

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



**Belfast
City Council**

7 September 2026

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 8th September, 2026 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Restricted

- (a) Financial Reporting - Quarter 1 2026/27 (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Waste Update - Shared Alleys and Entries' Action Plan (Pages 9 - 40)
- (c) Request for the Use of Botanic Gardens (Pages 41 - 44)
- (d) Request to place a Memorial Bench in Woodvale Park (Pages 45 - 54)

3. Matters referred back from the Council/Motions

- (a) Motion - Parks Outreach Team (Pages 55 - 56)
- (b) Motion - NIHE Tenancy Succession Policy - Response (Pages 57 - 60)

4. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Proposal for the Naming of the Continuation of an Existing Street (Pages 61 - 62)
- (b) Tea and Coffee Provision at Council Pitches (Pages 63 - 66)
- (c) Summer Scheme Grants (Pages 67 - 72)
- (d) Toys Safety - Consultation Response (Pages 73 - 82)
- (e) Park Run Update (Pages 83 - 86)
- (f) Request for the Use of Parks (Pages 87 - 90)

5. **Issue Raised in Advance**

- (a) Recognition of GAA Green Clubs Scheme and Other Codes to Support Biodiversity, Local Climate Action and Placemaking

Councillor de Faoite to raise.
- (b) Public Toilets at Victoria Park (Councillor Flynn to raise)

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

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Parks Outreach Team
Date:	8th September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.
Contact Officer:	As above.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting in August.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McKewon and seconded by Councillor de Faoite was referred to the Committee for consideration:
3.2	<u>Parks Outreach Team</u> • This Council recognises the value of our parks and open spaces and the role they play in our communities; • acknowledges the significant and positive work of the Parks Outreach Team in engaging with people and communities across the city; • agrees that to support and enhance this work further, promote environmental and horticultural educational opportunities, facilitate community-focused activities and social engagement, and support biodiversity initiatives; • it will develop a new strategic approach for the identification and establishment of outreach hubs within the parks estate, and associated programming;

	• will use this new approach to consider how our parks and green spaces can be better used by residents and community and voluntary groups; any adaptations required to identified locations to enable this; and a long-term programme of activity to complement the existing work of the Parks Outreach Team.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 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.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report at this stage.



Subject:	NIHE – Tenancy Succession Policy Response
Date:	8th September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.
Contact Officer:	As above.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on the response received in relation to the motion entitled, Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Tenancy Succession Policy, which was endorsed by the Committee at its meeting on 23rd June.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response.
3.0	Main report
3.1	At the meeting held on 23rd June, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor Black, was adopted:
3.2	“This Council, notes the ongoing housing crisis across the North and the increasing demand for permanent social housing; • That many families live for long periods in Housing Executive properties and develop vital community roots; • That the current Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) succession policy prevents family members who have lived long-term in a property from succeeding a tenancy following the death of the tenant, where succession has already previously occurred (for example, between husband and wife) and

	• That this policy can lead to unnecessary displacement, eviction, hardship, and further breakdown of family units. This Council believes: • That housing policy should prioritise stability for families and communities; • That family members or partners who have contributed to and depended on the household should not face eviction due to restrictive succession rules; and • That social housing should be managed in a way that balances fairness, community stability, and objective housing need. Accordingly, this Council resolves: • To write to the Minister of the Department for Communities calling on him to undertake a legislative review of the NIHE tenancy succession policy; • To request the introduction of safeguards to prevent unnecessary eviction or relocation following the death of a tenant, particularly where long-term residence and established community ties exist; • To support the development of a fair and community-aligned succession policy that protects households while ensuring that social housing is allocated on the basis of objective need; and • To seek engagement with residents' groups, community organisations, and elected representatives in the development of any revised succession policy.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 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.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report at this stage of the process.
3.5	Appendix 1 - attached response.

**From: Tracey Millar
NIHE Sponsor Team**

**Level 4
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Barry Flynn

flynnbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk

Email:
DfCNIHESponsorTeam@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: TOF-0848-2026

Date: 11 August 2026

Dear Mr Flynn,

Thank you for your email to Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities, on 4 August 2026, in which you have advised of Belfast City Council's People and Communities Committee endorsement of a notice of motion relating to social housing tenancy successions. Your letter has been passed to me to respond to.

The Department supports the Housing Executive and Registered Housing Associations by providing the statutory and policy framework that underpins housing management decisions, including those relating to the succession of tenancies.

The decision to permit a tenancy succession rests with the landlord, whether that is the Housing Executive or a Housing Association. It is important to note that housing managers within these organisations assess each case individually. They consider property-specific and location factors and must balance the needs of the next applicant on the waiting list with the eligibility of the person seeking succession.

You will appreciate that this requires careful judgement and, at times, difficult decisions to ensure that the principle of objective housing need is upheld.

The general approach is that allocations should be based on an objective assessment of need. In most circumstances, it would not be appropriate to depart from this, particularly considering ongoing pressures on housing supply and the increased reliance on temporary accommodation. There are already additional flexibilities within the housing selection scheme.

The Selection Scheme rules play a crucial role in maintaining fairness and public confidence in the allocation process.

There are currently no plans to review the succession policy. The focus of the Department and Minister is on addressing growing levels of housing need through proper use of existing social housing stock and securing new supply through the Social Housing Development Programme.

Yours Sincerely

Tracey Millar

NIHE Sponsor Team



Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

PROPOSAL FOR NAMING THE CONTINUATION OF AN
EXISTING

Subject:	Proposal for naming the continuation of an existing street
Date:	8 th September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues						
1.1	To consider an application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city.						
2.0	Recommendation						
2.1	Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of an application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city. The Committee may either: - Grant the application, or - Refuse the application and request that the applicant submits other names for consideration.						
3.0	Main Report						
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.						
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following application for naming the continuation of an existing street in the city. The application particulars are in order.						
3.3	<table><tr><th>Proposed Continuation of Existing Street</th><th>Location</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Lady Ishbel Avenue</td><td>Off Hospital Road, BT8</td><td>Alskea Ltd</td></tr></table> Alskea Ltd have proposed Lady Ishbel Avenue for the continuation of an existing street that is being extended to accommodate the development of 33 new dwellings.	Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant	Lady Ishbel Avenue	Off Hospital Road, BT8	Alskea Ltd
Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant					
Lady Ishbel Avenue	Off Hospital Road, BT8	Alskea Ltd					
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.						
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct Equality implications.						
4.0	Appendices						
	None						



Subject:	Match Day Provision of Tea and Coffee at Pitch sites
Date:	8 th September 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Stewart, City & Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To update members on the growing requests from sports clubs and site users for tea and coffee provision for those attending matches at council pitch sites. To make members aware of current informal and unregulated provision and to seek guidance on preferred course of action to regularise such provision.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That members consider supporting in principle the provision of tea and coffee at matches through the means suggested and subject to the conditions as outlined below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Through regular engagement with sports clubs officers are being advised that there is a growing opinion among match goers that provision of basic hot drinks is a reasonable expectation. Anecdotal reports suggest this type of basic service is being offered already by some clubs at a number of our sites. Whilst officers plan to explore the extent of unauthorised provision of refreshments at council sites during the new season, we would like to gauge members opinion on this issue.
3.2	If members were to agree that this type of service is a reasonable expectation, officers could look to a commercial supplier. However, whilst many of our larger parks include a publicly advertised franchise opportunity for provision of refreshments, pitch sites are less commercially attractive. Officers suggest that in the next procurement round a specific match day offer could be included for the relevant site. The next procurement is scheduled for the 27-28 financial year.
3.3	In the interim, if members are supportive, officers would anticipate identifying and regularising any existing operations and extending permission to interested clubs at sites across the council estate subject to the following conditions: • That no additional capital funding will be made available for the purchase of containers or modular buildings from which to deliver such a service. • That no new containers would be permitted solely for this purpose. • That Council will not financially support physical alterations being made to Council premises to facilitate this, for example installation of hatches or provision of power and water supplies. • That clubs are fully compliant with all relevant legislation regarding Health and Safety, Public Liability and Food Safety. • The service would be available only during match times and not open to the general public on a day to day basis.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>

	• The provision of this type of service on match days could generate a small income for any club choosing to provide the service themselves. It would be the intention that income would be retained by the club but that usage figures and income would be reported so that officers can monitor demand. • Any club choosing to provide the service must do so at nil cost to Council. • If members wished to include the commercial opportunity for match day provision in the next procurement round, this would be open to a competitive process with an income returning to Council. • Advice and guidance regarding Health and Safety and Food Safety will be required from relevant services within the Council <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known equality or good relations/rural needs assessment associated with this report at this time.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

SUMMER SCHEME GRANTS 2027/28

Subject:	Summer Scheme Grants 2027/28
Date:	8 September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

Yes

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No

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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues				
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek members approval to deliver funding for summer schemes in 27/28 through two small grants; • Summer Scheme grant • Summer Scheme grant for Children with Additional Needs Members are asked to approve the main elements of both programmes and note the current available detail on what has been supported through the grant programmes. Members are also asked to advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.				
2.0	Recommendation				
2.1	Members are asked to • Note the content of the report. • Agree for officers to progress the two Summer Scheme Grants as outlined in the report. • Advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.				
3.0	Main Report				
3.1	Background information Members will be aware that Council has supported the provision of summer schemes for many years via our Summer Scheme Grant. In 2023 the provision was expanded to include a new Summer Scheme grant dedicated to supporting children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs.				
3.2	Both these grants are advertised as part of the Council's small grants programme which includes grants from a range of different services. These grants are advertised on an annual basis in October each year and are administered by the Central Grants Unit.				
3.3	<u>Summer Scheme Small Grant</u> For a number of years the annual budget for the Summer Scheme Grant has been £170,000. In 26/27, an in year uplift to this budget was provided and grants to the value of £214,418 89 were provided to 89 organisations. A summary of the proposed approach is outlined in the table below. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Programme aim</td><td>To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eligibility and assessment criteria</td><td>Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.</td></tr> </table>	Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.	Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.
Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by community and voluntary organisations who operate in Belfast.				
Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-14 years of age during July and August in the Belfast City Council area.				

3.4		Applications will be assessed for demonstration of need, experience in delivery, quality, impact and value for money. Awards will be made based on the outcome of the assessment process. If there is not enough available budget to support all projects a threshold for awarding projects will be set and a banded system which awards the highest scoring projects with the highest value of funding will be used.
	Timeline	Grants will open for applications in October 26 and successful applicants will be notified before April 27.
	Maximum award	Up to £2,500 for each individual project. Organisations can only make one application. The total available budget is £170,000. Payments are made on an 80/20 basis in line with the Council's small grants approach. Awards will be approved through delegated authority by the Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services in line with the Council's small grants approach. A summary of funded projects will be brought to committee for noting in April 27.
	<u>Summer Scheme Small Grant for children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs.</u> In 26/27 19 organisations received support to a total value of £135,431. A summary of the proposed approach is outlined in the table below.	
	Programme aim	To support the delivery of summer scheme activity in the Belfast City Council area by local community, voluntary organisations and Special Educational Need schools who operate in Belfast.
	Eligibility and assessment criteria	Eligible projects must deliver activity for children and young people between 5-17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer scheme programmes or services during July and August due to support needs. Activity must be delivered for participants in the Belfast City Council area. Applications will be assessed for demonstration of need, experience in delivery, quality, impact and value for money. Awards will be made based on the outcome of the assessment process. If there is not enough available budget to support all projects a threshold for awarding projects will be set and a banded system which awards the highest scoring projects with the highest value of funding will be used.
	Timeline	Grants will open for applications in October 26 and successful applicants will be notified before April 27.

	Maximum award Up to £10,000 for each individual project. Organisations can only make one application. The total available budget is £120,000. Payments are made on an 80/20 basis in line with the Council's small grants approach. Awards will be approved through delegated authority by the Operational Director of Neighbourhood Services in line with the Council's small grants approach. A summary of funded projects will be brought to committee for noting in April 27.
3.5	Applicants can apply for both funds but must demonstrate that they are delivering different programmes through each application.
3.6	<u>Review of Summer provision</u> At previous meetings members requested that an evaluation report on the summer scheme grants be provided. A full analysis of the provision, service delivery and costs will be provided to members following evaluation of both the Summer Scheme and Summer Scheme Additional Needs Grants. The review will also include information about the activity and costs associated with the Council's Community and Play Service summer provision. Funded organisations have until mid October to complete and return evaluation information so officers cannot provide full detail at the time of writing. However, Appendix 1 contains an overview of key information on 24/25 and 25/26 delivery. Elected members agreed at August committee to hold a Community Services workshop on 26th October and a detailed update on Summer provision will be provided at that workshop.
3.7	Members are asked to advise if there is any additional information relating to these grants that they would like officers to gather and report on.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
4.1	The available budgets for these programmes for 27/28 are; Summer Scheme small grants - £170,000 Summer Scheme Small Grant for children and young people with disabilities and or/additional needs - £120,000
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	The activity outlined in this report will have a positive impact on equality, good relations and rural needs.
6.0	<u>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</u>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Overview of 26/27 and 25/26 Summer Scheme delivery

Appendix 1 - Overview of Summer Scheme delivery

Summer Scheme

Year	No of awards	Total Value of Awards	Average Award
24/25	98	£199,508	£2,035.80
25/26	96	£169,025	£1,760.68
26/27	89	£214,418	£2,409.19

Summer Scheme Detail of Delivery (Figures for 26/27 are projected and can be confirmed when evaluations are returned)

	25/26	26/27 (projected)
No of Weeks	412	358
No of sessions	2691	2371

	5-7 Years	8-11 Years	12-14 Years	Total
25/26				
Numbers	2122	2883	1787	6792
Percentage	31%	42%	26%	
26/27				
Numbers	1841	2354	1555	5750
Percentage	32%	41%	27%	

Summer Scheme for Children and Young People with Additional Needs

Year	No of awards	Total Value of Awards	Average Award
24/25	9	£73,655	£8,183.89
25/26	14	£116,250	£8,303.57
26/27	19	£135,431	£7,127.95

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Subject:	Consultation response: Toys Safety Regulations – Call for evidence
Date:	8 September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services
Contact Officer:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager James Cunningham, Assistant City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To ask Committee to approve the draft Council response to The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) call for evidence on potential changes to toy safety legislation which closes on 6th October 2026. The draft Council response highlights: 1. Potential benefits and costs to businesses and consumers if similar changes to the recently introduced EU regulation (due to apply in Northern Ireland from 1st August 2030) are implemented UK wide. 2. Potential benefits and costs of continuing recognition of EU toys requirements, including CE marking, and consistency in enforcement.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the attached draft response at Appendix 1, subject to any amendments arising from your discussion. However, as this is not a delegated matter, the committee's decision and any proposed amendments to the consultation response will be placed before the Council on 1 October for ratification. The consultation closes on the 6 October 2026.
3.0	Main Report
	Background to EU and UK Toy Safety Legislation
3.1	The Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 implemented the requirements of the EU Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC in the UK. The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 preserved these Regulations in the UK and enabled them to be amended to continue to function effectively after the UK left the EU.
3.2	The EU has recently reviewed its toy safety legislation and introduced Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys which replaces the EU Toys Directive and includes new specific safety requirements to ensure children and consumers are protected from modern day risks. The EU Toys Regulation entered into force across the EU on 1 January 2026, with a transition period up to 1 August 2030 (meaning the new rules will not apply until that date).
3.3	The key objective of the new EU Toy Safety Regulation is to achieve a higher level of child protection and reduce the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the EU market. Whilst some requirements remain the same, the EU Toys Regulation introduces some key changes which include, but are not limited to, the following: • Updated approach on chemicals: The existing ban on carcinogenic and mutagenic substances and substances toxic for reproduction is extended to chemicals that are particularly harmful to children, such as endocrine disruptors, substances that harm the respiratory system, and chemicals that are toxic for the skin and other organs. Allergenic fragrances will be prohibited in toys for children under 36 months and in toys designed to be placed in the mouth. • Digital Product Passport (DPP): Toys will have to display a DPP which is similar to the current 'Declaration of Conformity' but requires additional information such as the CE marking, the customs commodity code and how consumers can contact the manufacturer in case of a complaint. The manufacturer should upload the information to the EU digital registry (which at the time of writing is undergoing development). The information should be publicly available through a data carrier (QR code or similar) and must be affixed to the toy or its label. • Internet-connected toys and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Manufacturers placing toys on the EU market may need to meet other EU regulations in addition to the Toy Safety

	Regulation, such as the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) or Cyber Resilience Act where relevant. Under the EU AI Act, certain AI systems are prohibited (e.g. in an AI-enabled toy that encourages children to engage in risky behaviours). In other cases, an AI-enabled toy will need to meet certain 'high-risk' rules where the AI performs a safety feature, and the toy is required to undergo third party conformity assessment. The EU Cyber Resilience Act also introduces certain technical, reporting and conformity requirements for internet connected toys. The Toy Safety Regulation itself has very limited AI or cyber requirements, namely that manufacturers of toys in scope of either act must account for particular vulnerabilities of children in their safety assessment. • Online marketplaces obligations: Online marketplaces will be required to display a link to the Digital Product Passport (for example, through a QR code). Online marketplaces will also have to show safety warnings and the CE marking that indicates that a product meets the EU's safety, health and environmental protection rules. Proposed UK Toy Safety Regulations and draft response to the Call for Evidence
3.4	OPSS are reviewing the UK Toys Regulations to ensure they support economic growth and innovation whilst ensuring toys are safe for children. The UK Government have also stated they are committed to reducing possible trade friction and simplifying cross-border transactions for suppliers, where it is in the interest of UK businesses and consumers.
3.5	Under current UK legislation, businesses who comply with specific requirements of the previous EU Toys Directive and apply the CE marking can continue to place these products on the market in Great Britain. The policy of CE recognition across 21 regulations, including toys, is estimated to save businesses around £640.5 million over 10 years, largely by avoiding duplicative conformity assessment costs of CE and UKCA.
3.6	Under the Windsor Framework, certain EU product regulations apply in Northern Ireland, including the EU Toys Regulation (which will apply in full after January 2030), to facilitate NI's dual access to the UK internal market and EU Single Market. The continued recognition of CE marking for toys in GB would complement the Windsor Framework arrangements by helping to smooth the flow of trade within the UK internal market. It would simplify processes for NI supply chains, supporting reduced compliance costs for business.
3.7	A response to the OPSS Call for Evidence has been drafted by Environmental Health Officers working in the area of consumer product safety, and the response highlights the Northern Ireland perspective and potential benefits of aligning regulatory requirements for Toy Safety.
3.8	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	<u>Appendices</u>
4.1	Appendix 1: Draft Belfast City Council consultation response to the call for evidence on the Toys Safety Regulations

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Appendix 1 – Draft Response to OPSS Call for Evidence: Toys Safety Regulations

Question 1: What factors should be considered if the UK were to continue its recognition of new EU product requirements for toys, including the CE marking?

a. What practicalities or wider issues might continued recognition of EU product requirements for toys involve?

Belfast City Council believes that continued recognition of EU product requirements would support greater consistency in toy safety requirements across Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB) and help reduce some of the complexity associated with enforcing differing product safety regimes across the UK. This approach would minimise unnecessary regulatory divergence, making it easier to identify compliant products and determine applicable safety obligations.

It is our understanding that the EU Toy Safety Regulation is intended to strengthen toy safety standards through enhanced controls on harmful substances and the introduction of a Digital Product Passport (DPP). From our perspective, these measures have the potential to improve consumer protection and support enforcement activity, particularly in relation to imported products and toys sold through online marketplaces. However, consideration needs to be given to the following:

- Providing clarity for enforcement authorities and economic operators regarding applicable requirements. Clear guidance and enforcement regulations must be provided by the Office of Product Safety & Standards (OPSS) to support effective enforcement and supporting consistency across different parts of the UK.
- Practical, detailed guidance outlining the new requirements should be developed for economic operators in all stages of the supply chain to assist with understanding and compliance.
- To avoid future divergence, OPSS must consider and communicate any future amendments to EU toy safety legislation in a timely manner that supports effective enforcement.
- The owners of online marketplaces must be more accountable to ensure that only compliant and safe toys are made available to consumers.
- Any new chemical safety requirements should complement existing REACH and CLP-related legislation, and the enforcement mechanism for these should be clear.
- The Council supports measures that contribute to the protection of public health and the environment from harmful chemicals, while encouraging the development of safer products.

b. What practicalities (including additional costs or cost savings, or administrative activities) might this involve for economic operators and traders?

As regulators within a market surveillance authority, the Council is not in a position to comment in detail on the costs, savings or administrative burdens that may arise for businesses. However, we would expect consistency in regulatory requirements to enable businesses to reduce duplication in costs if accessing both UK and EU markets.

c. Overall, would you be in favour of continued recognition of the EU's toys requirements?

Yes, continued recognition of EU toy safety requirements would help support regulatory consistency across the UK and minimise divergence between the arrangements applying in Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

d. What would you see as the benefits of this approach?

Belfast City Council believes the potential benefits include:

- Consistent enforcement of toy safety requirements across the UK market through reduced regulatory divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This will assist enforcement authorities when assessing compliance.
- Improved opportunities for national coordinated market surveillance activity.
- Less confusion for consumers and economic operators regarding applicable conformity markings and safety requirements.
- Enhanced protection from harmful chemicals through closer alignment with REACH and CLP requirements.
- Improved product traceability and access to compliance information through the Digital Product Passport.
- A potential reduction in the availability of unsafe and non-compliant toys, particularly those sold through online marketplaces.

e. What would be the result if we were not to continue recognising EU product requirements in the new EU Toy Safety Regulation 2025/2509 for goods placed on the market in GB?

Failure to continue recognition of the regulation will lead to increased divergence between the regulatory arrangements applicable in Northern Ireland and those in Great Britain.

In our view, if the Regulation were not recognised in Great Britain, some of the potential benefits relating to enhanced chemical safety requirements, Digital Product

Passports, strengthened online marketplace obligations and improved market surveillance arrangements may not be realised.

Should the UK choose not to recognise the proposed Regulation, businesses may find themselves operating within arrangements that are not fully aligned with either the EU or GB market, creating additional complexity for businesses, consumers and enforcement authorities.

Question 2: What factors should be considered if the UK Government were to implement the same approach to the EU Toy Safety Regulation 2025/2509 across the whole of the UK?

a. What practicalities or wider issues might these new toy safety measures involve if adopted across the UK?

Practical considerations for enforcement bodies include:

- The need for an easily accessible, well-resourced testing laboratory, which is accredited to carry out all the required testing (including allergen and chemical analysis).
- The difficulties for councils when accessing and sharing information due to concerns regarding potential breaches of GDPR. This will only be exacerbated with new online and AI requirements. However, there is an essential need for collaborative working with all the relevant statutory bodies across the UK, with easy access required to systems that enable information sharing between district councils, local authorities and other statutory authorities, or a legislative provision included to permit the sharing of information within and between all relevant statutory authorities.
- The provision of swift and relevant intelligence in an effort to be aware of and respond to technology and online systems, which tend to develop more rapidly than regulation can be updated.
- Being aware of managing expectations around competency and capacity, especially with advances in technology, allergen awareness, AI etc, given market surveillance activities are already limited by resource.
- A requirement for OPSS to remain aware of Northern Ireland's distinct regulatory and enforcement landscape, and the challenges faced in liaising with a competent authority that does not have a dedicated local resource or physical presence to address needs as they arise.

Belfast City Council believes, wider issues include:

- Ensuring consistent application of legislative requirements across all UK jurisdictions.

- Providing clear and appropriate guidance and transition arrangements for enforcement authorities and economic operators.
- Ensuring enforcement authorities have access to the information, training and resources necessary to carry out their functions effectively.
- Facilitating information-sharing arrangements that support product safety investigations and corrective actions.
- Implementing the Digital Product Passport framework in a manner that enables all relevant stakeholders to access and utilise compliance information effectively.
- Supporting compliance with enhanced chemical safety requirements that align with existing REACH and CLP frameworks.
- Ensuring online marketplaces understand and comply with any additional safety responsibilities and are accountable for the products they supply.

It is our understanding that the proposed legislation takes the form of a Regulation, allowing for direct and consistent application across EU Member States, including Northern Ireland. In our view, adoption of a comparable approach across the UK would promote greater consistency of requirements and enforcement practices.

b. What practicalities might this involve for economic operators and traders?

Considering our regulatory function within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on operational or financial impacts for businesses.

In our view, the main practical implication for economic operators will be understanding and complying with the revised requirements under the new framework, particularly the enhanced chemical safety provisions and Digital Product Passport obligations.

c. What additional costs or cost savings, or additional administrative activities, would be incurred from these changes?

Considering our regulatory function within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on operational or financial impacts for businesses.

d. Overall, would you be in favour of legislation to introduce similar measures?

Yes. In principle, the Council would support measures that maintain a high level of toy safety while promoting regulatory consistency across the UK and reducing unnecessary divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

e. What would you see as the benefits of introducing the same approach?

Belfast City Council believes the potential benefits include:

- A more consistent regulatory framework across the UK.
- Greater clarity for enforcement authorities.
- Simplified enforcement and compliance assessment.
- Reduced risk of regulatory divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain
- Consistent consumer protection standards.
- Improved cooperation and information-sharing between enforcement bodies.
- Better protection of children from harmful chemicals.
- Increased product traceability through Digital Product Passports.
- Improved controls relating to imported products and toys sold through online marketplaces.
- Enhanced consumer confidence in toy safety.

f. Would there be an impact on your business operations or any unintended consequences if a similar approach was not introduced across the UK?

From an enforcement perspective, we consider that differing regulatory requirements between Northern Ireland and Great Britain would increase complexity when determining the applicable legal requirements and assessing compliance. As a district council we need to consider the impact this will have on limited and competing resources.

In our opinion, failure to introduce a similar approach will also increase divergence from the regulatory framework applicable in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework, making enforcement activities, business compliance and consumer understanding more challenging.

g. How might introducing the same approach in the UK impact on your organisation's innovation and growth prospects?

Considering our regulatory function within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on innovative and growth prospects.

Question 3: Are there any opportunities to make administrative savings for business?

Administrative costs to business in the UK primarily refers to the expenses incurred in demonstrating compliance with government regulations. This includes business time and money spent on paperwork and reporting.

a. What opportunities are there to achieve lower administrative burdens or administrative savings?

Considering our regulatory function within a market surveillance authority, we are not in a position to quantify or assess administrative costs or savings incurred by businesses.

b. Are there any other ways that regulation of toys in the UK could be improved to reduce the burden of regulation on businesses?

While this council is not best placed to comment directly on regulatory burdens experienced by businesses, from an enforcement perspective we consider that the introduction of a requirement for all economic operators to register with their local authority / district council for Product Safety, similar to current legal requirements for food businesses, would assist with more effective businesses support and engagement.

It would also improve communication of new legislative requirements, and support more effective coordination and communication between regulatory authorities based on the Home Authority arrangements when offering advice and guidance to the relevant businesses.

Overall, in the opinion of this authority, maintaining a high level of toy safety while supporting regulatory consistency across the UK should be a key consideration in the development of future toy safety legislation. From our enforcement perspective, minimising unnecessary divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland would assist effective market surveillance, provide greater clarity for businesses and consumers, and support local authorities in fulfilling their statutory enforcement responsibilities.



Subject:	Park Run Update
Date:	8 September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Leisure Development Manager Lynne McCreery, Parks Outreach Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																																																																
1.1	This paper provides members with an update on the activities around Park Run in Belfast																																																																
2.0	Recommendation																																																																
2.1	Members are asked to: - Note the achievements of ParkRun in the city and the supported activity to date - Approve officers to engage with the various Park Run groups across the city to establish if any additional support is required and report back to members in due course.																																																																
3.0	Main Report																																																																
3.1	Background Information At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 23rd June 2026, Officers had undertaken to bring a report back to Members in relation to Council’s potential support for park runs.																																																																
3.2	Members will be aware that Parkrun is a global initiative that promotes physical activity through free, volunteer-led 5km events held every Saturday and junior 2km events held every Sunday.																																																																
3.3	Currently, Belfast hosts 10 senior and 6 Junior Parkruns each week. Since the first Belfast parkrun was established at Waterworks Park in 2010 in partnership with North Belfast Harriers, more than 140,000 participants have completed a parkrun event in the city.																																																																
3.4	Table 1 below demonstrates the level of participation and volunteer support across Belfast parks since the first parkrun was held in 2010 with the Junior Parkruns highlighted. (Source Parkrun UK)																																																																
	Table 1. <table><tr><th>Park</th><th>Events Total</th><th>Volunteers</th><th>Finishers</th></tr><tr><td>Waterworks</td><td>764</td><td>1219</td><td>16385</td></tr><tr><td>Waterworks Junior</td><td>443</td><td>595</td><td>2180</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria</td><td>716</td><td>858</td><td>24327</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria Junior</td><td>401</td><td>426</td><td>2813</td></tr><tr><td>Queens</td><td>664</td><td>1244</td><td>15926</td></tr><tr><td>Falls</td><td>615</td><td>554</td><td>6064</td></tr><tr><td>Ormeau</td><td>599</td><td>1424</td><td>30981</td></tr><tr><td>Ormeau Junior</td><td>341</td><td>481</td><td>3370</td></tr><tr><td>Stormont</td><td>497</td><td>918</td><td>18034</td></tr><tr><td>Colin Glen</td><td>454</td><td>686</td><td>4830</td></tr><tr><td>Orangefield</td><td>348</td><td>695</td><td>7139</td></tr><tr><td>Paisley</td><td>89</td><td>189</td><td>2362</td></tr><tr><td>Belvoir</td><td>45</td><td>286</td><td>2597</td></tr><tr><td>Musgrave Junior</td><td>327</td><td>423</td><td>1684</td></tr><tr><td>YMCA Junior</td><td>90</td><td>89</td><td>318</td></tr></table>	Park	Events Total	Volunteers	Finishers	Waterworks	764	1219	16385	Waterworks Junior	443	595	2180	Victoria	716	858	24327	Victoria Junior	401	426	2813	Queens	664	1244	15926	Falls	615	554	6064	Ormeau	599	1424	30981	Ormeau Junior	341	481	3370	Stormont	497	918	18034	Colin Glen	454	686	4830	Orangefield	348	695	7139	Paisley	89	189	2362	Belvoir	45	286	2597	Musgrave Junior	327	423	1684	YMCA Junior	90	89	318
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	Woodvale Junior	53	121	232
3.5	This high level of participation is further reflected in a recent study by Strava (Feb 2026) that showed Belfast leads the UK cities that run the most, with the portion of runners 7% higher in Belfast (24%) than the national average of 17%. Financial Support			
3.6	Leisure Development Unit While the full value of Council support since 2010 cannot be quantified given it involves ongoing officer time and infrastructure investment, the Leisure Development Unit has directly provided £23,550 between 2015 and 2024 to support the establishment of parkrun events across the city. This has included covering the supply of a laptop, timer, barcode scanner and event management training.			
3.7	Parks Investment The Council has invested significantly in park infrastructure and improvement works that support parkrun activity, including pathway developments and park signage. Parks Outreach and Parks Operations officers also directly supported the establishment of these events across the city. As local volunteer teams became established, Council involvement transitioned from direct support to an advisory and facilitative role.			
3.8	Parkrun Development – Active Belfast In addition to council investment, Active Belfast has supported participation in running through the delivery of the Jog Belfast programme. This funded programme worked as an introduction to running, linking beginners with their local athletic and running clubs, creating a pathway to participation which culminates in graduating to a full Parkrun.			
3.9	In 2025/26 19 Jog Belfast programmes ran across the city with 413 of 656 registered graduating from the programme. 87% of participants were female, the majority aged between 35-64 years. 97% completed a 5km run after the programme and committed to continuing to run. This funding is ongoing as part of Active Belfast planning and programming.			
3.10	Volunteer Development The programme contributes to increased physical activity, volunteering opportunities, and community participation within Belfast parks			
3.11	The Leisure Development Unit have engaged many of the Parkrun volunteers to help at their annual Primary School Cross Country and relay events across the city. The volunteers provide support and contacts for opportunities to participate further in athletics and running.			
3.12	Future Support Volunteer teams maintain regular contact with parks outreach, park managers and wardens regarding the delivery of events. Groups have reported a shortfall in funding regarding the supply of high-vis vests and defibrillator replacement pads. Officers will undertake to engage with parkrun representatives to identify any additional support requirements and will report back to Members in due course.			

4.0	
4.1	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications within this report at this stage.
5.0	
5.1	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices - Documents Attached or None
	None



Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

8pe

Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 8 September 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. Insert number ☐ 1. Information relating to any individual. 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction. 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? After Committee Decision 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	Committee is asked to note that the Council has received the following requests from event organisers to host annual events over a three-year period 2026, 2027 and 2028 • Pitt Park Residents Association – Row on Row Remembrance – Pitt Park - November 2026, 2027 and 2028. • VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park – October 2026, 2027 and 2028). The report seeks multiple year approval for the above events to take place annually over the three-year period from 2026 to 2028
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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 & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers: I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
2.2	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.
2.3	Please note that those events that have sought multiply years approval will be subject to an annual review. The Director of Neighbourhood Services will liaise with relevant officers and take advice on appropriate changes to event management were necessary and this would include the removal of permission if required.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> If agreed, the event organisers 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.
3.2	<u>Row on Row Remembrance 2026 2028 – Pitt Park</u> Belfast City Council has received a formal request from the Pitt Park Residents Association who are seeking multiple year approval 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.
3.3	The event will take place over several days.

3.4	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 duration of the week. Additionally, they have requested authorisation to conduct a daily remembrance service at the site, scheduled to take place from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm. 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.
3.5	Key Dates for the event are:
3.6	Set Up – 12.00pm on Friday 6 November 2026 Main Event – Commencing on Friday 6 November 2026 & ending on Friday 13 November 2026. Remembrance service – Daily, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Friday 6 November 2026 to Friday 13 November 2026 De Rig – 12.00pm on Saturday 14 November 2026.
3.7	<u>VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park - Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 October 2026</u>
3.8	Belfast City Council has received a request from VC Glendale to host their annual Irish National League Cycling Race at Falls Park in October 2026. The falling leaves event has taken place at Falls Park for the last 8 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.
3.9	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.
3.10	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.
3.11	Key Dates for the event are. Set Up – 11am Main Event Day 1 – Saturday 10 October – 12pm to 3pm Main Event Day 2 – Sunday 11 October - 8am to 4.30pm De-Rig – by 6pm
3.12	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no known implications.

3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications
4.00	Appendices
	None