfast City Council**

### Wystawianie pojemników do odbioru odpadów

Od sierpnia 2025 nowe zawieszki na pojemniki

Te same zasady dotyczą też domowych pojemników recyklingowych na kółkach lub bez kółek.

W dniu odbioru należy dopilnować, aby pojemnik był:

- 7am** wystawiony przed godz. 7:00
- 7pm** zabrany z powrotem do godz. 19:00\*
- 6** oznaczony numerem domu

**Nieprzepełniony i miał całkowicie zamkniętą pokrywę**

**Niewyłożony foliowym workiem**

**Nieobstawiony dodatkowymi workami lub odpadami**

Przestrzeganie tych zasad zapewni bezpieczeństwo naszym pracownikom podczas opróżniania pojemników i ułatwi utrzymanie czystości ulic i osiedli.

Od sierpnia 2025 r. pojemnik z nieodmkniętą pokrywą lub wyłożony workiem foliowym zostanie oznaczony pomarańczową zawieszką przypominającą o tych zasadach.

**Pojemnik przepełniony?**

- Segreguj odpady właściwie i oddawaj jak najwięcej do recyklingu – pozwoli to oszczędzić miejsce w pojemniku na odpady zmieszane i całkowicie zamknąć pokrywę.
- Zapiętnaj na plastik doże opakowania i torby.
- Korzystaj z naszych punktów recyklingu i zbiórki odpadów.
- Zamów bezpłatny odbiór odpadów wielkogabarytowych (długich przedmiotów domowych)

**Jeśli ktoś czyszczy Twój pojemnik, przypomnij, aby nie używać worków!**

**Masz pytanie?**  
Zadzwoń: 028 9027 0230  
Odwiedź: [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)

\* Pozwoli to uniknąć cudzych odpadów w pojemniku. Jeśli pojemnik nie został opróżniony i nie ma na nim zawieszki wywołującej przyczynę, należy zgłosić na stronie [belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/bins) lub zadzwonić pod numer 028 9027 0230 i wystawić pojemnik ponownie przed godz. 7:00 następnego dnia.

**Belfast City Council**

### Kaip palikti šiukšliadėžes surinkimui

Nuo 2025 rugpjūčio – su naujomis šiukšliadėžių etiketėmis

Vadovaukitės šioms patarimais, jei namuose turite perdirbimoms atliekoms skirtų dėžių ar dėžių su ratukais.

Šiukšlių surinkimo dieną įsų šiukšlių dėžė:

- 7am** Turi būti išvežta iki 7:00 val.
- 7pm** Turi būti parvežta namo iki 19:00 val\*
- 6** Ant jos turi būti nurodytas įsų namo numeris

**Nėra perpildyta ir gerai uždaryta dangtis**

**Ją nėra įliestas maišas**

**Šalia jos nėra kitų maišų ar šiukšlių**

Jeil laikysitės šių nurodymų, šiukšles surenkantis personalas galės jaustis saugiau, be to, tai užtikrins geresnę sąvarą gatvėse ir bendruomenėse.

Nuo 2025 m. rugpjūčio mėn., norėdami priminti apie galiojančias taisykles, geltona etiketė pažymėsime šiukšlių dėžes, kurios nebus visiškai uždarytos arba kuriose bus įliestas maišas.

Jeil ir toliau perpildysite šiukšlių dėžę arba tiesiog ją maišą, nuo 2025 m. rugsėjo mėn., pažymėsime įsų šiukšlių dėžę raudona etikete ir neįvesime įsų šiukšlių, kol neišimsite įlieto maišo ir visiškai neuždarysite dangčio.

**Užsakydami šiukšliadėžes valymo paslaugą, priminkite, kad jį nėra liestu maišo!**

**Per daug šiukšlių šiukšliadėžėje?**

- Tinkamai rūšiuokite atliekas ir kuo daugiau atidėkite perdirbimui – taip sutaupysite vietos savo bendrų šiukšlių dėžėje ir leisite dangčiui visiškai užsidaryti.
- Didelius daiktus ir maišus suplokite.
- Naudokitės atliekų perdirbimo ir viešosiomis atliekų surinkimo vietomis.
- Užsisakykite nemokamą didelių gabaritų daiktų surinkimo paslaugą (dideliems namų ūkio daiktams).

**Norite paklausti?**  
Skambinkite tel. 028 9027 0230  
Apsilankykite [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)

\* Taip siekiama užtikrinti, kad įsų šiukšliadėžė neprimestų šiukšlių kiti žmonės. Jeil įsų šiukšlių dėžė nebuvo ištuštinta ir nebuvo pažymėta etikete, apie tai informuokite mūsų internetu: [belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/bins) arba paskambinkite tel. 028 9027 0230, o savo šiukšliadėžę dar kartą išvežkite iki kitos dienos 7:00 val.

**Belfast City Council**

### Deixar os caixotes do lixo para a recolha

Incluir novas etiquetas para os caixotes do lixo a partir de agosto de 2025

Siga estas dicas se também tiver caixas de reciclagem ou de todas em casa.

No dia da recolha, certifique-se de que o seu caixote do lixo:

- 7am** Está na rua às 07h00
- 7pm** É recolhido até às 19h00\*
- 6** Tem o número da sua casa marcado

**Não está demasiado cheio e a tampa está completamente fechada**

**Não tem um saco de lixo**

**Não tem sacos ou resíduos extra ao seu lado**

O cumprimento destas passas manterá o nosso pessoal seguro quando esvaziar os caixotes do lixo e apoiará ruas e comunidades mais limpas.

A partir de agosto de 2025, se a tampa do seu caixote do lixo não estiver fechada ou se tiver utilizado um saco de lixo, colocaremos uma etiqueta ambar no seu caixote para relembrar destas regras.

A partir do final de setembro de 2025, se continuar a encher o seu caixote do lixo com saco de lixo, colocaremos uma etiqueta vermelha e não o esvaziaremos até que retire o saco de lixo e se certifique de que a tampa está totalmente fechada.

**Se pedir a alguém que limpe o seu caixote do lixo, lembre-o de não utilizar sacos de lixo!**

**O caixote do lixo está demasiado cheio?**

- Separe os seus resíduos corretamente e recicle o máximo que puder – isto poupará espaço no seu caixote do lixo geral e certifique-se de que a tampa fecha completamente.
- Achate os objetos grandes e os sacos.
- Utilize os nossos locais de reciclagem e do lazer cívico.
- Marque uma recolha gratuita de resíduos volumosos (para artigos domésticos de maiores dimensões)

**Tem uma pergunta?**  
Ligue o número 028 9027 0230  
Consulte: [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)

\* Isto é para evitar que outro lixo seja colocado no seu caixote do lixo. Se o seu caixote do lixo não tiver sido esvaziado e não tivermos colocado uma etiqueta a informá-lo do motivo, comuníque-o online em: [belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/bins) ou ligue o número 028 9027 0230 e deixe o caixote do lixo novamente exposto até às 07h00 do dia seguinte.

**Belfast City Council**

### Scoaterea pubelelor pe stradă pentru colectarea deșeurilor

Plus etichete pentru pubele începând din august 2025

Umați regulile de mai jos dacă aveți acasă pubele sau cutii pe roți pentru deșeurile reciclabile.

În ziua de colectare a deșeurilor, verificați ca pubele:

- 7am** Să fie lăsată pe stradă înainte de ora 7:00
- 7pm** Să fie luată de pe stradă înainte de ora 19:00\*
- 6** Să aibă trecut pe ea numărul dvs. de casă

**Să nu fie prea plină și să aibă capacul închis etanș**

**Să nu fie captusită cu un sac pentru gunoi**

**Să nu aibă alături de ea alți saci sau alte deșeurile**

Făcând cele de mai sus, veți contribui la siguranța angajaților noștri când golesc pubelele, și la păstrarea curăteniei pe străzile și în comunitățile noastre.

Cu începere din august 2025, dacă pubele dvs. nu are capacul închis sau dacă ați captusit-o cu un sac pentru gunoi, vom adăuga o etichetă portocalie pentru a vă reaminti aceste reguli.

Începând de la sfârșitul lui septembrie 2025, dacă continuați să captușiți sau să umpleți excesiv pubele, vom pune pe ea o etichetă roșie și o vom golii numai după ce scoateți sacul cu care este captusită și închideți etanș capacul.

**Dacă folosiți servicii de igienizare a pubelelor, reamintiți furnizorilor să nu o captusească cu saci!**

**Pubele este prea plină?**

- Sortați-vă deșeurile cu atenție și reciclați în măsura în care puteți – veți economisi astfel spațiu în pubele pentru deșeurile menajere astfel încât să puteți închide cu ușurință capacul.
- Aplatizați deșeurile de dimensiuni mari.
- Folosiți punctele locale de colectare și reciclare.
- Aranjați colectarea gratuită a deșeurilor voluminoase (pentru articole de uz casnic de dimensiuni mai mari)

**Aveți vreo întrebare?**  
Sunajți la 028 9027 0230  
Vizitați [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)

\* Pentru ca pubele dvs. să nu fie lăsată de alte persoane. Dacă pubele nu a fost golită și nu am lăsat o etichetă să vă spunem de ce, sesizați problema online la [belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/bins) sau sunați la 028 9027 0230, și scoateți-o din nou pe stradă a doua zi înainte de ora 7:00.



Belfast  
City Council

French

## Sortir les bacs en vue de la collecte

y compris les nouvelles étiquettes à bacs,  
à partir d'août 2025



Suivez aussi ces  
conseils si vous  
avez des boîtes de  
recyclage ou des  
boîtes à roues à  
votre domicile.

Le jour de la collecte, veillez à :



Sortir votre bac avant  
7 heures du matin



Le rentrer avant  
19 heures\*



Inscrire le numéro de votre  
maison sur le bac



Ne pas trop le remplir et  
bien refermer le couvercle



Ne pas utiliser de  
sac doublure de bac



Ne pas poser de sacs ni de  
déchets supplémentaires  
à côté du bac

En suivant ces conseils, vous contribuerez  
à la sécurité de notre personnel lors  
du ramassage des poubelles, et à la  
propreté des rues et des quartiers.

À partir d'août 2025, si le couvercle de  
votre poubelle n'est pas fermé ou si vous  
avez utilisé un sac doublure de bac, une  
étiquette orange sera apposée sur votre  
poubelle pour vous rappeler ces règles.

À partir de fin septembre 2025, si vous  
continuez de mettre un sac doublure ou  
de remplir excessivement votre poubelle,  
une étiquette rouge sera apposée sur votre  
poubelle et celle-ci ne sera plus vidée tant  
que vous n'aurez pas retiré le sac doublure  
et vérifié que le couvercle est bien fermé.



Si une autre personne est  
chargée de nettoyer votre  
poubelle, rappelez-lui qu'il  
ne faut pas utiliser de sac  
doublure de poubelle

### Poubelle trop pleine ?

- Triez correctement vos déchets et recyclez autant  
que possible. Cela vous permettra de gagner de la  
place dans votre poubelle de déchets ménagers  
et de vous assurer que le couvercle se referme  
complètement.
- Aplatissez les objets volumineux et les sacs
- Utilisez nos sites de recyclage et nos centres de  
collecte des déchets
- Réservez la collecte gratuite d'encombrants (pour les  
articles ménagers plus volumineux)

Pour toutes  
questions

Appelez le 028 9027 0230  
Visitez [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)



\* Afin d'éviter que d'autres déchets ne soient placés dans votre poubelle, si votre bac n'a pas été vidé et qu'aucune  
étiquette n'y est apposée pour vous en expliquer les raisons, veuillez le signaler en ligne à [belfastcity.gov.uk/bins](http://belfastcity.gov.uk/bins)  
ou appelez le 028 9027 0230, et sortez à nouveau votre bac avant 7 heures du matin le lendemain.



**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

pe

|                           |                                                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Request for the use of Parks for 2025 Events</b>                 |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Tuesday 2 September 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<br>After Council Decision<br>Sometime in the future<br>Never                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><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 Belfast parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Row on Row Remembrance 2025 – Pitt Park.</li> <li>• Sound of Belfast &amp; Factory sessions – Tropical Ravine.</li> <li>• 5KM Autism NI Walk – Ormeau Park.</li> <li>• Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park.</li> <li>• Darkness into Light - Waterworks.</li> <li>• Wellfest – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• VC Glendale - Falling Leaves – Irish National League Race – Falls Park</li> <li>• CIYMS - Orange Grove Athletics – Boxing Day Run – Belmont 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ul> |
| 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        | <b><u>Key Issues</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.2        | <p>If agreed, the event organiser will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.3        | <b><u>Row on Row Remembrance 2025 – Pitt Park</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3.4        | <p>Belfast City Council has received a formal request from the Pitt Park Residents Association to host a weeklong remembrance event at Dr Pitt Memorial Park. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for local residents to honour and commemorate those who have lost their lives in defence of the nation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.5        | <p>The event will take place over several days.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.6        | <p>As part of the proposal, the association seeks permission for residents to place personal tributes such as poppy crosses or wreaths in memory of fallen relatives throughout the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|      | <p>duration of the week. Additionally, they have requested authorisation to conduct a daily remembrance service at the site, scheduled to take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event organiser has confirmed that all displays and materials associated with the commemoration will be respectfully removed from the site upon conclusion of the event.</p>                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.7  | <p><b>Key Dates for the event are:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.8  | <p>Set Up – 12.00pm on Monday 3 November 2025<br/> Main Event – 24/7 commencing on Monday 3 November 2025 &amp; ending on Tuesday 11 November 2025.</p> <p>Remembrance service – Daily, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Monday 3 November 2025 to Tuesday 11 November 2025</p> <p>De Rig – 12.00pm on Wednesday 12 November 2025</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.9  | <p><b><u>Sound of Belfast &amp; The Factory Sessions -Tropical Ravine</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.10 | <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Factory 61 to host their Sound of Belfast &amp; The Factory Sessions in Botanic Gardens Tropical Ravine on Thursday 6 November 2025. Factory 61 was originally set up in collaboration with South Regional college to create a pathway for students into the music industry. Their mission is to incubate upcoming talent in the local area by offering professional music and audio services while helping artists create a career in music.</p>      |
| 3.11 | <p>The event will take place outside normal park and Tropical Ravine opening hours and there will be associated resource implications.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.12 | <p>The event is a music gig for local up and coming artists and is designed to be a unique experience for those in attendance as it is designed to an intimate experience for a maximum of 120 people. There will be a charge of between £10-15 per ticket for those who wish to attend the event. This event took place last year at the Tropical Ravine with no issues arising.</p>                                                                                                                      |
| 3.13 | <p>Members should also be aware that the normal park closing time for November is 5pm therefore this event will take place after hours when the park is closed to the public and the park will need to be opened for those who are attending the event only.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.14 | <p><b>Key Dates for the event are:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.15 | <p>Set Up – Thursday 6 November 2025, 12.00pm to 5.00pm<br/> Event – Thursday 6 November 2025, 6.00pm to 9.00pm<br/> De-Rig – Thursday 6 November, 10.00pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.16 | <p><b><u>5KM Run – Autism NI – Ormeau Park</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Autism NI to host a charity 5km run in Ormeau Park. The purpose of the event is to raise funds in support of Autism NI, a registered charity and the leading organisation in Northern Ireland dedicated to autism advocacy and support. The charity is registered under number XR22944, and it has been confirmed that 100% of the proceeds raised will be donated directly to the charity.</p> |

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| 3.17 | The event organiser has requested permission to conduct on-site fundraising activities during the event, including bucket collections, with all donations to be submitted on the day. The run will follow a clearly marked 5km route within the park, and volunteer stewards will be stationed along the course to guide and assist participants.                                                                                             |
| 3.18 | <p><b>Key Dates for the event are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – 9.00am, Sunday 18 January 2026<br/> Main Event – 11.00am to 12.30pm on Sunday 18 January 2025<br/> De Rig – 1.00pm on Sunday 18 January 2025</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.19 | <p><b><u>Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from PIPS Suicide Prevention for use of Ormeau Park for the organisation's annual "Darkness into Light" walk. This event is a pre-dawn 5-kilometre walk around the designated track within the park, hosted to bring the community in support and connection offering hope to individuals and families affected by suicide.</p>         |
| 3.20 | The event will take place outside normal park opening hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.21 | The walk, which takes place each year, is an opportunity for participants to unite in solidarity and raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. PIPS Suicide Prevention is a locally based charity providing vital support services, including counselling and crisis intervention, to individuals impacted by mental ill-health, suicide, and self-harm.                                                                   |
| 3.22 | <b>Key Dates for the event are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.23 | <p>Set-up – Friday 8 May 2025 – 9.00am<br/> Main Event – Saturday 9 May 2025, 4.00am to 9.00am<br/> De-Rig – Saturday 9 May – 11.00am</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.24 | The event is due to take place out of hours and will use the main paths around the park for the 5km walk. No money will be collected on site as registration is completed online prior to the event. It is anticipated that there will be between 500 and 1000 people attending.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.25 | <p><b><u>Darkness into Light – Waterworks Park</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from PIPS Suicide Prevention for use of Waterworks Park for the organisation's annual "Darkness into Light" walk. This event is a pre-dawn 5-kilometre walk around the designated track within the park, hosted to bring the community in support and connection offering hope to individuals and families affected by suicide.</p> |
| 3.26 | The event will take place outside normal park opening hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.27 | The walk, which takes place each year, is an opportunity for participants to unite in solidarity and raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. PIPS Suicide Prevention is a locally based charity providing vital support services, including counselling and crisis intervention, to individuals impacted by mental ill-health, suicide, and self-harm.                                                                   |
| 3.28 | <b>Key Dates for the event are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.29 | <p>Set-up – Friday 8 May 2025, 9.00am<br/> Main Event – Saturday 9 May 2025 – 4.00am to 9.00am<br/> De-Rig – Saturday 9 May – 11.00am</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 3.30 | The event is due to take place out of hours and will use the main paths around the park for the 5km walk. No money will be collected on site as registration is completed online prior to the event. It is anticipated that there will be between 500 and 1000 people attending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.31 | <p><b><u>Wellfest – Ormeau Park</u></b></p> <p>Council has received a request from Wellfest to bring their Wellness event to Ormeau Park 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Wellfest is an alcohol-free festival that is designed to inspire those who attend to better their own health and wellbeing. The event brings together leading names in health, fitness and wellness to deliver live workouts, educational talks and create memories that will inspire those who attend for the long term. The event is a two-day event will open at 9am and close at 6.30pm. The event will have five different designated areas within the event space.</p> |
| 3.32 | There will be a charge for those who are attending the event with the price of tickets being set at the following:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.33 | <p>Weekend early bird - £68</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday early bird - £47</p> <p>Weekend final release - £75</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday final release - £58</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.34 | <b>The Key Dates for the event are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.35 | <p>Set Up -Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026</p> <p><b>Main Event – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 - 9.30am to 6pm</b></p> <p>De-Rig – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.36 | <b><u>VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park – Saturday 11th October – Sunday 12th October 2025</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.37 | Belfast City Council has received a request from VC Glendale to host their annual Irish National League Cycling Race at Falls Park in October 2025. The Falling Leaves event has taken place at Falls Park for the last 9 years and has been supported by BCC during its time at the park. Due to the nature of the event, areas of the park will be required to be closed off to members of the public to allow the race to proceed safely and to ensure that no park users or participants are injured. There are expected to be around 500 people in attendance with participants and spectators attending from across the UK & Ireland.                               |
| 3.38 | The areas of the site the organisers plan to use are the grassed area beside the playground leading to the woodland area beside the cemetery; followed by the pathed area along the side of the Falls Road and across the bridge leading to the pitches. Participants will then cycle around the entirety of the parks pitched area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.39 | The event organiser VC Glendale are a voluntary cycling club who are established as a cross community cycling club with members taking part in races across the UK & Ireland. The club have worked closely with Belfast City Council over the years to run this event with no issues occurring during this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.40 | <b>Key Dates for the event are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.41 | <p>Set Up – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 11.00am</p> <p><b>Main Event Day 1 – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 12noon to 3.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Main Event Day 2 – Sunday 12th October - 8am to 4.30pm</b></p> <p>De-Rig – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| 3.42 | <b><u>CIYMS Boxing Day Fun Run – Orange Grove Athletics Club – Belmont Park – Friday 26 December 2025</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3.43 | Belfast City Council have received a request from Orange Grove Athletics Club to host their annual boxing day fun run at Belmont Park on Friday 26 December 2025. The fun run has been running for 40 years and this is the third year it will be hosted by Orange Grove Athletics club. Participants are encouraged to come in fancy dress with prizes being awarded to the best entrants. The number of entrants will be capped at 250 to safely accommodate all runners                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.44 | The event is aimed at raising money for Northern Ireland Hospice with the entrance fee being £10 per person. The entrance fee will be used to cover the costs for hosting the event and first aid with all remaining funds being donated to the NI Hospice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.45 | The event organiser has requested permission to collect money on site during the event. Belfast City Council are in receipt of a letter from NI Hospice authorising Orange Grove to fundraise on their behalf. NI Hospice charity number: NIC102337                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.46 | <b>Key Dates for the event are.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.47 | Set Up – Friday 26 December 2025 – 9am<br><b>Event – Friday 26 December 2025 – 12pm to 2pm</b><br>De-rig – Friday 26 December 2025 – 2pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4.0  | <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b><br><br>Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions -Tropical Ravine.<br><br>Members of staff will be required to staff the Tropical Ravine during the Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions and to secure the park and building when the event has ended. All staff costs will be recovered from the event organiser.<br><br>The park wardens will be required to work additional hours to facilitate the closure of the Waterworks and Ormeau Park following the darkness into light events.<br><br><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b><br>There are no known implications. |
|      | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



**Belfast  
City Council**

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

AGENDA ITEM : PROPOSAL TO RE-SURVEY STREETS  
FOR DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS AND SURVEY  
RESPONSE TIMES

|                           |                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Dual Language Steet Signs Applications - Proposal to Re-Survey 20 Streets Impacted by a Postal Issue and Survey Response Time Extension.</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control                                                                                         |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430<br>Alan Mayrs Principal Building Control Surveyor, ext. 2428                                    |

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Call-in

☐

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

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1.1        | To consider a proposal to re-survey 20 streets being processed under the dual language street signs policy which were affected by postal issues and to consider an extension to survey response times which may be impacted by delivery schedule changes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is asked to agree to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The re-survey of 20 streets where residents' returns have been impacted by a postal service issue.</li> <li>• To extend the survey response times to 21 days from the current 14 days for all applications going forward to reduce impact of delivery schedule changes for second class post (Initially one month on policy implementation)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.1        | <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Re-survey of 20 Streets</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.2        | The Director of Planning and Building Control provided an update to members at the People and Communities Committee on 5 <sup>th</sup> August regarding an issue which affected the return of dual language street sign surveys using prepaid envelopes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.3        | An account suspension applied to BCC Royal Mail account between 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 has impacted a number of survey returns being processed and delivered to BCC by Royal Mail. It is unclear and we have been unable to ascertain to date when this suspension resulted in letters being held by Royal Mail. During our account suspension the Royal Mail Delivery Centre held 375 surveys. In addition, a number of surveys had been internally transferred to their National Returns Centre for return to sender (residents).                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.4        | Whilst we have received all the survey returns held by the Royal Mail Delivery Centre and are continuing to receive surveys from the National Returns Centre we are unable to obtain accurate numbers for the surveys which were sent back to residents. A small number of residents have contacted BCC directly to advise they had received their survey back. This involved the surveys of Rosetta Avenue, Skegoneill Avenue and Victoria Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.5        | Officers have been closely monitoring the returns and have been able to identify 20 Streets which have been impacted by this issue. Given the unknown number of surveys that have been returned to residents and the inability to obtain accurate figures from Royal Mail, officers consider the only option to ensure fully accurate survey results would be to carry out a re-survey of these streets. This re-survey has been extended to any streets where we consider there is the potential for results to have been affected by residents returns. This analysis took into consideration streets we have received held mail from the Delivery Centre and National Returns Centre, and those streets where surveys were returned to the residents. |
| 3.6        | The list of these streets and the number of surveys involved in the re-survey are listed in Table 1 below which will follow the same process as the original survey. Return will be by prepaid envelope for all surveys in line with existing processes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

3.7

**Table 1 - List of Streets to be Re-Surveyed**

| <b>Street</b>                  | <b>No of Surveys to be Re-Issued</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lagmore Downs                  | 152                                  |
| Upper Dunmurry Lane            | 173                                  |
| Rosetta Avenue                 | 87                                   |
| Wellesley Avenue               | 122                                  |
| Skegoneill Avenue              | 242                                  |
| Victoria Road                  | 173                                  |
| Burmah Street                  | 70                                   |
| Delhi Street                   | 123                                  |
| Lismain Street                 | 53                                   |
| Sunningdale Gardens            | 145                                  |
| Donegall Park Avenue           | 205                                  |
| Mill Valley Gardens            | 22                                   |
| Alexandra Gardens              | 47                                   |
| Appleton Park                  | 130                                  |
| Oldpark Road                   | 757                                  |
| Woodland Avenue                | 34                                   |
| Lagmore View Crescent          | 45                                   |
| Cliftondene Gardens            | 93                                   |
| Colinvale                      | 244                                  |
| Bearnagh Drive                 | 187                                  |
| <b>Total Number of surveys</b> | <b>3104</b>                          |

3.8

As part of the re-survey, correspondence will be included providing an explanation to residents of the reason for the re-survey and that any existing returns from the original survey expressing a preference in respect to the proposal will not be counted.

**Review with Royal Mail**

3.9

Officers have used the information available at present in the proposal above. The account has now been confirmed as operational, and a review is ongoing internally within BCC. To facilitate this, we are working to establish a senior contact within Royal Mail to discuss this matter to ensure that this issue cannot happen in the future, it is proposed that a further update report will be brought once this review is complete.

**Survey Response Times**

3.10

Royal Mail second class postal services have changed their delivery schedules which include discontinuing Saturday deliveries and implementing a weekday rotation schedule. These changes took effect on July 28, 2025.

The breakdown of these changes is as follows:

- Second-class letters will no longer be delivered on Saturdays.

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second-class mail will be delivered on a two-week rotating schedule: Week 1: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; Week 2: Tuesday, Thursday.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.11       | The revised dual language street signs policy indicates that replies should be received with one month. At a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 it was agreed to reduce the response times for surveys to 14 days. However, given the reduced delivery schedules 14 days may now not be sufficient to allow all residents to have their preferences lodged within time. |
| 3.12       | Members are asked to consider the proposal to increase this time period to 21 days for all surveys moving forward, which officers believe will have minimal impact on the processing of applications and should not create any delays.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|            | <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.13       | The cost for the re-survey of the 20 streets will be covered by existing budgets. Dedicated existing staff working on the current process will process the new surveys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.14       | There are no costs or resource implications associated with increasing the survey response times to 21 days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|            | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.15       | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|            | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



|                           |                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Proposals for dual language street signs</b>                                                             |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                                              |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control                                                     |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430<br>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)
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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

☐

| <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 seven 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 Brooke Crescent, Juniper Park, Elimgrove Street, Deerpark Mews, Joy Street, Castle Street & Chapel Lane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           |                  |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| <b>3.0</b>       | <b>Main Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                           |                  |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| 3.1              | <u>Key Issues</u><br>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>Brooke Crescent</td><td>Corrán an tSrutháin</td><td>Off Brooke Drive, BT11</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr> <td>Juniper Park</td><td>Páirc an Aitil</td><td>Off Gardenmore Road, BT17</td><td>132</td></tr> <tr> <td>Elimgrove Street</td><td>Sráid Gharrán Éilím</td><td>Off Oldpark Road, BT14</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr> <td>Deerpark Mews</td><td>Eachlann Pháirc na bhFia</td><td>Off Deerpark Road, BT14</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joy Street</td><td>Sráid Sheoigh</td><td>Off May Street, BT2</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr> <td>Castle Street</td><td>Sraid an Chaisleáin</td><td>Off King Street, BT1</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chapel Lane</td><td>Lána an tSéipéil</td><td>Off Castle Street, BT1</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> |                           |                  | English Name | Non- English Name | Location | Persons surveyed | Brooke Crescent | Corrán an tSrutháin | Off Brooke Drive, BT11 | 125 | Juniper Park | Páirc an Aitil | Off Gardenmore Road, BT17 | 132 | Elimgrove Street | Sráid Gharrán Éilím | Off Oldpark Road, BT14 | 84 | Deerpark Mews | Eachlann Pháirc na bhFia | Off Deerpark Road, BT14 | 32 | Joy Street | Sráid Sheoigh | Off May Street, BT2 | 44 | Castle Street | Sraid an Chaisleáin | Off King Street, BT1 | 62 | Chapel Lane | Lána an tSéipéil | Off Castle Street, BT1 | 8 |
| English Name     | Non- English Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Location                  | Persons surveyed |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Brooke Crescent  | Corrán an tSrutháin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Off Brooke Drive, BT11    | 125              |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Juniper Park     | Páirc an Aitil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Off Gardenmore Road, BT17 | 132              |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Elimgrove Street | Sráid Gharrán Éilím                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Off Oldpark Road, BT14    | 84               |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Deerpark Mews    | Eachlann Pháirc na bhFia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Off Deerpark Road, BT14   | 32               |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Joy Street       | Sráid Sheoigh                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Off May Street, BT2       | 44               |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Castle Street    | Sraid an Chaisleáin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Off King Street, BT1      | 62               |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| Chapel Lane      | Lána an tSéipéil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Off Castle Street, BT1    | 8                |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |
| 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              | Brooke Crescent, BT11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62 occupiers (49.6%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>1 occupier (0.8%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           |                  |              |                   |          |                  |                 |                     |                        |     |              |                |                           |     |                  |                     |                        |    |               |                          |                         |    |            |               |                     |    |               |                     |                      |    |             |                  |                        |   |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 occupiers (1.6%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.7  | <p>Juniper Park, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 occupiers (17.42%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.8  | <p>Elimgrove Street, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 occupiers (15.47%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.9  | <p>Deerpark Mews, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 occupiers (53.12%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3.10 | <p>Joy Street, BT2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 occupiers (31.81%) were in favour of the erection of a second name plate</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.11 | <p>Castle Street, BT1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 occupiers (20.96%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>1 occupiers (1.61%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>1 occupier (1.61%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>                              |
| 3.12 | <p>Chapel Lane, BT1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.13 | <p>Officers have reviewed these applications in light of the Royal Mail postage issue and based upon the evidence available, including the absence of any returns from Royal Mail or from residents in the streets, have confirmed that none have been affected by the postage issue.</p>                                                             |
| 3.14 | <p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second language street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.15       | All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.16       | As part of the new policy, the Council have agreed that applications for dual language street signage in the city centre will be subject to wider public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.17       | Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane are located within the city centre boundary agreed by SP&R Committee on 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 and ratified by Council on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.18       | In accordance with the agreed procedures and following surveys for each street, Belfast City Council sought the views from the community of users including those who live, work, study or visit the city on the proposal to erect dual language street signs in Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane. In line with the Council decision of 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023, adverts were placed in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and Newsletter. Submissions could be made from 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025. The following two responses were received during the consultation period: |
| 3.19       | One respondent felt the implementation of Irish language street signs in Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane would cause tension and division for all that use them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.20       | The second respondent in relation to Castle Street and Joy Street suggested formal consideration be given to the name plates in trilingual format in English, Ulster Scots and Irish and provided historical and good relations representations in relation to this proposal. They had no objection to the proposal in Chapel Lane for dual language signs with the second language in Irish.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|            | <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.21       | There is a cost of approximately £2760 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.22       | Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.23       | The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications at Brooke Crescent, Juniper Park, Elimgrove Street, Deerpark Mews, Joy Street, Castle Street & Chapel Lane did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3.24       | Applications within the agreed city centre boundary for Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane were subjected to a wider public consultation and two comments were received, details of which are included at 3.18 and 3.19.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|            | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



|                           |                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Proposal for naming two new streets</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                                              |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control                                                     |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430<br>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

☐

| 1.0           | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.1           | To consider the application for the naming of two new streets in the city.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 2.0           | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 2.1           | <p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of the application for naming two new streets in the city.</p> <p>The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant the applications, or</li><li>• Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.0           | Main Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.1           | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p> <p><u>New streets</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.2           | <p>Members are asked to consider the following application for naming 2 new streets in the city. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council’s Streets Register and do not duplicate any existing approved street names in the city.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.3           | <table><tr><th>Proposed Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Rileys Place</td><td>Off Raphael Street, BT7</td><td>Todd Architects Limited</td></tr><tr><td>Keegan Street</td><td>Off Stewart Street, BT7</td><td>Todd Architects Limited</td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Proposed Name           | Location | Applicant | Rileys Place | Off Raphael Street, BT7 | Todd Architects Limited | Keegan Street | Off Stewart Street, BT7 | Todd Architects Limited |
| Proposed Name | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Applicant               |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| Rileys Place  | Off Raphael Street, BT7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Todd Architects Limited |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| Keegan Street | Off Stewart Street, BT7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Todd Architects Limited |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.4           | <p>Todd Architects Limited are developing lands at the gasworks northern fringe site (off Raphael Street and Stewart Street) for residential use.</p> <p>The development includes two new streets containing 94 domestic properties.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.5           | <p>The developer has proposed Rileys Place as their first choice for the new street located at Raphael Street, Site A (44 residential properties). Rileys Place represents an historical former street from the exact location of the site. The street appears to have been named after Mr James Riley, a local prominent Veterinary Surgeon and building owner. The second name choice for the new street is Rileys Court, continuing the association with the historical former street. The third name choice for the new street is Bond Street, which represents an historical former street name which was in very close proximity to the site.</p>                                                                          |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |
| 3.6           | <p>For the second new street, the developer has proposed Keegan Street as their first name choice for the street located at Stewart Street, Site D (50 residential properties). Keegan Street represents an historical former street which was in very close proximity to the site. The street appears to have been named after Mr James Keegan, J.P. He was a respected merchant and prominent citizen of Belfast. He was also a magistrate for the borough of Belfast. He invested in local property and the street where he owned property was name after him. The second name choice for the new street is Bond Street, which represents an historical former street name which was in very close proximity to the site.</p> |                         |          |           |              |                         |                         |               |                         |                         |

|     |                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.7 | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p> |
| 3.8 | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct Equality implications.</p>                  |
| 5.0 | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                      |
|     | None                                                                                                                                                   |

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