

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

23rd September 2026

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

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on **Monday, 28th 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) Declarations of Interest
2. **Belfast City Youth Council - Update (Pages 1 - 4)**





**Belfast**  
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – SPECIAL  
MEETING WITH BELFAST CITY YOUTH COUNCIL

**BELFAST CITY YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE**

|                           |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Belfast City Youth Council Update                                                               |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 28 September 2026                                                                               |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision                                             |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Mulholland, Young People's Co-ordinator<br>Brian Kelly, Community Services Unit 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

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

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to update members on the work of the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) over the past 12 months and provide an overview of upcoming plans, including recruitment of new members.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2.1        | Members are asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive presentation by the Youth Council on their work to date</li> <li>• Note the content of the report</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>Background information</b> <p>Members will recall that the current Youth Council members were recruited following a 3 month process between December 2024 and February 2025. Young people are recruited from each of the 10 District Electoral Areas and they serve a two year term on the youth Council. The current term is due to end in March 2027.</p> <p>The criteria for selection was;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people must live within the Belfast City boundary area.</li> <li>• Young people are aged 13-18 (21 if they are disabled or have just left care).</li> <li>• All successful applicants must demonstrate a desire in leading and directly influencing decisions to make a difference in their community.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.2</b> | This year has been very successful for members of the Youth Council who have developed considerable level of skills in research design, facilitation, writing academic papers, communication and presentation due to their involvement in the delivery of the RADICAL programme in partnership with Queen's University. During this special meeting members of the BCYC will present on the RADICAL project to Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>3.3</b> | <u>Future Plans</u> <p>Seven members of the current youth council have gone to study in Universities in England and Scotland in September 26 and will no longer be available to be members of BCYC. Members should note that this will reduce the capacity of the Youth Council for the remainder of their term.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>3.4</b> | <p>Members will note that the current term finishes in March 27. The recruitment process for new members of the BCYC including, planning, information sharing, raising awareness, meeting with youth organisations across the city, road shows, applications and selection can take up to four months. Over the next three months officers will work with current Youth Council members to get feedback on their experience of being a member and identify how</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|            | we might improve the process to ensure that we maximise the participation of young people from across the city.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>3.5</b> | Officers will provide information to the People and Communities committee on the new recruitment process in December/ January and will include feedback from the youth council on any recommended changes to the approach and seek approval for any amendments. |
| <b>3.6</b> | In addition to involvement in the work outlined above, the young people will also continue existing programmes around Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and supporting emotional well being and good mental health.                               |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4.1</b> | All activity will be delivered using existing staff and financial resources.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>5.1</b> | The activity outlined in this report will have a positive impact on equality, good relations and rural needs.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>6.1</b> | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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