

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th February, 2026

HYBRID MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Brennan (Chairperson);
Councillors Beattie, Black, Bunting, Cobain,
Doran, de Faoite, R-M Donnelly, Ferguson,
Garrett, Long, Maghie, I. McLaughlin, Murphy,
Murray, Nelson, Ó Néill, Smyth, Walsh and Whyte.

Also attended: Councillor Groogan.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;
Ms. S. McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Director
of Corporate Services;
Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. D. Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. K. Forster, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. T. Wallace, Director of Finance;
Mr. E. McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing
and External Affairs;
Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services;
Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and
Development;
Mr. J. Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance
Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance
Coordinator.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd and 30th January, and 6th, 9th and 13th February, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meetings on 9th and 13th February, subject to the following amendments:

Declarations of Interest

Councillor R-M. Donnelly declared an interest under item 7. (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership, in so far as it related to PEACEPLUS in that she worked for an

organisation which was funded under the Programme. As the item did not become the subject of debate, she was not required to leave the meeting.

In relation to item 2. (b) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Councillor Murray declared an interest, in that he was employed by S.O.S NI who were a delivery partner of the Fleadh. As the related interest did not become the subject of debate, he was not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor de Faoite declared an interest under item 4. (b) Planning Information, in that he was on the Board of Governors of Forge Integrated Primary School. As the item did not become the subject of debate, he was not required to leave the meeting.

In relation to Item 4. (e) Social Supermarket Fund 26/28, Councillor Beattie declared an interest associated with a group/organisation which had applied for or received funding and left the meeting whilst the item was under consideration.

Councillor Long declared an interest under item 3. (f) Correspondence received from Minister of Justice - Stand alone Hate Crime Bill, in that his wife was the Justice Minister and left the meeting whilst the item was under consideration.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following seven items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following seven items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Members were advised that content of ‘restricted’ reports and any discussion which takes place during closed session must be treated as ‘confidential information’ and no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

Quarter 3 Finance Report 2025-26

The Director of Finance provided an update on the Quarter 3 financial position, including the year-end forecast for 2025/26.

The Committee:

- Noted the Quarter 3 financial position and year end forecast (Appendix1);
- Noted the attached Quarter 3 Treasury Management report (Appendix 2); and
- Noted that further information be provided on the Waterfront Hall forecast;
- Agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee in March in relation to Discretionary Funding.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

(Ms. L-A O'Donnell, Senior Manager - Culture and Tourism and Mr. S. Leonard, Director of Open Spaces, Resources, Fleet and Transport, attended in connection with this item.)

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy and Senior Manager - Culture and Tourism provided an update on the planning to support the hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Belfast in August 2026.

During discussion, in relation to waste management plans, one member suggested that a plan was also needed for the continuation of resident's waste and recycling collection during the event week.

One member also highlighted the need that Belfast Bike stock at relevant stands should be monitored and replenished when necessary.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor R. Murphy,

That the Committee agrees that bi-lingual communications be undertaken for the marketing of St. Patrick's Day events.

On a vote, fifteen Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

After discussion, the Committee noted the progress to date on the development of the Fleadh Cheoil and agreed delegated authority be sought from the Council to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for decisions in relation to waste management arrangements for the Fleadh.

Accordingly, the Committee also agreed that bi-lingual communications be undertaken for the marketing of St. Patrick's Day events.

City Innovation Programme Update

The Committee:

1. Noted that Belfast's \$1 million 'alleyways transformation' application to Bloomberg Philanthropies had been successful;
2. Approved The Lord Mayor, Deputy Chief Executive and a City Innovation Broker to attend Bloomberg's CityLab workshop in April. (All costs would be covered by Bloomberg.);
3. Approved the procurement of a supplier to work with the six councils of the Belfast Region City Deal to maximise the impact of the forthcoming £4.4 million Contracts for Innovations programme;
4. Agreed to an additional contract be included under item 6.a) Contracts Update in relation to the procurement of a technical supplier for the 'Contract for Innovation' programme of up to £50,000.

St Brigids GAC Management Agreement at Musgrave Park

The Committee considered an update on the outcome of negotiations with St. Brigids GAC regarding options for their future management of Musgrave Park GAA pitches.

The Committee:

- Approved a 15 year management agreement with St Brigids GAC for the 2 pitches at Musgrave Park on the terms outlined in the report;
- Noted that the agreement included permission to build a hurling wall at the clubs expense subject to all statutory approvals being in place; and
- Noted that the agreement permitted the club to seek pitch side advertising sponsorship income from suitable partners.

New Crematorium at Roselawn

The Director of Property and Projects presented a report on the proposed new Crematorium project at Roselawn.

Proposal 1

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Doran,

That the Committee agrees to proceed with the recommendation, as outlined in the report:

- a new, two-chapel crematorium at the Roselawn site, and to appoint the contractor;
- the adoption of a hybrid committal service model; and
- a review and increase of cremation fees, particularly for non-Belfast residents.

On a vote, twelve Members voted for the proposal and eight against and it was declared carried.

Proposal 2

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees to invite the Local Government Auditor to analyse the decision to take forward the recommendation for a new, two-chapel crematorium at the Roselawn site, in relation to the concerns raised regarding cost implications and alternative site options.

On a vote, eight Members voted for the proposal and twelve against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee noted the report which had been submitted to the special meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group and agreed the minutes and recommendations of the Working Group to proceed with:

- a new, two-chapel crematorium at the Roselawn site, and to appoint the contractor;
- the adoption of a hybrid committal service model; and
- a review and increase of cremation fees, particularly for non-Belfast residents

Asset Management

The Committee:

- i. **Request for Council to act as a Sponsoring Body**
 - Approved the Council granting in principle approval to act as a Sponsoring Body in the acquisition of a surplus asset available through the D1 trawl at Riddell Campus, Malvern Street, Belfast to Argyle Business Centre.
- ii. **Update on Plot 15 Gasworks Estate (Klondyke Building) – proposed disposal of the Headlease**
 - Noted the update on the sale of Plot 15 at the Gasworks Estate (Klondyke Building)

The Committee also noted that further information would be provided in relation to the Capital Financing Budget.

Physical Programme Update

(Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of Property and Projects provided an overview of the Council's Physical Programme, together with the requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme.

Proposal 1

Moved by Councillor Smyth,
Seconded by Councillor Murray and

Resolved – The Committee agrees, in relation to **5-9 North Street**, that a report be submitted to a future committee in relation to medium term studio space options for the creative sector and the Council engage with the Department for Communities and the Arts Council to look at mechanisms to support the sector going forward.

Proposal 2

Moved by Councillor Whyte,
Seconded by Councillor de Faoite and

Resolved – The Committee, in relation to **Historic Tiled Street Signs**, agrees that the project be moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme and agrees that a process looking at the future repair and maintenance of signs be investigated.

Proposal 3

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson and

Resolved – The Committee agrees that, in relation to **Community Centres**, the Braniel Community Centre and outdoor space be added as a Stage 1 – Emerging project onto the Capital Programme and agrees that a report be submitted to the Committee on the status of all Community Centres across the city, to include information on current service provision and gaps, within two months.

Proposal 4

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor R-M. Donnelly,

Resolved - That the Committee agrees, in relation to **Belfast Stories**, to proceed with the Enhanced Studio to include an open-call for potential operators, in line with the Council's Social Value Policy.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- **Capital Programme Movements –**
 - **Depot Charging Scheme** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* with a maximum allocation of up to £76,324 (25% of project costs) being provided by the Council and noted that the Director of Finance had confirmed that this was within the affordability limits of the Council;
 - **IT Programme— HR/ Payroll Upgrade** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* with a maximum allocation of up to £545,355 and noted that the Director of Finance had confirmed that this was within the affordability limits of the Council;
 - **Waterfront Hall – Chiller Units** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver;

- **Assembly Rooms Cluster H&S Works** - Agreed that 'Assembly Rooms Cluster Health and Safety Works/Essential Repairs' be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* due to the condition of the buildings/cluster, and pending a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with a contract to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver with the works to be partly funded by the funding received under the World Monuments Fund in respect of the Assembly Rooms and noted that work was underway to explore feasibility for the use of the Assembly Rooms and its environs for the Fleadh with further detail to be brought back to Members;
 - **Leisure Programme** – noted the movement of Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility to *Stage 3 – Committed* on the Capital Programme and agreed to move the remaining centres to be taken forward under the next phase to *Stage 2- Uncommitted*;
 - **Corporate Staff Accommodation** - Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to the Committee in due course;
 - **Blackstaff Greenway** - Agreed that the project be added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow a business case to be developed;
 - **Historic Tiled Street Signs** – Agreed that the project be moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* on the Capital Programme and agreed that a process looking at the future repair and maintenance of signs be investigated.
- **Section 76 Planning Agreement Developer Contribution – Lagmore Youth Project** – agreed that the S76 Agreement developer contribution be utilised to appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team to progress the detailed design and delivery of the new facility.
 - **Belfast Stories** – agreed to proceed with the Enhanced Studio to include an open-call for potential operators, in line with the Council's Social Value Policy, and submit the addendum to the Outline Business Case to the Department for Economy for approval and to agree to the financing of the additional capital costs associated with the Enhanced Studio, subject to necessary legal agreements being in place and the approval of the addendum to the OBC by the Department for Economy.
 - **5-9 North Street** – noted the update in relation to the current status of the building and that discussions were ongoing and agreed that a report be submitted to a future committee in relation to medium term studio space options for the creative sector and the Council engage with the Department for Communities and the Arts Council to look at mechanisms to support the sector going forward.
 - **Community Centres** – Agreed that the Braniel Community Centre and outdoor space be added as a *Stage 1 – Emerging* project onto the Capital Programme and agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee on the status of all Community Centres across the city, to include information on current service provision and gaps, within two months.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motions - Quarterly Update report

The Committee considered an update on the progress of all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which it was responsible for.

After discussion, the Committee:

- Noted the updates to all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that the Committee was responsible for;
- Agreed to the closure of Notices of Motion 7 and 407; and
- Agreed that Motion 479 - *Levels of criminality and violence in the city centre* remained open, so that a further update could be provided.

Motion Update - Correspondence received from Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Greyhound Racing

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting held on 3rd November, 2025, it had been agreed that the Council write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to “*improve the regulation of greyhound racing, noting the developments in other jurisdictions, and to support rehoming efforts and welfare organisations working to protect retired greyhounds.*”

The Committee was advised that a response had been received from the Minister ([Appendix 1](#)).

The Committee noted the correspondence received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs as set out in the report and agreed to the closure of the motion.

Notice of Motion - City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study

The Committee was advised that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th January, referred the following motion to the Committee for consideration, which had been proposed by Councillor Smyth and seconded by Councillor Groogan:

“This Council notes that the Department for Infrastructure currently grits only 20% of the road network across Northern Ireland as part of its winter service programme.

This limited coverage excludes pavements and cycle lanes, critical routes for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly in Belfast City Centre where footfall is highest.

This Council recognises the health, safety, and accessibility issues caused by untreated pavements and active travel routes during winter months. Impacting workers, residents, those with mobility

issues, and visitors as well as discouraging walking and cycling at a time when sustainable transport remains a key council priority.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Department for Infrastructure and Belfast City Council to jointly undertake a feasibility study into the development of a winter gritting programme within the Belfast City Centre area, with a focus on pedestrian routes and cycle lanes. This feasibility study should:

□ Assess the operational and financial requirements of such a programme and explore potential sources of capital grant funding from the Department for Infrastructure for the purchase of appropriate gritting and maintenance machinery. As well as identifying how Belfast City Council could support delivery through associated staffing and coordination costs.”

During discussion, the Committee raised concerns in relation to funding options from the Department for Infrastructure, the need for also gritting of footpaths on arterial routes and highest points of elevation, and the legal implications of any potential winter gritting programme .

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

The Committee noted that the notice of motion had been received and agreed that a subsequent report would be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications, to include information on funding options from the Department for Infrastructure, the gritting of footpaths on arterial routes and highest points of elevation, together with the legal implications.

Notice of Motion - Funding for Faith-Based Organisations and Addiction Services

The Committee was advised that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th January, referred the following motion to the Committee for consideration, which had been proposed by Alderman McCullough and seconded by Councillor Bunting:

“Belfast City Council recognises the essential role played by faith-based organisations in serving the most vulnerable members of our city, particularly those battling life-controlling issues such as drug and alcohol addiction.

This Council acknowledges the work of Teen Challenge Belfast, a registered charity which provides critical intervention services to individuals struggling with addiction. These include on-street outreach, counselling, crisis intervention, and referrals to an 11-month residential rehabilitation programme – reportedly delivering an estimated 85 per cent success rate.

This Council further notes that, despite delivering life-saving services without discrimination, organisations such as Teen Challenge face structural barriers to funding due to their faith-based governance models – barriers which inhibit access to public funding streams otherwise available to comparable service providers.

Accordingly, this Council commits to reviewing its current funding arrangements and eligibility criteria, with a view to removing unnecessary obstacles that exclude faith-based organisations from applying for and receiving support – provided their services are offered to all, without discrimination, and meet the pressing social needs of our communities.

This Council further calls on officers to bring forward proposals to ensure that funding frameworks are inclusive of organisations with a faith ethos, in recognition of the diverse contributions required to tackle addiction, homelessness, and social vulnerability across Belfast.”

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

The Committee noted that the notice of motion had been received and agreed that a subsequent report would be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications, and to outline the reasons for exclusions of such funding.

**Notice of Motion - Fleadh Cheoil 2026 –
Legacy Monument for Belfast**

The Committee was advised that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th January, referred the following motion to the Committee for consideration, which had been proposed by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Paul Doherty, and seconded by Councillor Whyte:

“This Council notes that Belfast will host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026, one of the most significant cultural events ever held in the city, celebrating Irish traditional music and delivering major cultural and economic benefits.

The Council further notes the legacy approach taken by other host cities, including Wexford, which installed a permanent Fleadh Harp monument following the festival.

This Council believes Belfast should create a visible and enduring legacy to mark the success of hosting Fleadh 2026 and to celebrate the city’s historic and contemporary contribution to Irish traditional music.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to install a permanent Fleadh Legacy Monument, outside the Assembly Rooms, recognising its status as the home of Belfast's Harp Festival, in time for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026.

The Council further agrees that the monument should be delivered using Council resources and supported where possible through potential sponsorship and external funding, with engagement from artists and relevant cultural partners."

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

The Committee noted that the notice of motion had been received and agreed that a subsequent report would be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.

Motion Update - Correspondence received from Minister of Justice - Stand alone Hate Crime Bill

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st November, the Committee had agreed that, to deal with some of the obstructive, threatening and abusive behaviour in the city centre, it write to the Minister for Justice to outline the need for a standalone Hate Crime Bill and highlight the requirement for an additional class of offenses, noting that the change model in sentencing did not go far enough.

It was reported that a response had been received at [Appendix 1](#).

Noted.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Draft City Centre Byelaws

The City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services presented the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider draft bye laws for the city centre in relation to amenity issues and the display of graphic imagery.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- consider the contents of this report;
- authorise officers to formally consult the Department for Communities in relation to both draft bye laws;

- Note that a further update report will be presented to Committee after that formal engagement concludes before final approval of the bye laws is sought.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

Members will recall that on 21 November 2025 Committee agreed:

- to write to the Justice Minister to, among other things, outline the need for a standalone Hate Crime Bill.
- to write to the Chief Constable to seek clarity in the use of the PSNI powers under Articles 9, 18 and 19 of The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

Committee noted that a report would be submitted to a future committee in relation to the display of promotional material (including graphic imagery) in the city centre.

Members will also recall that on 19th December 2025 Committee agreed:

- to authorise officers to engage with the Department for Communities in relation to revised draft bye laws which related only to arrangements for special events, such as the Fleadh; and
- that a report be submitted to the Committee in February in relation to the options on the remainder of the revised draft bye laws, including the enforcement of existing bye laws.

This report will provide updates in respect of the above.

3.2 Correspondence from the Justice Minister and PSNI

Correspondence has been received from the Justice Minister, which states that proposed new legislative provisions in this Assembly mandate will modernise hate crime law in Northern Ireland and provide a more robust system to sanction offenders. These provisions will be delivered through a Sentencing Bill that the Minister plans to introduce to the Assembly in early 2026, and a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill - planned for introduction in spring 2026.

No correspondence has yet been received from the PSNI.

3.3 Bye laws for Special Events

Officers met with representatives from the Department for Communities informally in relation to bye laws for special events in the city, such as the Fleadh. Those discussions remain ongoing but at this time, whilst it would be preferable to have the powers in relation to special events, it is considered unlikely to be necessary to have these powers in place prior to the Fleadh. This will be kept under review should the Council be successful in its bid for the Fleadh in 2027.

3.4 Graphic Imagery

Members will be aware that the set of draft bye laws published for consultation between 27th November 2023 and 4th March 2024 contained provisions relating to promotional literature and information.

As noted in the report that went to Committee on 21st November 2025, feedback from the public consultation indicated that the display of certain images in the city centre has a mixed reception. Whilst the majority of respondents indicated quantitatively that their experience was positive, the written comments of those not in favour of the display of graphic imagery (particularly with regards to abortion) expressed strong views to the contrary.

Respondents commented that images displayed by pro-life / anti-abortion groups are 'medically sensitive', 'highly triggering', cause 'stress', are 'disturbing', 'hugely traumatising for anyone that has been through a 'pregnancy loss' and 'should not be seen by children'. It was suggested that the use of 'very graphic images / contentious campaigns should only be used after 9:30 pm / similar to TV watershed', which would 'help balance equality with freedom of speech'.

Those whose experience of graphic imagery was positive commented that it is 'important that Belfast is a space for inclusive views which allows everyone to express and share them freely and openly', that it 'offers a diverse range of information' and that 'it helps people understand'. Respondents commented on the importance of freedom of expression, noting that 'people should be free to promote or protest whatever images they want'. Respondents commented that if people don't like certain imagery, 'they don't have to look at it'. Although respondents acknowledged that some graphic imagery 'might be difficult to look at', it should not be 'censored' and that it is important for 'raising awareness'. It was also noted that such imagery is less 'intrusive' than loud noise.

3.5 European Convention on Human Rights

It was clear from the consultation responses that respondents attached great importance to the (qualified) human rights afforded by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Members will be aware that freedom of expression is a fundamental right protected under the Human Rights Act 1998 by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It is established that protection under Article 10 extends to the expression of views that may shock, disturb or offend the deeply held beliefs of others.

Article 10 is not an absolute but a qualified right; the rights of the individual must be balanced against the interests of society. The draft bye law in relation to graphic imagery seeks to strike the proper balance between those competing interests. When drafting the bye law, officers were conscious that any restrictions on freedom of expression must always be clearly set out in law, necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim, and proportionate.

In any situation where there is a proposed interference with freedom of expression, a balance must be struck between the right of the individual to express themselves and the broader public interest justifying the interference (for example, the protection of the rights of others). In particular, the restriction must be proportionate to the legitimate purpose that the state or public bodies are seeking to uphold.

The draft bye law therefore is deliberately narrow in scope, with clear and objective definitions. Members will note that the proposed bye law will not prevent those who are opposed to abortion from protesting, displaying posters, handing out promotional materials etc. Promotional materials which contain graphic imagery as defined in the bye laws are permitted but must be no more than A4 size and contained within an envelope bearing an appropriate warning.

The bye law is intended to address the display of graphic images intended to draw the public's attention whereby the sight of such material is unavoidable. It will not preclude the handing out of any leaflets, flyers or other small scale printed materials provided they are supplied in an opaque envelope with an appropriate advisory warning.

Furthermore, the bye law would only apply in the City Centre and not throughout the City.

3.6 Next Steps

Subject to Committee's agreement, officers will commence formal engagement with DfC in relation to both sets of Bye Laws and will also seek updated counsel opinion on the proposed bye law relating to graphic imagery.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.7** There are no financial or resource implications connected to this report. As outlined in the report tabled on 21st November 2025, there will be resource implications in enforcing the bye laws if approved by DfC. This remains under consideration and more detail will be provided before the final proposed bye laws presented to Committee for approval.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.8** An equality screening was carried out on the draft bye laws that were presented for public consultation. This draft screening will be updated in light of the consultation findings and brought back to Members for noting.

Further screening will be undertaken on the Bye Laws as they progress."

Proposal 1

Moved by Councillor Maghie,
Seconded by Councillor Black,

That the Committee agrees to amend the definition of "graphic imagery" as outlined in the Draft Graphic Imagery Bye Law be updated to include 'generated and AI' imagery.

On a vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

Proposal 2

Moved by Councillor Maghie,
Seconded by Councillor Black,

That the Committee, subject to the aforementioned proposal, agrees to accede to the recommendations in the report.

On a vote, fourteen Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

During discussion, in response to a Member's question in relation to the need for a review of all the draft City Centre bye laws included in the formal consultation, the City

Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services advised that, once enacted, the City Centre Byelaws would be reviewed after one year.

The Committee:

- Agreed to authorise officers to formally consult the Department for Communities in relation to both draft bye laws;
- Agreed that the definition of “graphic imagery” as outlined in the Draft Graphic Imagery Bye Law be updated to include ‘generated and AI’ imagery;
- Noted that, once enacted, the City Centre Byelaws would be reviewed after one year; and
- Noted that a further update report would be presented to Committee after that formal engagement concluded before final approval of the bye laws was sought, together with detail on the enforcement process and how issues could be reported.

Planning Information

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on major planning applications and applications which had been determined by the Planning Committee.

Online Pitch Bookings

The Committee considered a report in relation to the procurement of a standalone booking system for outdoor pitches, as the first step in reviewing potential wider online booking requirements that would also be needed in other areas of the council, including:

- Community Centres
- Recycling Centres
- City Hall events
- Hot desks
- Other Assets and resources

During discussion, the Committee raised issues in relation to accessibility, cancellations and reallocations, block booking requirements and protection for Teams, matches versus training displacement, the possibility of an open source approach and highlighted the importance of site staff being involved.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that officers investigate the issues raised by the Committee and a further report be submitted to the Committee in March in relation to the progression of an online booking system for outdoor pitches and wider Council areas.

#Not Just for Boys Initiative

It was reported that the #Not Just for Boys was an initiative led by Women’s Tec to support young women and girls to enter and sustain employment in sectors where they were underrepresented. It was highlighted that statistics showed that women and girls typically choose traditionally viewed career paths such as beauty or childcare.

The report stated that the #Not Just for Boys initiative was aimed at getting young females in schools to consider careers in the construction industry, in I.T. mechanics and manufacturing. The CEO of Women's Tec attended the Women's Steering Group on 3rd February and had requested that the Council considered becoming a #Not Just for Boys champion.

The Committee was advised that this initiative was fully aligned to the Council's Gender Action Plan, in particular, its aim to promote gender equality in employment within the Council and in the economy, across all sectors. The #Not Just for Boys Champions initiative was a strategic partnership between Women's Tec and employers to create training opportunities and pathways for females in non-traditional sectors.

It was reported that an annual fee of £500 was required, however, the emphasis was on collaboration and support. Signing up to this initiative would require the Council to work with Women's Tec to assist in a number of ways, for example:

- Hosting taster sessions in areas such as joinery or painting and decorating;
- Hosting site visits;
- Speaking at careers events;
- Facilitating work experience placements; and
- Donating unused equipment or materials.

Benefits for the Council would include:

- Use of #Not Just for Boys Champion digital logo on website and social media;
- Promotion of Council apprenticeships and other suitable job opportunities where females were currently underrepresented in the Council;
- Promotion of the Council's champion status on the Women's Tec website and social media pages.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the Council becoming a #Not Just for Boys champion.

Social Supermarket Fund 26/28

(Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Support and Neighbourhood Integration, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To advise members on the outcome of the assessment of applications received through the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 and seek members agreement in relation to the allocation of financial resources.**

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- I. Note the assessment outcome and agree a preferred allocation model based on the information contained in this report.
- II. Note that there is no current budget available to support applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 as this is funded almost 100% from the Department for Communities and confirmation of budget for 26/27 has yet to be received.
- III. Consider if they wish to release any funds to successful applicants in advance of receiving the DfC LoO so that activity can begin from 01 April 2026.
- IV. Grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of the agreed allocation model as budget becomes available through the Community Support Programme or other sources.
- V. Agree that if approval to release some funds is given, officers progress with the funding allocation process including; sending out letters of intent, agreeing programmes of work with applicants based on the recommended funding allocation, processing funding agreements and ensuring all monitoring requirements are implemented.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 In response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report, the Department for Communities (DfC) has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot programme since October 2017. Following positive evaluation of the Programme, funding has been made available through the CSP since 20/21 to all council areas.
- 3.2 The aim of a social supermarket is to offer a sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than simply provide food. This is achieved by providing, in addition to food support, a referral network for wraparound support.
- 3.3 The key principles that models should take account of are:
 - Providing support 'beyond food', such as, access to wraparound support services which transition people out of food poverty and respect the dignity of clients.

- Maximising existing structures, services, and partnerships to provide wraparound support.

- 3.4 Members will recall that at the June 25 meeting council agreed to roll over awards to organisations funded in 24/25 into 25/26 and asked officers to review the criteria used to assess applications. A new set of criteria was agreed at October council and full details of these are provided in Appendix ii.
- 3.5 This matter is normally considered by P&C committee but given the likelihood that no DfC funding will be received until after the beginning of the financial year, officers are presenting it to SP&R so that members can consider funding options and whether they wish to release funds in the absence of a DfC LoO.

Key Issues

- 3.6 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee granted approval on 19 September 2025 to operate an open call for grant applications to the Social Supermarket Fund for the years 2026/28. Members were advised at this point that because activity is 100% funded by DfC, there was a risk that funding to support successful applications might not be in place from April 26. At October committee, members agreed to allocate an additional £100,000 from council funds to projects in the 25/26 year.
- 3.7 The Social Supermarket Support Fund was opened on 17 October 2024 for applications and council launched a campaign to advertise and promote the fund. Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers and were also promoted across Belfast City Council website and social media. During November 2025, two information sessions were held to advise potential applicants on the process, a total of 23 attended. Officers also answered queries and provided one to one support to groups as requested.
- 3.8 The 2026/28 Social Supermarket Support Fund received 26 applications totalling £1,123,836 by the closing date of 12 noon on Monday 8 December 2026.
- 3.9 When an application is submitted, the following process is followed:
- Receipt and log of applications
 - Eligibility check of applications (allowing a 5 day response for omitted information)
 - Prepare and supply applications that have met eligibility criteria to Unit Officers to score against agreed set criteria

- **Score each eligible application against the set criteria as outlined in the guidance notes**
 - **Moderate applications between scoring officers to ensure fairness and consistency in scoring**
 - **An independent assessment panel to review a sample of applications. The role of the independent assessment panel is ‘to ensure that the scoring of applications has been undertaken in an appropriate fashion and to provide verification or validation of sampled applications and the overall process’ (Williamson Consulting, 2012).**
- 3.10 The independent assessment panels were satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and agreed to recommend the unit’s recommendations for awards as shown in Appendix i.**
- 3.11 Funding for Social Supermarkets is primarily drawn from the DfC Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer, which includes a 100% DfC funded funding stream for this work. Council has not yet received a Letter of Offer for 26/27 and Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP in 26/27.**
- 3.12 DfC officials have advised that the current position on the Social Supermarket budget for 2026/27 is that the draft budget is currently out for consultation until 3rd March 26. The Finance Minister has set out several areas where the Executive has previously committed to providing funding to Departments at the level required. For DfC, this includes earmarked allocations for Welfare Mitigations through which the Social Supermarket programme is funded. Allocations to the individual programs within this budget are yet to be finalised. Members should note that for the last number of years CSP Letters of Offer have not been received until July.**
- 3.13 In order to support activity from 01 April 26, members are asked to consider whether they wish to release any funds to successful applicants in advance of receiving the DfC LoO. Based on a likely DfC budget of approximately £780,000, it is recommended that funding is provided to applicants who scored 51.25 and above, which would require total annual funding of £814,000. This would require an approximate annual contribution of £34,000 from council. It is recommended that organisations scoring over 51.25 are funded since using the next score of 61.25 would provide an annual allocation of only £699,000, which is likely to be less than the DfC LoO and would leave some funds unallocated.**

- 3.14 Members should note that payments for all CSP large grants are paid on a 50/50 basis, therefore if members are minded to approve a payment to successful applicants, it is recommended that this is paid on a 50% basis to allow organisations to plan delivery for the first 6 months of the financial year.
- 3.15 In April 24, when council faced the same scenario, SP&R agreed to fund 21 projects 70% of their allocation in the absence of a Letter of Offer from DfC to fund this area of work, this funding was taken from underspends in the Hardship Programme. In April 25, council agreed to provide bridging support from council funds for 21 projects funded in 24/25 for the first 3 months of 25/26 delivery before the DfC LoO was received.
- 3.16 Members are also asked to grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of the agreed allocation model as budget becomes available from CSP or other sources.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.17 The budget received from DfC in 25/26 was £777,811 which has been used to support 19 projects. In November 2025, Council made an additional allocation of £100,000 to support social supermarkets, providing a total budget of £877,811
- 3.18 Members should note that there is currently no budget available to support this work in 26/27. Letters of Offer will be issued to groups on an annual basis. Officers will bring a paper to committee in February 27 to advise on funds available from DfC and whether any release of funds from council is required. Members agreed last September that although funding is primarily from DfC it would be beneficial for successful applicants to have increased security of funding by operating the Social Supermarket Fund on a two year basis rather than one.

Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.19 The 26/28 Social Supermarket Fund open call is being screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications.”

The Committee:

- I. Noted the assessment outcome and agreed to the allocation of 25 per-cent bridging funding for those groups which scored 50% and above, as outlined in

Appendix ii of the report, to be released in the first quarter, in advance of receiving the DfC LoO so that activity could begin from 1st April, 2026.

- II. Noted that there was no current budget available to support applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 as this was funded almost 100% from the Department for Communities and confirmation of budget for 26/27 had yet to be received;
- III. Agreed that a report to be submitted to the Committee within the next three months to confirm the Department for Communities budget, outline how the remaining 75 per cent of funding could be allocated, together with options on how the three groups which had eligible funding but scored below 50% could be assisted;
- IV. Grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to issue Letters of Offer on the basis of the agreed allocation model as budget becomes available through the Community Support Programme or other sources;
- V. Agreed that, inline with the approval to release some funds, officers progress with the funding allocation process including; sending out letters of intent, agreeing programmes of work with applicants based on the recommended funding allocation, processing funding agreements and ensuring all monitoring requirements are implemented; and
- VI. The Committee also noted that a report would be submitted to a future Committee on general grant funding processes, eligibility criteria and thresholds.

Transformation and Efficiency Workshops Update

The Committee agreed to the proposed date, 27th March 2026, and focus of the next Transformation and Efficiency workshop and noted that officers investigate making the Workshops hybrid, so that some Members could attend online.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Asset Management (2)

The Committee:

- i) Morton Community Centre – Licence Renewal with Streetwise Community Circus**
 - Approved the Council entering into a new licence agreement with Streetwise Community Circus for premises at Morton Community Centre.
- ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence Agreement with Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens**
 - Approved the grant of a licence agreement between the Council and Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens to cover their use of a portion of Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) up to and including 30th September 2026 then month to month thereafter up to a maximum of 6 further months with a one month notice period.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 1**);
- Approved the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 2**);
- Approved the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 3**); and
- Noted the Meet the Buyer Event being held in City Hall on Wednesday, 25th March 2026 (**Section 7.0**);
- Following the discussion under the item 2(b) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in relation to waste management services for the Fleadh, the Committee agreed that it approved the public advertisement of the tender for Waste Management Services to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, value TBA, as per Standing Order 37a, subject to engagement with the Trade Unions.

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Hire of marquees and equipment for Belfast City Council Events	Up to 3 years	£380,000	D Sales	BCC requires the hire of marquees to provide cover for traders, exhibitors, performers and for general public during our annual programme of events. Marquess will be used for music, dance, flower shows and for trading.	Y	N	N
IT Technical Research and Guidance	Up to 3 years	£72,300	P Gribben	Provides in-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support	N	N	N

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				execution of the Digital strategy.			
Supply, delivery and fitting of hydraulic hoses on vehicles and mobile plant	Up to 3 years	£100,000	D Sales	Essential parts and specialist fitting service to support the Council's Fleet Management Unit.	Y	N	N
Wavenet Mitel Software Assurance and Support	Up to 2 years	£220,000	S McNicholl	Support and software assurance for all Mitel servers and software including licencing which provide telephony services for all BCC sites including the Customer Hub.	N	N	N
Provision of coordination of services for delivery of Culture Night Belfast for 2026 & 27 with the cultural sector	Up to 21 months	£300,000	D Martin	Services to help support the delivery of Culture Night in 2026 and 2027 (subject to necessary approvals)	N	CGNR committee in February 2026.	N
Augment the City	Up to 1 year	£51,500	S McNicholl	Develop the Augment the City use case, utilising the existing Small Cell Indoor Public 5G connectivity in Belfast City Hall. This project will run for one year under the agreed trial terms and conditions and support model.	N	SP&R Committee January 2026	N
Procurement and installation of 26 SMART compactor litter bins	One off Purchase	£93,444	S Leonard	To replace standard black litter bins within the City Centre. This is part of our litter bin replacement programme and	N	N	N

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
				is an extension of the SMART bin pilot at City Hall and vicinity. Replacing the current ones which are rented.			
Supply and Delivery of Uniforms, Footwear and PPE	Up to 5 years	£1,500,000	S Grimes	This is a recurring contract for supply and delivery of specific uniforms, footwear and various PPE to BCC stores that are required throughout BCC for services to carry out their daily operations.	Y	N	N
Food Village operator to support the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann	Up to 2 years	Income based contract	K Forster	Operator required to co-ordinate and manage a number of local food and drink vendors to support delivery of the Fleadh 26 with option to cover Fleadh 27, if required.	N	SP&R Committee January 2026	N
The design and delivery of Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Challenge Owner Readiness programme for the Belfast City Region Contracts for	Up to 1 year	£50,000	M McCann	With funding from BRCD, Belfast City Council wishes to commission technical support for the design and delivery of this Cfl capacity programme. This will include workshops, training materials, and train the trainer support.	N	N	Y

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services	On published pipeline (Y/N)	Prior Committee approval (Y/N) If Y name Committee & Date	External Funding (Y/N)
Innovation programme.							

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Purchase of 6 x 7.5-ton column lifts	One off Purchase	£37,000	D Sales	Replacement lifts must be compatible with existing lifts and associated systems. The supplier the sole sales agents, authorised repair agents and the only company who carry out warranty work on behalf of Steril Koni UK on the Koni lift range installed in Ireland.	Search Workshop Supplies Ltd	3.
Delivery and off-loading of Forcing and Bedding Bulbs	Up to 5 years	£180,000	D Sales	A competitive tender process was undertaken for this requirement; however, no bids were received, leaving no provider to meet the Council's operational needs. Historically, this service has been delivered through quotation exercises, with Green Gardens consistently providing the required works to the necessary standard and best VFM.	Green Gardens	1.
Annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Up to 3 years	£144,000	T Wallace	Specialist advice on rating matters including challenge to BCC assessments in the Valuation List (on going challenges include BWH/UH, Markets); advice on rate implications of investment projects (2 Royal Avenue, student housing, build to	IRRV	3.

				rent);accuracy of BCC valuations in valuation list and advice for Business Rate Reform consultations The supplier is the only available provider of these services		
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Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration & Value	Modification required	SRO	Description	Supplier
Sustainable Food Partnership Support Q22-24	Up to 12 months & £29,000	Additional 3 months and £10,250	J Tully	There is a need for a further 3 months of Belfast Food Partnership support by the contractor so that there can be a sufficient handover of the work to a new Food Systems Coordinator who started in post in the Council in December 2025 and to finalise delivery of Sustainable Food Strategy. Due to recruitment challenges, there was a delay in them starting and therefore there is a need for further support from the contractor for the Sustainable Food Programme. Quotation now exceeds £30,000. Fully Funded.	Food Ethics Council

Request for Funding

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to allow further information on funding streams to be provided.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting

The Committee approved the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 9th February, including:

Presentation from City of Sanctuary

- The Shared City Partnership noted the presentation and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the presentation.

Community Recovery Fund Update

- The Shared City Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.

PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Peace Plus Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Peace Plus Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed:
 - **CCD1 Interfaith and Belief:** to amend the learning resources and engagement with participants to include Key Stage 3 / Year 10 pupils,
 - **CCD2 Community Connections:** the 3 Welcome Hub locations as Morton, Horn Drive and Cregagh Community Centres, and
 - And recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree the above recommendations and note the contents of the report.

Community Regeneration & Transformation Thematic Update

- The Shared City Partnership recommends that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report

Any Other Business

- The Deputy Chairperson and the Good Relations Manager welcomed Ms. Lynch to her first meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

Operational Issues

**Minutes of the Party Group
Leaders Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forums of 5th and 12th February, 2026.

**Requests for use of the City Hall
and the provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations as set out below and also approved an additional event request from the Belfast Chaplaincy Service for a recruitment event to take place in April, 2026 for 30 people:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
Belfast Bands Forum	9 March 2026	Commonwealth Day 2026 A Community Recovery funded programme to celebrate the music, dance, culture, and flavours of the Commonwealth and bringing people together. Numbers attending: 130	C	None
Belfast National Graves Association	24 March 2026	Easter Lily Launch 2026 - reception and speeches focusing on local history. Numbers attending: 80	C	None
Belfast Buildings Trust	24 April 2026	Grand Final of the NI Schools Debating Competition 2026 – annual event to encourage mature debate and civic engagement in young people Numbers attending – 140	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Confucius Institute	28 April 2026	South-Central Minzu University Performing Arts School Performance – cultural exchange event. The audience will be school children and teachers from schools learning Mandarin in Belfast. Numbers attending – 100	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Ulster Tatler Group	3 September 2026	Ulster Tatler Awards 2026 – Annual awards event with dinner and presentations Numbers attending – 400	B	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>

B
1506

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th February, 2026

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
Education Authority Intercultural Service	15 October 2026	Schools o Sanctuary Awards Ceremony – speeches and presentations with performances from local school children Numbers attending - 100	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Franco-British Lawyers Society	16 October 2026	Dinner to mark the Franco-British Lawyers Society Society's Inaugural Universities Moot – The attendees will primarily be law students and young lawyers from France and the UK. Numbers attending – 300	C	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Irish FA Foundation	22 October 2026	McDonalds Irish FA Awards 2026 – is a celebration of grassroots local volunteers in the community Numbers attending – 200	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Tour Guides Northern Ireland	3 November 2026	10th Anniversary Celebration – with reception, dinner, speeches and entertainment to mark milestone for organisation Numbers attending – 150	C	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	5 November 2026	Celebration of Involvement 2026 - is a celebration event to recognise the contribution of service users to improve services. Numbers attending – 80	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
Belfast Bands Forum	9 March 2026	Commonwealth Day 2026 A Community Recovery funded programme to celebrate the music, dance, culture, and flavours of the Commonwealth and bringing people together.	C	None

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th February, 2026

B
1507

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
		Numbers attending: 130		
Belfast National Graves Association	24 March 2026	Easter Lily Launch 2026 - reception and speeches focusing on local history. Numbers attending: 80	C	None
Belfast Buildings Trust	24 April 2026	Grand Final of the NI Schools Debating Competition 2026 – annual event to encourage mature debate and civic engagement in young people Numbers attending – 140	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Confucius Institute	28 April 2026	South-Central Minzu University Performing Arts School Performance – cultural exchange event. The audience will be school children and teachers from schools learning Mandarin in Belfast. Numbers attending – 100	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Ulster Tatler Group	3 September 2026	Ulster Tatler Awards 2026 – Annual awards event with dinner and presentations Numbers attending – 400	B	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Education Authority Intercultural Service	15 October 2026	Schools of Sanctuary Awards Ceremony – speeches and presentations with performances from local school children Numbers attending - 100	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Franco-British Lawyers Society	16 October 2026	Dinner to mark the Franco-British Lawyers Society's Inaugural Universities Moot – The attendees will primarily be law students and young lawyers from France and the	C	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>

**B
1508**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th February, 2026**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE
		UK. Numbers attending – 300		
Irish FA Foundation	22 October 2026	McDonalds Irish FA Awards 2026 – is a celebration of grassroots local volunteers in the community Numbers attending – 200	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Tour Guides Northern Ireland	3 November 2026	10th Anniversary Celebration – with reception, dinner, speeches and entertainment to mark milestone for organisation Numbers attending – 150	C	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	5 November 2026	Celebration of Involvement 2026 - is a celebration event to recognise the contribution of service users to improve services. Numbers attending – 80	D	<i>Event post April 2026 - Charge TBC</i>

Minutes of the Social Policy Working Group of 16th February, 2026

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Social Policy Working Group of 16th February, 2026.

Chairperson