

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

29th November, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 5th December, 2017 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest
- (d) Request to Present - World Health Organisation Europe (Pages 1 - 2)

2. Presentations

- (a) County Antrim Boxing

3. Restricted Items

- (a) Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19 (to follow)

4. Committee/Strategic Issues

- (a) Waste Collection Update (Pages 3 - 8)

- (b) Welfare Reform - Additional in-year allocation (to follow)
- (c) Funding for Boxing (Pages 9 - 30)

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Tropical Ravine Update (Pages 31 - 36)
- (b) Playground Maintenance and Inspections (to follow)
- (c) Fullerton Park Cricket equipment storage request (Pages 37 - 38)

6. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Quarter 2 Finance Report (Pages 39 - 48)
- (b) Parks Events Small Grants Scheme (Pages 49 - 52)

7. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Street Naming (Pages 53 - 54)
- (b) Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme Update (to follow)
- (c) Operational Delivery of Off Street Car Parking Enforcement of Penalty Charge Notice Processing (Pages 55 - 64)
- (d) Age Sector Platform Belfast Pensioners Parliament (Pages 65 - 72)
- (e) Parklife Education Programme - Evaluation (Pages 73 - 124)
- (f) Dog Friendly Badging Scheme (Pages 125 - 128)
- (g) Dog Statistical Returns (DAERA) (Pages 129 - 132)
- (h) Request for the use of Ormeau Park (Pages 133 - 136)
- (i) Proposed Visit of the Royal Horticultural Society Bulb Committee to the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show in 2019 (Pages 137 - 142)
- (j) Dog control in open spaces (Pages 143 - 146)

8. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Pollinators (Pages 147 - 148)

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Subject:	World Health Organisation – Request to Present to Committee
Date:	5th December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from the Chief Executive of Belfast Healthy Cities seeking permission for Monika Kosinska, Focal Point in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe for Healthy Cities to attend the January meeting of the People and Communities Committee to provide an update in respect of Belfast hosting the WHO International Conference in 2018.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider whether it would wish to invite Ms. Kosinska to present at its meeting on 9th January, 2018.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 432 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1471 456">3.1 The Committee is reminded that Belfast has been chosen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to host its Global Conference of Healthy Cities in Belfast from 1st – 4th October, 2018. This conference will bring people from across the world to the City of Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="165 528 1471 860">3.2 The Members are asked to note that a request has been received from Mrs. J Devlin, Chief Executive, Belfast Healthy Cities, seeking permission for Ms. Monika Kosinska to address the Committee. Ms. Kosinska, Focal Point in WHO Europe for Healthy Cities, will be visiting Belfast from 9th – 10th January, 2018 to visit the venues and hotels which will be used during the Conference. It is timely that the People and Communities Committee monthly meeting is due to be held on Tuesday, 9th January and Ms. Kosinska would like to use this as an opportunity to update the Committee in respect of the International Conference.</p> <p data-bbox="272 931 756 960"><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1032 344 1061">3.3 None</p> <p data-bbox="272 1133 834 1162"><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1189 344 1218">3.4 None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Waste Collection Update
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide Members with a further update in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the processes and procedures that continue to be implemented to enhance the waste collection service; and (ii) the actions included in the high level Waste Collection Improvement Plan, which has been developed to address productivity and performance issues.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the continued interventions which are being implemented to maintain the performance improvements of the waste collection service, together with progress in relation to the actions included in the Waste Collection Improvement Plan.

2.2	As Members will be aware, it was agreed at the Committee meeting held on 7 November that, following December Committee, future update reports would be provided on a three monthly basis. Given this, the next Waste Collection update will be presented at April Committee.
3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 432 421 461"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 528 1002 560"><u>Customer Call Handling and Management Interventions</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 577 1469 712">3.1 The volume of calls directed into the Customer Contact Centre remain at normal levels as a result of the management interventions and improved processes which have been in place since August 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="165 779 1469 965">3.2 Daily management information reports are now an embedded process that enable targeted, timely operations to be implemented which deal with requests for service in relation to missed bins and missed assisted lifts. The number of missed bin collections has continued to decrease since August 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1032 1469 1167">3.3 The production of detailed daily management information reports, by assistant manager and operational squad, continues to provide accountability and improved communication, which supports prompt resolution of customer enquiries and addresses legacy issues.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1234 1469 1368">3.4 Increased attention continues to focus on dealing with more complex accessibility problems. Discussions remain ongoing with Transport NI to ensure that longer term sustainable solutions can be achieved regarding accessibility difficulties.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1435 1469 1621">3.5 A regular communications schedule with senior management forum, waste collection management team and trade unions is now embedded, which maintains focus on priority issues. This process continues to support the delivery of a high quality, responsive and flexible service which meets customer need.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1688 836 1720"><u>Waste Collection Improvement Action Plan</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1738 1469 1872">3.6 As referred to in the Committee report presented to members on 10 October 2017, a high level Waste Collection Improvement Action Plan has been developed. An update regarding the key actions within the Plan to address productivity and performance issues, is as follows:</p> <ul data-bbox="272 1939 1469 2029" style="list-style-type: none"> • A review is currently underway in relation to the administrative support arrangements for waste collection operational staff, which will facilitate increased on the ground

	<p>supervision of waste collection operational staff. Time spent on the ground supervising waste collection operations, by operational staff has increased by approximately 40%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of relevant squad productivity eg. start and finish times, shipping times, bins and weights lifted has been completed in relation to black bin squads. As a result, a process has been initiated to increase existing work levels and improve productivity which has incorporated minor changes to collection timetables and work will now extend into determining the number of bins per route. • A review of the commercial waste service has commenced in order to develop proposals for change which best fit customer demand in relation to the marketing and sales, pricing and operational performance of the service. A list of customers who have terminated their contracts within the past 9 – 15 months has been generated and a plan is in place which aims to recover these contracts. In addition, a list of potential new customers has been produced which may be used as a basis to target future sales and attract new contracts. A work programme has been developed, which is in the process of being implemented, aimed at increasing income without generating any major additional costs, given that the initial sales focus will concentrate on customers who are located within the same general geographical area as current customers. • The route optimisation software supplier has completed an evaluation exercise regarding minor modifications to existing waste collection routes. Comments and feedback from this exercise have been analysed and are currently being compared to the information produced manually within the waste collection service. Proposals for change, to improve productivity and performance, will be developed following final consideration of all information. • The recommendations arising from the independent review undertaken by Resource Futures continue to be assessed and implemented where appropriate. • An independent audit is currently being undertaken by AGRS with the audit testing phase completed at the end of November. When the full audit has been completed, the recommended actions will be considered for implementation.
3.7	<p>The Waste Collection Improvement Action Plan is a fluid document and as proposals are developed it will be updated accordingly.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>At this time there are no financial or resource implications associated with this report. Any future route optimisation rebalancing exercises and asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework may however result in financial and resource implications at a future date.</p>

3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> At this time there are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Funding for Boxing
Date:	5 th December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that the Council developed a 10-year Boxing Strategy for Belfast in 2013. The strategy was devised in partnership with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA), the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), the County Antrim Boxing Board and Sport NI (SNI).
1.2	The boxing strategy was initially funded for 3 years with a total budget of £600,000. The timing of the delivery of the Strategy resulted in the funding which was due to end in March 2016 extending into a 4 th year with the programme ending on the 31 st March 2017.
1.3	Funding was requested at the People and Communities Committee in March 2017 and they awarded £24k support for support funding. A further request for recurrent funding was considered at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2017 in relation to

	funding of £101,000 each year for the next 3-4 years. The decision was to award £45k in 2017/18 only.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider the request from the Board for in year funding of £49k
3.0	Main report
3.1	A request has been accepted for the County Antrim Board to present to People and Communities Committee this month. Subsequent to this request Officers have received a report from the Board requesting further investment of £49k from Belfast City Council to sustain a boxing programme within Belfast. See Appendices 1 and 2.
3.2	The agreed non-recurring financial support for the implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy ended on 31st March 2017 and no further recurring provision has been made for 2018/19. Boxing clubs and the governing body are able to access the support that is available to all sporting clubs through the Leisure Development Unit.
3.3	Financial Implications The request for in year funding of £49k can be provided from within departmental underspends. However any recurrent funding for subsequent years would have to be considered as part of the rate setting process and there is no recurrent funding provided for in 2018/19 departmental budgets.
3.4	Equality and Good Relations Implications The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council process.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Request form the Boxing Strategy Steering Group Appendix 2 - Supporting Action plan

Report To:	People and Communities Committee
Subject:	Request to continue to fund and sustain the Belfast City Council Boxing Strategy 2012- 2022.
Date:	November 2017
Report From:	Boxing Strategy Steering Group Representatives encompassing the IABA and County Antrim.

1.	Report Purpose
	<p>Members will be aware that the council developed a 10-year Boxing Strategy for Belfast in 2013. The strategy was devised in partnership with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA), the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), the County Antrim Boxing Board and Sport NI (SNI).</p> <p>Members will also be aware that the final boxing strategy was initially funded for 3 years from reserves with a budget £200,000 per annum.</p> <p>There was a significant underspend in year 1, this meant that the funding which was due to end in March 2016 extended to finance a 4th year of the programme ending on the 31st March 2017.</p> <p>The Belfast Boxing steering group was advised that the Council had not increased the estimates/budgets for the financial year and that it was now imperative that the group should find a way to sustain the Belfast City Council 10 year Boxing strategy without Belfast City Council Funds.</p> <p>As a result, the IABA Ulster Operations Manager devised a report on behalf of the Boxing steering group that was presented to People and Communities Committee who in turn referred it to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in 2017 asking for investment of £101,000. Subsequently the committee awarded £45,000 to the project, as a result the action plan and Key Performance Indicators originally submitted were reduced to reflect the reduction in funding. Additionally then we were also allocated £24,000 from the support for sport budget, bringing the total funding to £69,000</p> <p>Within this secondary report we are seeking further investment of £49,000 from Belfast City Council to sustain a boxing programme within Belfast that seeks to address the aims of the Belfast City Council Boxing Strategy in full. Therefore, the Belfast Boxing Steering Group have enclosed the Action Plan that was submitted at the outset, which encloses a full programme of events and projects designed to deliver and fulfil the aims of the 10 years boxing strategy.</p>

2.	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update report from the boxing steering group representatives as enclosed; • Agree the revised action plan for phase 2 of the strategy implementation; and • To approve the associated budgets and resources required as outlined within the main body of the report as they see fit.

3.	Main Report																					
3.1	<p data-bbox="204 293 1230 356">Overview of the Boxing Programme Currently the 10-year boxing strategy 2012-2022 has been in place since March 2013.</p> <p data-bbox="204 398 592 427">i. Steering Group Formed A steering group was formed with representatives from the IABA, UBC, SNI and CAB alongside officers from BCC.</p> <p data-bbox="204 506 424 535">Funding Received During the past 4 years boxing in the city has received funding totally approximately £600,00 which was due to end on 31st March 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="204 651 679 680">ii. Positions Previously Employed</p> <ul data-bbox="204 687 1477 965" style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Project/Sports Development Officer was employed to oversee the programme and to provide administrative support in running and managing the programme. This post has been vacated and not continued. The IABA staff have partially absorbed the essential tasks of this development officers workload. • Two (2) community based coaches were also employed to deliver coaching session within the local schools, clubs and communities, helping to increase membership within clubs and to introduce a wide range of new participants to the sport. 1 Post was vacated and 1 was transferred across to the IABA in Mid August 2017. <p data-bbox="204 1046 668 1075">iii. Previous Programme Budgets While there has been some movement between budget headings to facilitate underspends the Programme Budgets for the 4 previous years have remained constant. The standard programme budget over the 3 previous years were as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 1218 1423 2009"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="204 1218 555 1254">Budget Heading</th> <th data-bbox="555 1218 906 1254">Amount</th> <th data-bbox="906 1218 1423 1254">Eligible expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1254 555 1328">Salaries/Posts</td> <td data-bbox="555 1254 906 1328">£75,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1254 1423 1328">1x Development Officer 2 x Community Coaches</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1328 555 1435">Events</td> <td data-bbox="555 1328 906 1435">£37,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1328 1423 1435">Talent Events at County Antrim Level- Elite Style Events International Events and Local Events</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1435 555 1545">Coach Education</td> <td data-bbox="555 1435 906 1545">£15,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1435 1423 1545">Delivery of Coaching Courses, Safeguarding, First Aid, Strength and conditioning for boxing tc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1545 555 1798">Pathways</td> <td data-bbox="555 1545 906 1798">£38,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1545 1423 1798">Costs associated with running Juvenile Squads in Belfast. Pathways to a club- school club links programmes. Boxing for wellbeing programmes Anti- Social behaviour outreach programmes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1798 555 1939">Club Support</td> <td data-bbox="555 1798 906 1939">£25,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1798 1423 1939">Summer, Easter Halloween boxing camps Clubs received money to run boxing camps at holiday times</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="204 1939 555 2009">Governance</td> <td data-bbox="555 1939 906 2009">£10,000</td> <td data-bbox="906 1939 1423 2009">For Governance Related programmes or events</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget Heading	Amount	Eligible expenditure	Salaries/Posts	£75,000	1x Development Officer 2 x Community Coaches	Events	£37,000	Talent Events at County Antrim Level- Elite Style Events International Events and Local Events	Coach Education	£15,000	Delivery of Coaching Courses, Safeguarding, First Aid, Strength and conditioning for boxing tc.	Pathways	£38,000	Costs associated with running Juvenile Squads in Belfast. Pathways to a club- school club links programmes. Boxing for wellbeing programmes Anti- Social behaviour outreach programmes	Club Support	£25,000	Summer, Easter Halloween boxing camps Clubs received money to run boxing camps at holiday times	Governance	£10,000	For Governance Related programmes or events
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Total	£200,000	
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iv. Strategic Challenges and Action Plan

The Boxing Strategy outlined four strategic challenges as follows:

- Pathways (boxers, coaches and officials)
- Coach education and development
- Club support and development
- Governance.

These strategic challenges were taken from the IABA's and UBC's Strategies at the time and subsequently adopted by Belfast City Council as the key thematic areas to build a boxing action plan around for Belfast. The Action Plan produced is attached.

v. Monitoring and Evaluation

A review of the Amateur Boxing Strategy was carried out in January 2016. The review examined the strategies results in alignment with the action plan that had been produced. The review was extremely positive in promoting the benefits and achievements of the strategy so far and was it outlined the following benefits and improvements that the programme had achieved:

Benefits/improvements

- An increase in the number of clubs overall, (2 Folding and 5 New Clubs)
- Membership had a 20% increase.
- Female membership and youth membership for Under 11's rose substantially with an accumulative total of 40%
- The number of non-coaching volunteers has risen by 63%, which is an average of 7 volunteers per club.
- Access NI percentages have improved and risen with 98.5% of coaching holding relevant certificates.
- Governance and management structures within clubs have increased
- Club development plans are in place in 25 clubs.
- Facilities have improved considerably, and have had a significant impact on the growth in female membership
- The Non Contact Boxing programme has been a runaway success with the quality of coaching and programme receiving unanimous praise.
- The strategy has been well received by clubs, and 80% of those who responded felt they had ownership of the strategy and 90% said that the programme was having a positive impact on their club.

The review also outlined that the need for the strategy and continued investment by outlining that there were still areas for continued improvement thus highlighting the fact that while the strategy was delivering for boxing in Belfast there were areas of decline and concern as follows:

Concerns/Areas for continued improvement

- Club income has fallen, only 6 clubs compared to 16 clubs are receiving donations.
- Only 9 out of 29 clubs provide a complete breakdown of income, yet 26 out of 29 clubs have a treasurer, so there needs to be training provided for these positions.
- On the whole facilities for females are not comparative to the male facilities.
- The pathways from the schools programme redirecting participants back to clubs could be improved.

Thus the above issues underline and emphasis that there is still a need for the strategy to continue as there is still work to be done. There is more to be achieved.

Recommendations

The consultants felt that the strategy had progressed on several indicators and that the strategy and its implementation had been well received.

The consultants also recognised that the existing actions will continue to be relevant.

The following are the recommendations outlined by the consultants;

Recommendations
1. Continue Non-Contact Boxing in Schools, with direct links between clubs and schools/youth centres.
2. Develop Governance and Management through Volunteers
3. Reach out to the community with boxing programmes linked to fitness, well-being and health.
4. Progress with the strategies actions should be monitored and reported on a regular basis
5. Provide mentoring support to clubs for selected actions
6. Liaise with schools in relation to staging boxing events in school premises
7. Engage with IABA Ulster Branch in complementary activities
8. Look to qualify more coaches
9. Assess the carrying capacity of each club in each membership category and plan for projected increases.

3.2

Proposed Way Forward.

The Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group have devised this proposal to present to the People and Communities Committee to ask for continued investment into the sport of Boxing in Belfast and to ensure the continued implementation of the 10 year Belfast City Council strategy.

While we have had an initial investment from the Council of £45,000 and a subsequent £24,000 from Support for Sport, it will be very difficult for the steering group to continue to deliver on the council strategy in full without further investment.

New Action Plan- Phase 2

Enclosed is the original and full action plan for the next phase of the programme from now until 31st March 2018. The steering group representatives have amended and added to the original action plans from the first 3 years of the strategy, ensuring to include the nine recommendations from the review carried out by the consultants.

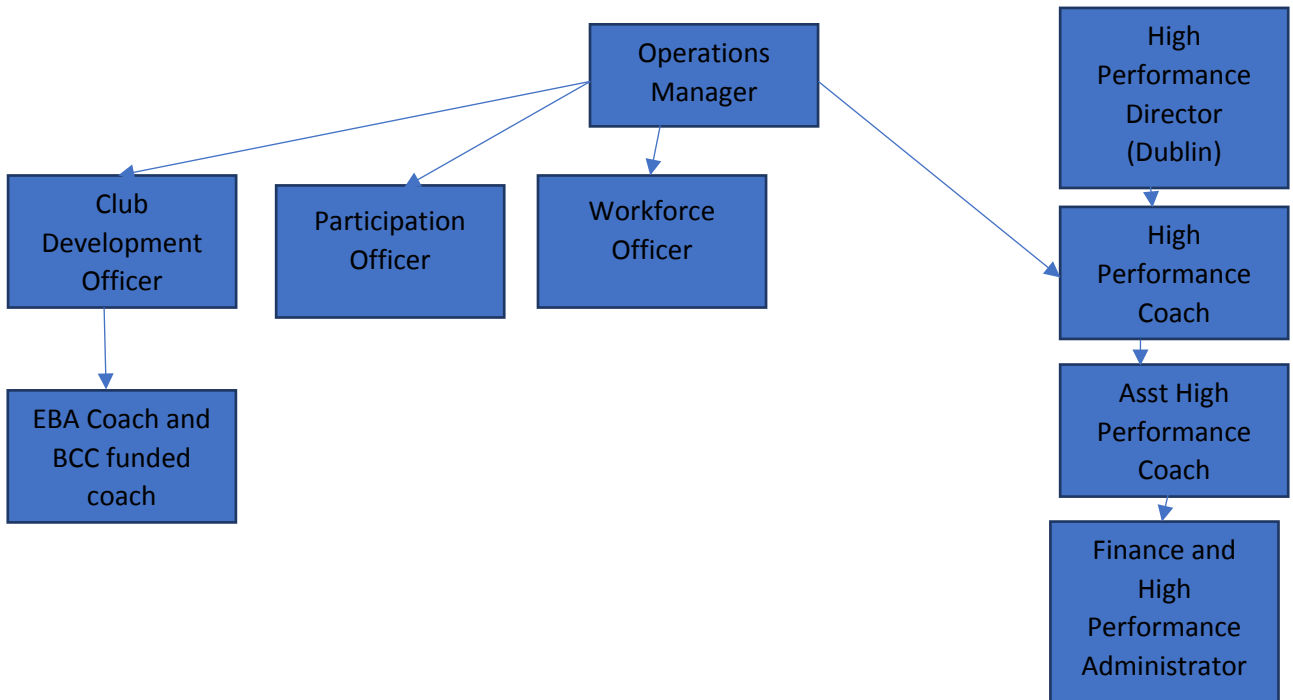
Project Governance

Despite the loss of the Project co-ordinator we anticipate the continued support of Belfast City Council Officers. County Antrim Representatives and IABA Ulster representatives will continue to support and attend these meetings, working in collaboration with BCC staff.

Project Administration and Staffing

The IABA have offered the services of an Officer who is based in Belfast to manage the coaching staff members and ultimately to manage and overseeing the project administration, we would ask for a 10% administration fee to help cover the additional workload and increased duties that the officer assigned to the project would be taking on. This has already provided a substantial saving on the salary costs of a full-time project officer and it decreased the staffing budget substantially required to deliver this programme. The IABA has assured the steering group of its capacity to take on and manage this programme of work the staffing structure within Ulster has multiplied by 8 since 2013.

The Operations structure within Ulster is now be as follows;



The IABA is still heavily public funded, but in addition to this the Ulster Operations has to generate income from both Commercial sponsorship and a multiplicity of public grant aid, as a result it is imperative that we charge a project administration fee to enable us to take on the management and administration of this project, this fee will help to support the continued presence of the IABA in Ulster and to sustain and strengthen its operations and programmes within the Belfast City Council Area.

Coaching Staffing

As members will be aware the Belfast boxing strategy had resources to employ 2 full time community based boxing coaches. The steering group wish to continue and sustain the coaching structure with 2 full time coaches. Members should note that the IABA have recently availed of Everybody Active Funding to recruit 1 other community based boxing coach for women and girls specifically. Subsequently the BCC did fund the continuation of 1 of the 2-original community based coaching posts in phase 2 of the boxing strategy, the coaches staffing structure would be maintained with 2 full time coaches; 1 funded through the Everybody Active Programme funding stream and the 2nd by the BCC funds provisionally outlined within this report.

In a bid to reduce administration and management time for BCC, the IABA would also consider employing and hosting any subsequent funded posts within this programme.

Therefore the IABA has sought to reduce and minimise the salaries required for the delivery of the Belfast boxing strategy, the IABA is currently helping to co-ordinate the programme by providing the services of a staff officer to bridge the gap left by the vacant sports development officer/project coordinator post and the IABA has also sustained the second coaching post from the Everybody active programme, therefore minimising the budgets for salaries to sustain this programme..

Programme Outline/Action Plans

It is recommended that the 4 Main work areas and strategic challenges are recommended to stay largely the same as follows;

- Pathways (boxers, volunteers and officials)
- Coach education and development
- Club support and grassroots development
- Governance.

While the IABA have since developed a new strategy see enclosed Appendix 4, which differs in structure it still encompasses these key themes throughout it, the building blocks of sports development have not changed over the years, terms may have changed but the principles have remained the same. Please note is particular the following relevant goals and actions which are still largely comparable to the 4 main work areas and strategic challenges within the boxing strategy;

Goals	Actions
<p>In the Ring Develop and support the sport of boxing to ensure growth and success at all levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Participation • Increase our coaching numbers and ensure consistent standards • Improve refereeing and judging standards • Provide a clear boxer pathway from initial participation to high performance level
<p>Outside the ring Fully support and respect our members and volunteers and provide the right environment to help us grow our sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support our members, county boards, clubs and valuable volunteers in a more effective way • Recognise the valuable contribution of all our volunteers • Development officer

As you can see despite the new strategic plan the 4 main key challenges identified within the Boxing strategy are highly relevant and as such it would be unnecessary to alter the format of the strategy and work plans. Keeping the same strategic challenges also enables consistency for tracking and monitoring progress throughout the lifespan of the boxing strategy.

If you refer to the enclosed Appendix 3, these are the revised action plans for phase 2 of the boxing programme. To enable the full implementation and delivery of the enclosed action plans we have outlined the following draft budget below, please note the previous award from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is also highlighted below for convenience.

Revised Budgets/Finance Request- TABLE

General Budget Heading	Previous Budget	1 st BCC Award from SP&R Committee	2 nd BCC Budget request 17-18 from SP&R Committee	Eligible Costs
Salaries/Posts	£75,000	£17,000	-	1 x Full Time Coaching Post and associated costs of employment. and set up costs(laptop) and pension Costs etc. This is where

					<p>we are seeking for BCC to resource the continuation of 1 of the coaching posts directly, IABA will sustain the 2nd coaching post through the new EBA Coaching post. And the IABA will seek to bridge the project coordinators gap by allocating a staff officer based in Belfast to coordinate this project.</p> <p>No further Budgets requested at this time.</p>
	Staff Running Costs		-	£2,000	General Overhead Costs such as desk costs etc- Rent, phone monthly charge, stationary, uniform, staff minimal coaches mileage budget.
	IABA Project Management/Administration Cost		5,000	£5,000	Management Cost for IABA taking over the main administration of the project at 10% of the total project budget, costs to offset the additional duties being allocated to staff, HR costs in recruiting/ possibly TUPEING and employing the coaching staff member,(s).
	Events	£37,000	24,000	£20,000	The programme of events has been partially funded by monies already identified by BCC from the Support for Sport Funds to the sum of £24,000. that have been segregated to be allocated to the steering group and the boxing strategy. The CAB will continue to run and deliver of programme of events.
	Coach Education	£15,000	-	-	The IABA will run training programmes for coaches through it workforce development post until the 31 st march 2018.
	Pathways (Boxer, Volunteers and Officials)	£38,000	£8,000	£12,000	To fund sections 1.0-3.0 of the action plan except for 1.3 which will be funded from events. talent ID Testing and £10,000 to host a celebration of talent tournament at the end of the talent squad sessions

				£2,000 will fun
Club Support & Grassroots	£25,000	£15,000	-	To fund section 6 of the newly proposed action plan.
Governance	£10,000	0	£10,000	To fund section 7 of the action plan, ensuring embed good relations throughout belfast
Total	£200,000	£45,000 + £24,000 Support for Sport Funds £69,000	£49,000	Total of £104,000 across 2 awards

The Steering group are therefore requesting a further £49,000 which equates to a total of £118,000 to ensure the continued delivery of the Belfast Boxing Strategy, this amount will minimise the disruption to the programme and would effectively maintain the outcomes that the strategy has always sought to deliver.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This is where the IABA is using of its own software for the monitoring and evaluation framework going forward. We are also reporting on the KPI's as outlined within the action plans enclosed.

The IABA Monitoring and Evaluation Framework can include the following key elements;

- Club Audit Data – The data obtained from club audits in Belfast, will help to establish baseline data for each boxing in Belfast, then we can monitor each clubs progress throughout the life of the programme, then we will have critical information in respect of agreed outcome measures/KPI's for not only a programme level, but also for individual clubs.
- VIEWS- views is an online monitoring and evaluation system which will be used to record and report project impact. Data collected from IABA questionnaires, participant demographics and data relating to their involvement in the project, will be recorded on VIEWS throughout the duration of the project. The System will provide reports to demonstrate impact in relation to the following;
 - Number of New Participants
 - Number of New participants who demonstrate sustained participation (ie 12 times or more)
 - Demographics of participants
 - Analysis of Participation-
 - Number of training and development opportunities provided
 - Type of training and development opportunities provided
 - Demographics of participants participating in training and development opportunities

Case studies can also be collated to further enhance the qualitative monitoring and evaluation of the project impact.

Additionally, we would still recommend that an evaluation should be carried out by consultants appointed by Belfast City Council at the end of the next funded phase to provide a comprehensive analysis of the project impact, to identify recommendations for continuous improvement, and to provide an evidence base that will support the long term development and sustainability of the project.

Sustainability

As a key partner, the IABA will invest significant time and resources in the project over the next funded phase of the project and subject to successful implementation, will seek to a) source additional financial

support to help with the sustainability of the project after this next initial funding period and b) to ensure the project is effectively monitored and evaluated over the next funded phase of the project, and that regular reports are submitted to the steering group and relevant stakeholders with a view to sustaining their continued support to sustain the programme.

Financial sustainability has of course become a key concern over the last few months and the steering group representatives are now fully aware of the need to source additional funding. However, the steering group representatives mainly the IABA and CAB do not have any funds available to input directly into the programme funds to sustain the implementation of the strategy and it will take a longer period of time to source and apply for additional funding outside of the council budgets. However, the IABA can offer its main invaluable resource of staff time. You will note that throughout the proposed new action plans developed for phase 2 of the implementation of the strategy that the IABA has offered staff time from no fewer than 5 of its staff members directly, this equates to a substantial amount of in kind contributions. The CAB has also offered the time of its plethora of volunteers to help deliver the project. Please be assured that while neither two of the main stakeholders can currently offer funds to offset the programme costs, both parties will dedicate time and human resources to ensure the continued delivery of the strategy.

Meanwhile it is imperative that sustainability is a key consideration that is now built into the design and implementation of the project in the next phase of the programme, and the steering group should begin to plan and design applications for alternative funding for the foreseeable future. In the interim period, we are still seeking the bulk of the programme funds from Belfast City Council to deliver the strategy.

Human Resource Implications

The Human Resource Implications are that the IABA will invest more staff time into the delivery of the strategic actions to facilitate some cost savings for Belfast City Council by enabling them not to replace the project co-ordinator. Up to and sometime more than 5 staff members will be involved in the resourcing of this project this is evidenced throughout the action plan and references within the resources column. However the main 5 staff members that will be involved on a frequent regular, operational basis are as follows:

1. The Operations Manager will oversee the financial management and administration of the entire project, act as the main point of contact for the steering group and deliver the good relations element of the programme.
2. The Club Development Officer will line manage and coordinate the community based coaches. Arranging, organising and administrating this particular element of delivery including come and try it events and non-contact boxing within schools. This member of staff will also undertake the responsibility to help boxers apply for free gym membership and support for sport grants. This officer will also produce the volunteering leaflets and will also be involved in the team effort of arranging the volunteer education events and recognition events.
3. The High Performance Coach will oversee and design the talent programme for regional squads, ensuring that the programme fits into the boxing pathway. He will also provide on-going CPD for coaches to include mentoring and guidance. He will also provide the relevant selection framework and oversee the testing processes to be followed. This post will also help to identify talented coaches to be including within the coach education scheme.
4. The Assistant High Performance Coach will help to identify appropriate clubs and venues to host training session and they will carry out the administration element of booking and arranging sessions they will also manage all pool coaches that are involved. This post will be the main post responsible for the delivering the talent squad elements of this plan.
5. Our Workforce Development Officer will arrange and organise all the relevant CPD within the programme.

County Antrim will also ensure to provide a plethora of volunteers, coaches and officials to help run and man all the events contained within the action plan. Again this is not a financial resource, but a large Human Resource. It is anticipated that County Antrim have involved approximately 30- 40 volunteers across the lifespan of any given event. This is anticipated to continue.

Financial Implications

The Financial Implications are outlined in the proposed budgets in the main body of the report. The Steering group are still seeking members support in the form of a further financial contribution of £49,000 to the programme costs totalling an award of £118,000 from various funds through Belfast City Council within this financial year.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council process. Any new programme would be a continuation of the current programme. It is also anticipated that a new programmed would be re-screened.

The IABA would also add to this that the Operations Manager within Ulster is the Equality Officer within the IABA and is responsible for the screening of all IABA related programmes of work.

4.	Appendices
	Appendix 1- Proposed Original Action Plans Phase 2 of BCC Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC CHALLENGES, AIMS AND KPIS

Strategic Challenge	Pathways	Coach Education	Club Development and Grassroots	Governance
Strategic Aims	<p>1.0 To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast</p> <p>2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast</p> <p>3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast</p>	<p>4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast</p>	<p>5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast</p>	<p>6.0 To promote and sustain Good governance standards within Belfast boxing clubs.</p>
<p>KPI'S</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To run talent ID Testing for 2 Belfast Squads • To run 2 talent squads in Belfast • To host events for talent squads and development squads at various all age groups leading into the Ulster High Performance Unit. • To monitor numbers of boxers getting free elite gym membership • No of boxers obtaining support for sport grants • The hosting of Boxing in Belfast for commonwealth youth games 2020 • Production of volunteering leaflet • To support the delivery of an IABA led volunteer education event made for boxing clubs in Ulster • Workforce Officer to Deliver on Sport NI Targets providing a range of opportunities measured as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No. of Officials Learning Opp's ○ No. of Club Volunteer Learning Opp's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing a full time workforce education officer • Workforce Officer to Deliver on Sport NI Targets providing a range of opportunities measured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No. of Coach/Learning Opp's • In addition to SNI Targets the Workforce Development Officer will deliver the following Belfast related targets • 2 level 1 courses= 20 new coaches • 1 level 2 course- 10 coaches upskilled • 2 first aid courses • 2 safeguarding courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 participants at come and try it event • 800 pupils to take part in non contact boxing • 80 participants at Belfast boxing open day • No. of new clubs to be developed per year and to avail of seeding grant- target 2 • No. of clubs to obtain equipment grants per year- target of 4 • No of clubs to obtain-membership growth grant- target of 22. • Monitor the no. of new clubs • Monitor the no of new members to boxing within Belfast. • Monitor the number of clubs availing of the grant aid above. • 2 clubs to apply for support for sport grant per year • 180 participants on holiday camps per annum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver of good relations programme to 180 participants.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 1: PATHWAYS- FROM GRASSROOTS- TALENT-ELITE (BOXERS, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS)

1.0 Aim				
1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.				
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
1.1 To provide talent squads within Belfast at a range of age groups, linking into the IABA performance pathway.	<p>To run talent ID Testing to select boxers for the following talent squads;</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will train all talented coaches taking the talent squad training sessions in the assessment and talent ID process.</p> <p>All Squads will also be tested in line with similar tests carried out for senior elite athletes within the Ulster High Performance System, this way exposing young boxers to HP System and likely fitness and training tests from a younger age.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) Girl 1,2&3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – Assistant High Performance Coach</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches for testing process and venue hire- approximately £2,000</p>
1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups; Boy 1,2&3 (11-14) Girl 1,2&3(11-14)	<p>1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups; Boy 1,2&3 (11-14) Girl 1,2&3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA High Performance Coach will oversee the design of the programme. In addition to his staff time, we will also ensure that the IABA Assistant High Performance Coach (due to be recruited in next 3 months) takes some sessions for the talented coaches who will deliver the squad training. The Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will mentor the coaches taking the talent squad training sessions.</p> <p>All Squads will also be brought up to the High Performance Unit in UUJ to take part in a session with the High Performance Coach.</p>	<p>All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups:</p> <p>Boy 1,2&3 (11-14) Girl 1,2&3(11-14)</p>	<p>IABA Staff time – High Performance Coach and Assistant High Performance Coach</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches Venue Hire and appropriate equipment for the squads- approximately £4,000 per squad x 2 squads.- total £8,000</p>

1.0 Aim		1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.- continued		
Action	KPI	Action	KPI	Action
<p>1.3 To host events for talent squads and development squads at various all age groups leading into the Ulster High Performance Unit.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 23</p>	To run a calendar of competitions/competitive opportunities for the young boxers to showcase their talent.	<p>The CAB representatives will arrange a plethora of intercounty competition within Belfast venues and will provide referee/judges and table officials.</p> <p>Examples of Competitions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antrim 3's for ages 11-18- Bouts for boxers with 0-3 bouts • Antrim 6's for ages 11-18- bouts for boxers with 0-6 bouts. • International bouts against UK home nations, Scotland, England and Wales. Open events For ages 11-18 • Halloween Open Event ages 11-18. • Youth Event for age 16&17 Pre-senior elite age group, select teams and international teams. 	<p>Boy 1,2&3 (11-14)</p> <p>Girl 1,2&3(11-14)</p>	<p>CAB Volunteer time to organise, run and administer the county competition/competitive opp's.</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for Venue Hire, official's payments and medals for participants- approximately. This will only run if we obtain further funding for this element-£8,750 per event = £43,750. So £24,000 from Support for Sport and £20,000 from other bcc funds.</p> <p>Round up to £44,000</p>
1.4 Free Gym Membership for Elite Performers	Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining free membership per year	<p>BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group</p> <p>Steering group will be responsible to distribute and communicate widely the scheme and its criteria. IABA staff can help boxers fill out forms if necessary</p>	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote Free Gym membership through GLL Scheme to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast.- No cost aside from staff time
1.5 Promote Support for Sport- Individuals Grant	Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining grant aid per year	<p>BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group</p> <p>IABA Performance Pathways committee will be responsible to distribute and communicate widely the scheme and its criteria to all boxers within the HP Unit. IABA staff can help boxers fill out forms if necessary</p>	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote support for sport grant aid to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast No cost aside from staff time

1.0 Aim				
1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.- continued				
Action	KPI	Action	KPI	Action
1.6 To work with BCC and NICGC for hosting Commonwealth Youth Championship Boxing in 2020 in Belfast	To host the Youth Commonwealth Boxing Championships in 2020 in a Belfast Venue such as Girdwood.	<p>IABA will engage with NICGC around preferable venues that can accommodate boxing, taking into consideration the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility, Financial resource Public Infrastructure- roads, transport, amenities Accommodation arrangements for teams. Venue capacity for teams and spectators Neutrality of venue- in relation to honouring our good relations commitments in light of events in 2012. <p>BCC to take into consideration all of the IABA's issues outlined above to judge which venue is best placed to cater for boxing at the youth commonwealth games 2020.</p> <p>NICGC will presumably have the final say in the venues ultimately selected.</p>	Boxers aged 16 and 17 and eligible to take part for Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team.	<p>NICGC Funds as Event Organiser</p> <p>BCC Funds towards the hosting of Youth Commonwealth Games 2020 Sponsorship</p> <p>SNI and DoC Grant Aid.</p>

Aim	2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
2.1 To support the production of materials to attract volunteers into boxing.	The production of a boxing leaflet that outlines the volunteering opportunities within boxing clubs, that also outlines all the boxing club's within Belfast and club secretary details. The production of a volunteering post to encourage parents and boxers to volunteer and give time back to their club.	IABA Club Development Officer to design the volunteering leaflet and also the volunteering poster, and to plot Belfast clubs onto Ulster Boxing Website with an interactive map, so that anyone can log on and see where the nearest club is and their training times and contact details. Requesting Funds from Belfast City Council for the publication/printing of the aforementioned materials and also for IT costs to integrate the club data into the interactive map on the UBC Website.	Parents of boxers, boxers themselves within clubs. Youth and school organisations with young adults looking to add to their CV and to volunteer for UCAS points etc. Youth Justice and Probation Board- community Service programmes.	IABA Staff time – Club Development Officer
2.2 To support the delivery of an IABA led volunteer education event made for boxing clubs in Ulster	1 event to be delivered per year- targeting all 27 clubs delivered by 31 st March each year.	IABA to provide expertise of Club Development Officer within Ulster, Operations Manager and IABA Health and Safety Officer and Child Protection Officer to deliver a volunteer education and training event for all Ulster Clubs- all Belfast clubs would be included within this. IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the organisation each year. Topics and workshops to be included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ClubMark- all associated best practice policies and procedures • Child protection training and updates • Health and safety of club facilities • New IABA Policies and procedures • Good Relations Training and update • Fundraising, Grant aid and sponsorship • Affiliation procedures • Volunteer committee roles and responsibilities • How to chair meetings • Roles and responsibilities of a club Treasurer • Examples and workshops providing examples of best practice Community outreach programmes such as: boxing for fitness, mental health and well-being programmes, rehabilitation programmes for offenders. BCC- to provide Girdwood Venue through GLL. If this is not possible we would seek to hire a Belfast Hotel venue	All 27 Belfast based clubs, with a minimum of 3 club representatives to attend and a maximum of 5. New Clubs under development. Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.	IABA Staff time – Club Dev, Operations Manager, H&S Officer and CP Officer and Workforce Officer IABA to fund this for an Ulster Wide Event. Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost. This will only run in Belfast if there are any provisional underspends in the events budget. Otherwise at present it is due to be hosted outside of Belfast.

Aim	3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
3.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led officials education programme for talented officials within Belfast	2- Officials each year- to be delivered by 31 st March each year.	<p>IABA to provide expertise of UBC referee and judges committee within Ulster to help identify talented referees and judges within Belfast to take part in the programme.</p> <p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year.</p>	Identified Level 1 and Level 2 referees and judges, actively judging in Belfast, identified by the Ulster refereeing and judging committee as potentially talented referees and judges with ability to progress to national and international events.	<p>IABA Staff time and committee members time - UBC Referee and Judges committee and Workforce Officer</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for approx. – none requested in this financial year due to time constraints- however planned for future years within the strategy</p>
3.2 To deliver grassroots refereeing, judging qualifications and table officials- ie	<p>Delivery of 1 referee & judging course- 20 new referees by 31st March each year.</p> <p>1 scoring/event official course per year- 10 newly trained officials per year</p>	<p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year</p> <p>CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may not have qualified referees and judges within their clubs.</p> <p>UBC will also provide Referee Tutors to run the Level 1 and Level 2 referee and judging qualifications</p>	<p>New aspiring referees/judges aged 16 +</p> <p>Current Clubs without referee/judges</p> <p>New Clubs under development</p> <p>Clubs looking to run club events and tournaments</p>	Belfast City Council Funds requested for approx. – none requested in this financial year due to time constraints- however planned for future years within the strategy

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 2: COACH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Aim	4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
<p>4.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led Workforce Education programme for talented coaches</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 27</p>	<p>To work with 5 coaches per year delivering a bespoke education programme by 31st March each year.</p> <p>4 year target by 31st March 2021.</p>	<p>IABA to provide expertise of HPC within Ulster and the performance pathways committee to help identify talented coaches within Belfast to take part in the programme.</p> <p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year.</p> <p>We will measure the number of coach learner opportunities.</p>	<p>Identified Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches, actively coaching in Belfast, identified by the Ulster HP Coach as potentially talented coaches with ability to progress to national and international coaching.</p>	<p>IABA Staff time and committee members time -HP Coach Ulster, performance pathways committee and Workforce Officer</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested – none requested in this financial year due to time constraints- however planned for future years within the strategy</p>
<p>4.2 To source funding for the delivery of grassroots boxing qualifications- ie level 1 and level 2 IABA coaching awards, first aid and safeguarding</p>	<p>20 new level 1 coaches by 31st March each year.</p> <p>10 new level 2 coaches</p> <p>2 first aid courses</p> <p>2 safeguarding courses</p>	<p>IABA will utilise the EBA programme budget to train new female coaches within Belfast.</p> <p>IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year</p> <p>CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may be either under or over capacity regards coaching-members ratio's.</p> <p>CAB will also provide Coaching Tutors to run the Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications.</p>	<p>New aspiring coaches aged 16 +</p> <p>Current Clubs who's carrying capacity is exceeding their number of qualified coaches</p> <p>Clubs looking to set up new sections to their clubs; eg female section, over 50's health and well-being etc</p>	<p>EBA- Funds for new Female Coaches.</p> <p>SNI Funding.</p> <p>Belfast City Council Funds requested for – none requested in this financial year due to time constraints- however planned for future years within the strategy</p>

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 3: Club Support and Grassroots Development

5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast				
Aim	KPI's	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
5.1 To hold come and try it events in collaboration with BCC sports development initiatives	80 pupils	IABA to organise and arrange schools come and try it events in conjunction with CAB. 2 Community Based coaches to run the event IABA Development Officer to arrange BCC to fund and promote event as BCC Event, BCC Media and PR Team to help get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	<i>1X Community Based Boxing Coach- £30,000(salaries) 1x EBA Coach(no extra costs out of EBA funds) Venue Hire, additional coaches to deal with capacity and marketing and advertising info and hire o ring etc if necessary - £2,000</i>
5.2 Continue to run non-contact boxing sessions in schools	800	IABA Development officer to organise and arrange non contact sessions within schools 2 Community Based coaches to run sessions BCC to fund and promote schools sessions. BCC Media and PR Team to help do a media launch for schools sessions and get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	<i>1X Community Based Boxing Coach- £23,000(salaries) x 8 months pro rata- £17k 1x EBA Coach(no extra costs out of EBA funds) No additional costs- IABA will provide coaches with equipment.</i>
5.3 Host Belfast Boxing Open Day for individuals and groups who would traditionally have no involvement in boxing.	80	IABA to organise and arrange with local residents groups, community groups and youth groups to come and try it events in conjunction with CAB. 2 Community Based coaches to run the event IABA Development Officer to arrange BCC to fund and promote event as BCC Event, BCC Media and PR Team to help get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	<i>1X Community Based Boxing Coach- £23,000(salaries) x 8 months pro rata- £17k 1x EBA Coach(no extra costs out of EBA funds) BCC to provide Venue Hire within own budgets.</i>
5.4 Provide start up and or membership growth funding to allow for the development of new clubs or growing club membership across the city.	Monitor the growth of membership across Belfast clubs	BCC to provide grant aid for seeding grants and equipment grants through the sports development team if possible. The Steering Group committee could help to administer and manage the process if the sports development team cannot administer this process. The levels of funding are minimal with only 2 seeding grants available per year and 4 equipment grants. The committee can devise the application process and scheme if required.	New Boxing Clubs within Belfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding Grants for newly developed clubs or junior sections of senior clubs. Equipment Grants for clubs who can demonstrate the need for equipment for new clubs or existing clubs who have grown or need replacement equipment. Or Membership Development Grants <p>All at a cost of £500 per club to run come and try it event/holiday camps in a bid to increase membership of their clubs.</p> <p>Up to 30 clubs a year x £500= £15,000 Total £15,000</p>

5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast - CONTINUED				
Aim				
Action	KPI's	Action	KPI's	Action
5.5 Produce a club signposting leaflet, with details of all local Belfast clubs	Leaflet produced by 31 st March 2018.	IABA to design leaflet with relevant details of all local clubs and club secretaries. CAB to distribute to all clubs BCC to fund production of leaflet	Parents of Boxers, Boxers, Youth Clubs, Schools etc.	
5.6 Promote the Support for Sport Scheme with local boxing clubs	Encourage 2 clubs to apply per year	IABA Staff to work with clubs to work up applications for Support for sport schemes.	27 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast	N/a No programme costs, only staff time.
5.7 Boxing Holiday Camps	180 participants per year	IABA Staff to arrange and organise Easter and Summer Holiday Camps for Boxing. CAB to provide coaches to aid EBA and Community Coaches. 15 participants per camp x 4 camps per holiday period x 3 holiday periods. Total of 180 participants IABA will administer the booking process.	All 27 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast, target local schools also.	<i>1X Community Based Boxing Coach- £30,000(salaries)</i> <i>1x EBA Coach(no extra costs out of EBA funds)</i> Programme Costs- Venue Hire, Coaching Wages for additional coaches, marketing materials to facilitate bookings onto camps.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 4: GOVERNANCE

Aim	6.0 To promote, improve and sustain good governance standards within Belfast Clubs			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget
6.1 To deliver a good relations programme within Belfast	To deliver a good relations programme to 180 participants per year	<p>IABA Operations Manager to build in Good Relations Programme into the holiday camps with 180 participants.</p> <p>We will deliver a scaled down version of the training programme from what is currently delivered to IABA Members.</p> <p>Production of leaflets, posters and banners and other marketing material to be displayed around all 29 belfast clubs.</p> <p>29 clubs with a banner, posters and leaflets- £10,000</p>		<p>IABA Staff Tie- Operations Manager over oversees Good Relations and Equality issues and programmes. IABA Good Relations bespoke Training Course designed for boxing in Ulster.</p> <p>Good Relations Marketing material around all Belfast Clubs. £10,000</p>



Subject:	Tropical Ravine update
Date:	5 th December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Jacqui Wilson Business Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that the Tropical Ravine in Belfast Botanic Gardens has received Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) of £2.3m to safeguard the future of the Tropical Ravine and its significant plant collection.
1.2	The Tropical Ravine will become a much more appealing and rewarding place to visit as a result of this project and will have a significantly higher profile in the Belfast (and NI) tourist product. Through physical restoration and the development of ongoing programme delivery. This will – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure ongoing conservation and development of the plant collection;

1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasise linkages with the historic landscape and built heritage of the Botanic Gardens, as well as with the surrounding communities and institutions; ▪ Ensure ongoing community learning and participation. ▪ Development of appropriate interpretive material to meet a range of user needs including, public, educational and specific user groups, including sensory facilities for sight and hearing-impaired visitors, ▪ Development of a three year programme of activities based around the Tropical Ravine to encourage involvement with and engage the general public, education sector and tourists. <p>Construction of the project is now complete and the interpretation/re-planting has commenced with an official launch scheduled for February 2018.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the date of the opening of the venue and the arrangements to operationalise the building to make it a welcoming tourist venue and a source of education and conservation within Belfast - 9th February 2018 (to be agreed with HLF); ▪ Consider a site visit to the Tropical Ravine prior to the official opening.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The jointly funded project is now handed back to the council from contractors and work is underway to plan the educational and events programme for the year. An opening is planned (at this juncture) for 9th February.</p>
3.2	<p>An Activity Officer has been appointed prior to the reopening of the Tropical Ravine in order to undertake planning and preparation, and to recruit and train volunteers ready for the delivery of activities.</p>
3.3	<p>The previous regime of casual opening and closing of the Ravine will not be suitable post renovation. The Ravine will become a must see attraction and the health and safety of the visitors is paramount. With this in mind it must be manned at all time from opening to closing.</p>
3.4	<p>Currently it is proposed that the operating hours will be that the Ravine will be open each day from 10am to 4pm. However this will be reviewed due to levels of demand and programme of activity under development.</p>

3.5	A post of Botanic (Bot) Crew has been developed to ensure the opening and closing, cleaning and day to day operation of the facility. This resource will be supplemented with volunteers who will support events and activities and provide information on the conservation and educational elements of the Tropical Ravine. This resource will be engaged through BCCs volunteer scheme and is central to the HLF scheme and allows for training and support for our volunteers.
3.6	Part of the programme of use for the facility includes the hire of the venue for events and hospitality and it is hoped that this will generate some income and repeat visits to the Tropical Ravine. Appendix 1 outlines the outreach programme of activities being developed.
3.7	‘Friends of Botanic group’ continue to be vital to the success of Botanic Gardens and the facilities within it. They provide support and carry out activities to source grant funds not available to BCC. The Bot Crew volunteer role will be open for the Friends of group to express an interest in joining and they will be supported and trained by BCC. It is hoped that over 36 volunteers would be working with us over the next 3 years.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.8	The staffing required to operate the facility has been provided from existing revenue budgets however this will be kept under review as programmes are rolled out and events promoted.
3.9	The volunteer policy has been agreed through committee and JNCC and has a vital role in getting people active and building skills and experience.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.10	There are no equality or Good relations implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - outline outreach programme

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Appendix 1 Outline outreach programme

An outreach programme of activities is being produced post-opening based around the Tropical Ravine to encourage involvement with and engage the general public, education sector and tourists. Including -

1. Guided tours - using volunteers to deliver information tailored to audience needs and allowing audience interaction
2. Training and recruitment of volunteers – a team of covering a range of duties including tours, family activities, events and skills sharing
3. Living history characters - a programme of activities to spark imagination and animate the Ravine from a Victorian perspective, providing a spectacle for, and provoking interest in, those not directly engaged
4. Memory wall – connecting people and promoting a sense of community through heritage
5. Activity boxes – providing entertaining interaction with the Ravine, curriculum-linked, promoting skills development and enquiry
6. Formal learning - curriculum linked learning for schools and family groups in partnership with the Ulster Museum
7. Drama projects - curriculum linked learning for schools in partnership with the Lyric Theatre
8. Inside out – facilitated sculptural projects to create an external performance and activity space
9. Children’s gardening club – working with families to provide early years introduction to plants and food
10. Pass it on! – training scheme for gardeners involving skills sharing to develop employees and volunteers
11. Seasonal food events – engaging large groups of people with heritage and provoking repeat visits.

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Subject:	Fullerton Park Cricket equipment storage request
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Liam McKinley City Park Manager (West) Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to request approval for Dunmurry and Cooke Collegian's Cricket Clubs' to erect a fenced area adjacent to the pavilion at Fullerton Park for cricket nets and screens.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the request to erect a fenced area in Fullerton Park for cricket equipment storage subject to the named clubs meeting any planning requirements and receiving the funding from the Alpha Landfill Communities Fund. Also to note the Council will assume maintenance of the fence.

3.0	Main report
3.1	At the People and Communities Committee on 4 April 2017 Members agreed that, where containers were required or requested by a third party, the Council would not provide such but would consider granting permission for the third party to provide.
3.2	Following the recent works at Fullerton Park to include an artificial cricket wicket and upgrade of the pitches, the two cricket clubs currently using the park as their home venue wish to apply to the Alpha Landfill Communities to purchase cricket nets and screens to improve their game.
3.3	Both clubs will field a second team in the coming season and have aspirations to provide more opportunities for young people in the area and engage with local ethnic minorities.
3.4	Due to the current levels of anti-social behaviour it is not possible to leave the equipment out overnight and as the size of the equipment precludes the use of a container the only alternative is the construction of a fenced area.
3.5	The Council Sports Development officer is assisting the cricket clubs to submit a joint bid to the Alpha Programme. A successful application requires minuted committee approval for land usage on council property.
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any associated costs and maintenance will be met within existing budgets.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known equality or good relation implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents attached
	None



Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2017/18
Date:	5 th December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Jacqueline Wilson, Business Manager, City & Neighbourhood Services Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report presents the quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee including a forecast of the year end outturn. A reporting pack containing an executive summary, financial indicators and explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn has been included as Appendix 1.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

3.0	Main report
3.1	The Quarter 2 position for the Committee is an under-spend of £675k (1.7%), with the forecast year end position being an under-spend of £603k (0.8%) which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.
3.2	The main reasons for the Committee under-spend relates to vacant posts across a number of services, the receipt of additional income and the timing of grants and programmes.
3.3	<p>Overall Council Financial Position</p> <p>An overall forecast year end position for the Council is an under spend of £662k, which is 0.5% of the budgeted net expenditure. This was reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 24th November 2017. Given that the year- end departmental underspend is within 0.5% of the approved budget it is not proposed that this be considered for re-allocation. However, the LPS forecast rates finalization is a favourable variance of £1,139k, and the forecast capital financing underspend of £2,090k were considered for reallocation at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24th November 2017.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The report sets out the 2017/18 quarter 2 position.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations</u></p> <p>There are no equality implications with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Quarter 2 Performance Report



People and Communities Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

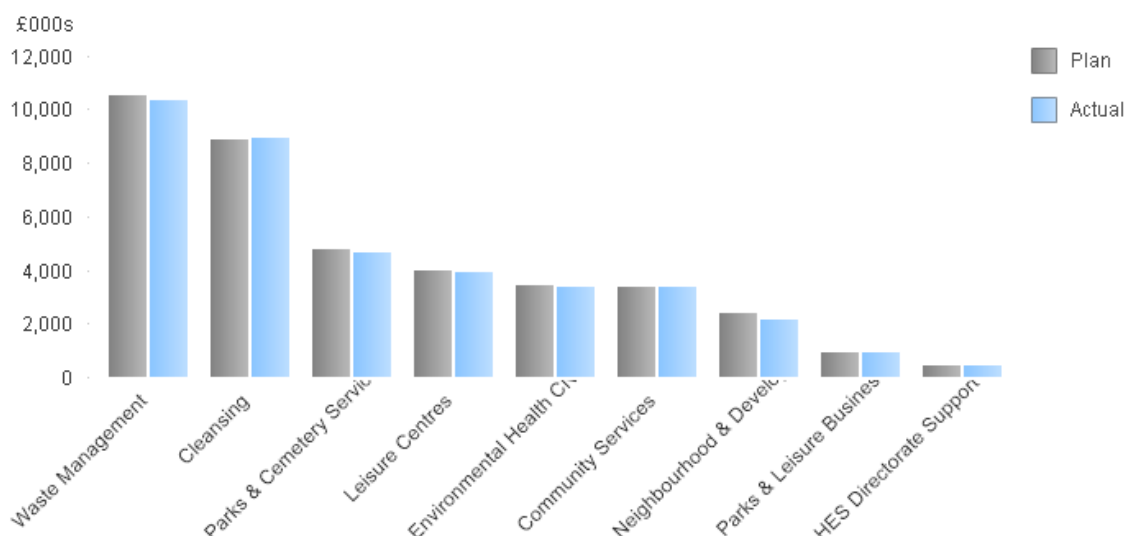
Report Period: Quarter 2, 2017/18

Dashboard

Quarter 2, 2017-2018

Revenue Section							Page
Committee	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	
Waste Management		(144)	(1.4)%		(170)	(0.8)%	3-6
Cleansing		86	1.0%		120	0.7%	
Parks & Cemetery Services		(107)	(2.2)%		(123)	(1.3)%	
Leisure Centres		(51)	(1.3)%		(40)	(0.5)%	
Environmental Health CN		(99)	(2.8)%		(164)	(2.4)%	
Community Services		(22)	(0.7)%		(44)	(0.7)%	
Neighbourhood & Development		(275)	(11.4)%		(100)	(2.4)%	
Parks & Leisure Business Support		(43)	(4.6)%		(45)	(2.4)%	
HES Directorate Support		(22)	(5.2)%		(37)	(4.2)%	
Departmental Corp Priorities		0			0		
Total		(676)	(1.7)%		(603)	(0.8)%	

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



The Quarter 2 position for People and Communities Committee is an under spend of -£675k or 1.7% of the budget. The main reasons for this are:

Waste Management net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£143k (1.4%) under budget and is primarily arising from the decreased residual waste tonnages as part of the food waste campaign

Cleansing Services net expenditure at Quarter 2 is £86k (1%) above budget and is due primarily to increased Domestic Organic Waste as a result of the Food Waste campaign increasing Brown Bin Collections.

Parks and Cemetery Services net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£106k (2%) below budget and is due to: Income is £144k above budget due to booked events and activities. There is a £153k over spend in employee costs, due to seasonal and operational requirements. Premises expenditure is £182k below budget due to reduction in utility costs, insurance and the delay in programmes of work. Hired and contracted services are overspent by £73k in relation to income generating activities. Transport costs are £32k overspent due to the hire of vehicles. Miscellaneous expenditure including compensation claims are £39k below estimate as work has been ongoing with Legal Services to reduce these.

Leisure Services net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£51k (0.6%) under budget due to premises insurance premiums and utilities at Templemore being lower than estimate.

Environmental Health (Excluding OSCP) net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£98k (2.9%) below budget and is due in the main to vacant posts/reduced hours.

Community Services net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£22k (0.7%) below budget. The primary reasons for the under spends are in relation to programme costs £44k and premises costs £17k are offset by over spends in employee costs £4k and unbudgeted compensation claim £18k and £11k less income than planned

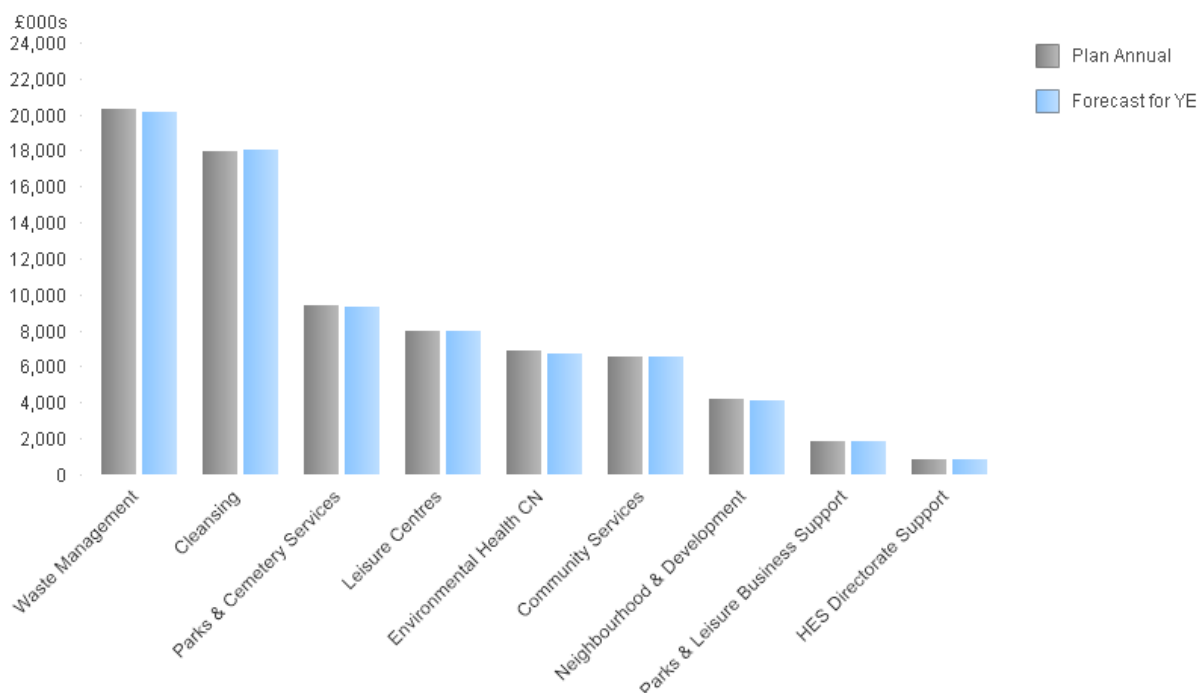
Neighbourhood and Development Services net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£274k (11.4%) Additional income of £326k including income for management fees for governments schemes not budgeted for has been received. This is offset partly by unbudgeted expenditure in premises

of £254k. There is £68k under spend in payroll, due to vacant posts and posts under review. There is an under spend of £172k in supplies and services due to delays in programmes. Grant programmes are overspent by £40k due to timing of claims.

Parks and Leisure Directorate net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£43k (4.6%) below budget. The main variance relates to posts, pending the wider structural review.

Health & Environmental Services Directorate Support net expenditure at Quarter 2 is -£22k (5%) below budget and is in relation to vacant posts

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End



Summary Forecast Explanations:

Cleansing Services net expenditure is forecast to be £119k (0.6%) above budget which is due in the main to increased collection costs in relation as a result of the Food Waste campaign.

Waste Management is forecast to be £170k (0.8%) under budget. This relates in the main due to decreased residual waste as result of the food waste campaign

Environmental Health (Excluding OSCP) is forecast to be £163k (2%) below budget, due in the main to vacant posts/reduced hours, and additional income.

Parks and Cemetery Services is forecast to be £123k (1.3%) below budget due additional income received. Premises insurances are estimated to be lower than estimate and there is a reduction of compensation claims.

Leisure Services is forecast to be £40k (0.5%) under budget due to premises insurance premiums being lower than estimate and costs for Templemore utilities below budget.

Community Services is forecast to have an under spend of £44k (1.3%) at the end of the year due to under spends primarily in supplies and services.

Neighbourhood and Development Services is forecast to be £100k (2.4%) under budget due to vacant posts and grants being under claimed. There is also the potential for additional income from external partners due to unplanned works being recharged.

Parks and Leisure Directorate is forecast to be £45k (2.5%) under budget due vacant posts, pending the wider structural review

HES Directorate Support forecast to be £36k (4.2%) under budget which is due to a in year vacant posts.

People and Communities Committee

Section Expenditure Budgetary Analysis & Forecast

	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2017/2018 £000s	Forecast YTD £000s
Waste Management	10,493	10,349	(144)	(1.4)%	20,273	
Cleansing	8,865	8,951	86	1.0%	17,937	
Parks & Cemetery Services	4,756	4,649	(107)	(2.2)%	9,414	
Leisure Centres	3,988	3,937	(51)	(1.3)%	7,976	
Environmental Health CN	3,431	3,332	(99)	(2.9)%	6,914	
Community Services	3,369	3,347	(22)	(0.7)%	6,546	
Neighbourhood & Development Parks & Leisure Business Support	2,404	2,129	(275)	(11.4)%	4,193	
HES Directorate Support	424	402	(22)	(5.2)%	873	
Total	38,661	37,985	(676)	(1.7)%	75,989	

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Subject:	Parks Events Small Grants Scheme – Recommendations for Funding
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the decision taken by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services, under Delegated Authority regarding the applications received in Tranche 2 for events taking place in parks between 1 October 2017 and 31 March 2018.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

3.1	<p>The Parks Events Grant is aimed at encouraging more people to get involved in parks throughout Belfast, to help create a sense of ownership and improve the quality of life for people living in the city. It also aims to encourage communities and organisations to organise their own events in the Council's parks and open spaces. It is fully funded by Belfast City Council and has been in place since 2007.</p>
3.2	<p>The second tranche for 2017/18 of the grant, for activities taking place from 1 October 2017 opened in May 2017. A total of 10 no. applications were received for the Grant which were assessed by the Open Spaces & Active Living (OS&AL) Unit and 4 no. applications met the criteria for an award to be made, as shown in Appendix 1.</p>
3.3	<p>An Independent Assessment Panel reviewed a sample (20%) of the applications was satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and approved the recommendations for awards as shown in Appendix 1. The CGU will continue the administration of the Grant through notification to unsuccessful applicants, draft and distribution of Letters of Offer, holding workshops for grant awarded applicants, facilitation of payments and monitoring of all awards, including financial verification visits.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>The total budget for 2017/18 is £115,000. Tranche 1 - £97,297.50 and Tranche 2 - £10,541. The scheme is managed by staff from the OS&AL Unit and the Community Park Managers/Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>There are no known equality and good relation implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Parks Events Grant Applications 2017/18 - T2.

Appendix 1 - Parks Events Grant Applications 2017/18, T2

Successful Applications							
Organisation	Project Name	Venue	Date	Ward (most Beneficiaries)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens	Safe Communities	Sally Gardens Play Area	15 February 2018	Collin	£2,945.00	2,907.00	
St. Luke's Family Centre	SEN Play Community Fun Day	Drumglass Park	3 November 2017 (date change from 27 October 2017)	Collin	£2,535.00	1,634.00	
Families of The Waterworks	Waterworks Monster Mash	Waterworks	28 October 2017	Oldpark	£3,000.00	3,000.00	
New Lodge Arts	North Belfast Lantern Festival	Alexandra Park	29 - 30 October 2017	Oldpark	£3,000.00	3,000.00	
Unsuccessful Applications							
Organisation	Project Name	Venue	Date	Ward (most Beneficiaries)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Comments
File An Phobail	Draiocht Children's Art Festival	Falls Park	23 - 30 October 2017	Blackmountain	£3,000.00	£0.00	No events permitted in the Park due to ongoing construction works
Edenderry Residents' Association	Hallowe'en Festival	Edenderry Village Green	28 - 31 October 2017	Balmoral	£1,292.66	£0.00	Did not meet 3 of the 4 essential criteria
Theater Village Regeneration Trust	Christmas at Blythefield	Blythefield Park	06 December 2017	Botanic	£2,732.00	£0.00	Awarded £2,233 in T1, minimum award is £1k
Knocknagoney Area Forum	Autumn/Winter Celebrations in Knocknagoney Park	Knocknagoney Linear Park	30 October - 9 December 2017	Ormiston	£835.00	£0.00	Awarded £2,298 in T1, minimum award is £1k
Young At Art	Belfast Children's Festival	Botanic Gardens	9 - 11 March 2018	Oldpark	£3,000.00	£0.00	Ineligible - event includes admission charge
Crossfit Castrum	Parkfit	Various parks	29 July - 6 September 2017	Castle	£4,000.00	£0.00	Event date provided is outside the eligible funding period

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Subject:	Proposal for naming new streets and the continuation of an existing street
Date:	5 th December, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager
Contact Officer:	Roisin Adams, Business Coordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the naming of streets in the City.
2.0	Recommendations
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant the applications, or • Refuse the applications and request that the applicant submits another name 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 the continuation of an existing street name in the City.						
3.3	<table border="1" data-bbox="336 304 1401 461"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 304 699 405">Proposed Continuation of an Existing Road</th> <th data-bbox="699 304 1061 405">Location</th> <th data-bbox="1061 304 1401 405">Applicant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 405 699 461">Grey Castle Manor</td> <td data-bbox="699 405 1061 461">Off Church Road, BT6</td> <td data-bbox="1061 405 1401 461">Fraser Homes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed Continuation of an Existing Road	Location	Applicant	Grey Castle Manor	Off Church Road, BT6	Fraser Homes
Proposed Continuation of an Existing Road	Location	Applicant					
Grey Castle Manor	Off Church Road, BT6	Fraser Homes					
3.4	Grey Castle Manor is an existing street which has been extended by the developer with the construction of nine additional houses.						
3.5	<p data-bbox="272 663 719 696"><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 712 1410 745">There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report.</p> <p data-bbox="272 815 791 848"><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>						
3.6	There are no direct Equality implications.						
4.0	Appendices						
	None						



Subject:	Future Delivery of Enforcement and Penalty Charge Notice Processing for Off Street Car Parks
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To brief members on options for the future delivery of off-street car park enforcement, cash collection, machine maintenance and penalty charge notice processing from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2022.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to the renewal of the Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the provision of off street car parking enforcement and penalty charge notice processing for a further period of 3 years from 1 November 2019 until 31 October

	2022
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that the Transition Committee on 9 December 2015 agreed that Belfast City Council enter into an Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to provide Off Street car parking enforcement and Penalty Charge Notice Processing (PCN) following the transfer of the Off Street car parking function under LGR. Under LGR 30 car parks transferred from DfI to BCC, 17 of which were charged and 13 non-charged. This Agency Agreement initially covered the period 1 April 2015 to 31 October 2016 and given the short term of the agreement it was agreed at the People and Communities Committee of 6 September 2016 that BCC would agree to an extension the Agency Agreement with DfI by a further 3 years taking the agreement up to 31 October 2019. This was consistent with the decision a taken by the other 10 Northern Ireland regional Councils.
3.2	Following the decision by Councils to continue with the Agency Agreement for the 2016-2019 period, the NI Regional Off-Street Car Parking Group, which each of the 11 Councils is represented, recommended to SOLACE, the appointment of consultants to investigate and assess the future delivery options associated with enforcement and PCN processing. AECOM were subsequently appointed via the SCAPE Framework for procurement.
3.3	DfI have confirmed for procurement reasons they need to establish by start of January 2018 if individual Councils wish to extend the Agency Agreement beyond Oct 2019.
3.4	Following consultations with Councils, DfI and service providers, AECOM has completed an analysis of the PCN Income (Estimated-vs-Actual); Comparisons of Traffic Attendant Billed Hours; Private Sector estimated costs; PCN Processing Costs; the experience of Parking Partnerships in English Councils; Council staff costs associated with alternative options; Collaborative Delivery; and Pay on Foot calculations.
3.5	Seven options were considered by AECOM:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renew contract with DfI/NSL. 2. a)Privately Delivered Service excluding debt collection. 2 b)Privately Delivered Service (alternative provider) excluding debt collection. 4. Conversion to Pay on Foot (all charged car parks).

5. Partial conversion to Pay on Foot and remainder Dfl Pay & Display.
6. Bay sensors and Automatic Number Plate Recognition enforcement.
7. Camera Monitoring and manual enforcement.

3.6

AECOM's produced a report the executive summary (Appendix 1) concluded that:

- Overall, Dfl's provision and operation of car park management and the Pay and Display enforcement system offers value for money and that it is considered to be reliable, of good quality and a safe system in terms of delivery and customer confidence together with the advantage of being part of a single enforcement system for on and off-street public sector car parking;
- By engaging with the private sector as part of this study, it is considered that some of the individual elements such as PCN processing could theoretically be delivered at a lower cost than the current arrangement. However, overall, private sector provision of a Pay and Display system may be more expensive given the uncertainties associated with debt collection and the additional staffing resources that may be required by Councils in relation to managing parking and debt collection;
- Any transfer to a private provider may incur transfer costs;
- Councils with Pay on Foot systems operated by Dfl may make considerable savings by changing their operating systems, but this requires further investigation by the parties involved;
- Some larger car parks with significant income from parking charges may benefit from conversion to Pay on Foot barrier systems which may also increase income if removed from the Agency Agreement and operated by Third Party providers. Such systems could potentially provide live parking data;
- For many of the car parks operated by Councils, Pay and Display systems are considered the most economically viable option at this time”;

3.7

The above conclusions apply to the regional 11 Council combined operation, however, as the implications will vary for each Council there is a need to consider each option from a Belfast perspective. Using the estimates within the AECOM report and officers conclude that

	options 2(a), 2(b), 6, and 7 would not likely be economically advantageous at this time over current arrangements or provide value for money to Belfast City Council.
3.8	Options 2(a) and 2 (b) require Councils to retain the existing P&D-based system with a private sector service provider largely replicating the service provided by Dfl with the exception of debt collection. Each Council would be required to employ additional staff and there would be additional costs incurred through the provision of a “clamping” pound and the necessary resources to operate it 6 days per week. Based on AECOM figures it is unlikely that these options would be economically advantageous to the Council.
3.9	Options 6 and 7 represent significant change over the current arrangement, it is estimated that both options would realise less surplus than the current arrangement with Dfl and can be discarded from consideration. However, advancement in technology may make both options more attractive in the future and they should be reviewed in the future.
3.10	Options 4 and 5 considered the conversion of the car parks from the current Pay and Display to a Pay on Foot barrier system and predicted some increased profitability based additional income and the £60K+ per car park initial capital investment being paid back over a 10 year period. These options fail however to take cognisance of fact that 5 of our current charged car parks are held on short term leases with no security of tenure and many of the remaining charged car parks are, consistent with our parking strategy and city regeneration strategy, at risk of redevelopment including for example as part of the York Street interchange. Therefore significant capital investment, particularly considering the assumptions made with respect to increased income, may not be appropriate at this time across many of our car parks.
3.11	It should also be noted there is a high degree of uncertainty with the estimates provided by AECOM as they were unable to segregate the costs of certain services; the number of additional staff and associated costs to Councils in alternative models; and therefore the definable potential savings did not reach the required deminimis level to give confidence to terminate the Agency Agreement with Dfl.
3.12	Officers agree with AECOM's conclusion that <i>“Overall, Dfl’s provision and operation of car park management and the Pay and Display enforcement system offers value for money and that it is considered to be reliable, of good quality and a safe system in terms of delivery and customer confidence together with the advantage of being part of a single enforcement system for on and off-street public sector car parking.”</i> Whilst some individual Councils may

	benefit from changes to the systems currently operated and Belfast may benefit from converting some car parks to Pay on foot Barrier Systems, considering the long term uncertainty around the availability of individual car parks, the figures presented by AECOM would suggest it is likely that the current arrangements provide the most economically advantageous model at this time for the majority of the Councils car parks.
3.13	Members are therefore asked to consider extending the Agency Agreement with DfI for a further 3 years up to end of Oct 2022 with the option to remove individual car parks to trial Pay on Foot barrier systems in some of our owned, higher turnover car parks unaffected by redevelopment proposals. Additional car parks could be converted to pay on foot should those trials prove to be economically advantageous.
3.14	Officers will continue to monitor changes in technology and associated costs that would allow other options to be further explored for potential future consideration.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.15	Should Members agree to the recommendation that BCC renew the Agency Agreement with DfI, the contract costs are likely to be in close proximity to existing costs and there are no major foreseen additional resource implications.
3.16	Additional capital expenditure (approximately £60K per car park) will be required to trial and convert some car parks to Pay on Foot barrier systems with the assumption, based on AECOM estimates, to more than recover costs over a 5 year period. Subsequent reports shall follow to progress this aspect.
	<u>Asset & Other Implications</u>
3.17	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.18	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - AECOM executive Summary

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1.AECOM Parking Consultancy to NI Councils – Executive Summary

Overview of study

Following the transfer of assets on 1st April 2015, the 11 Northern Ireland Councils took on full responsibility for the statutory functions of off- street car parking under the Road Traffic Regulation (NI) Order 1997 and the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005.

The nett income generated by the Department from off-street car parking was removed by Central Government from the budget transferred to Councils for the delivery of other Functions, e.g. Planning. Councils are therefore required to generate this income amount otherwise their off-street car parking operation will run at a deficit.

The functions for which Councils are responsible in relation to off-street car parking include the management and maintenance of over 330 car parks along with the regulation of their use including payment of parking fees, cash collection, cashless payments, enforcement activity and administration and debt collection.

To ensure continuity of service each of the eleven Councils agreed to enter into an agency agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to deliver the full range of car parking services for which each of the eleven Councils paid pre-agreed fees. The current arrangement comprises the enforcement, cash collection, machine maintenance and clamping being carried out on behalf of the Department by their provider NSL (who also provide on-street parking services); with Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing carried out in-house by the Department.

AECOM was appointed by a consortium of the 11 Councils in May 2017 to carry out a review of the current off-street parking operation; to consult with each Council; to look at best practice in parking; and to examine options for future delivery.

AECOM has analysed the financial aspects of the service to understand the extent of costs that are currently paid to DfI as well as parking income. AECOM has considered a wide range of parking solutions with a view to understanding if there are opportunities to provide a more modern, innovative, data-rich and robust parking solution beyond October 2019, which is when the current arrangement is due to end (although it can also be renewed through to 2022).

AECOM has engaged with a number of parking solution providers as part of this study and most have provided indicative cost estimates for their services which have then been brought forward into calculations for the NI Councils' off-street car parks.

AECOM also engaged with a local Council in England that is part of a 'parking partnership' with seven adjacent district Councils. In this arrangement, the parking service is shared amongst the eight authorities with private sector delivery of most of the individual elements. There have been significant economies from utilising this arrangement and by having direct control over the service provider.

AECOM developed a short list of seven options for beyond October 2019. These have been assessed from a financial perspective and a qualitative commentary on the implications has been provided. This financial analysis has been completed assuming that the consortium of 11 Councils remains together and therefore avails of greater buying power and potential economies of scale.

Findings

From the consultation exercise with the Councils, AECOM found that:

- Councils are unhappy with the lack of meaningful performance indicators, information on successful debt collection and vehicle clamping. It was also felt that the PCN processing fee was high.
- Many areas of the existing service are considered to be good, including cash collection and the parking equipment itself. There appear to be mixed views on the cost of the current contract and the arrangements for PCNs.

- Councils want to see improvements to enforcement and using up to date parking technology, where possible. There was also a desire to see live parking information, less bureaucracy, more cashless payments and to be assured that the management system was value for money.
- Common themes that emerged from individual discussions included the need for parking to support town centres and tourism; to address local issues and inappropriate parking behaviour; the general poor condition of the legacy car parks and issues with the £1 for 3/5 hours tariff in some areas.

Through discussions with Dfl it became clear that the current arrangement with Councils takes up a somewhat disproportionate amount of Dfl staff time, although in terms of NSL's resources it is a small proportion overall.

Dfl also confirmed that any future arrangement with the Councils would have to assume the exact same service as is provided currently, with no changes to the costs charged. Dfl also requested that an indication of the Councils' intentions be given by the end of 2017.

From AECOM's financial analysis of the current arrangement it can be concluded that:

- For the financial year 2016/2017 Councils generated total revenue of approximately £8.53m from parking acts alone. The total net income from PCNs for all Councils during the FY16/17 was £1.36m.
- The total service costs for the 11 Councils during the FY16/17 totalled £1.98m. Average costs per Council are around £181k per year. The largest proportion of costs can be attributed to PCN processing charges (41%).
- The overall remainder from parking for all 11 Councils was £7.91m. However as part of Local Government Reform, other responsibilities such as planning were also transferred to Councils, and, as mentioned above, the income expected to be generated from off-street car parking was removed by Central Government from the budget transferred to Councils.
- The current proportion of cashless parking acts is generally low (between 2-9%), with only one Council showing a proportion significantly above this (31%).
- AECOM has also compared the effective revenues per space against the billed Traffic Attendant (TA) patrol hours. It would seem that there is a clearer relationship between increased revenues and increased billed patrol hours for some Councils than for others.. Exceptions would appear to be MEA, ABCBC, FODC, DCSDC and CCGBC who all seem to have paid for more patrol hours than their revenues would suggest is reasonable, when compared to some other Councils. As a result it is recommended that this is queried with Dfl.

From AECOM's financial analysis of the potential options it can be concluded that:-

- Overall, Dfl's provision and operation of car park management and the Pay and Display enforcement system offers value for money. It is considered to be reliable, of good quality and a safe system in terms of delivery and customer confidence together with the advantage of being part of a single enforcement system for on and off-street public sector car parking;
- By engaging with the private sector as part of this study, it is considered that some of the individual elements such as PCN processing could theoretically be delivered at a lower cost than the current arrangement. However, overall, private sector provision of a Pay and Display system may be more expensive given the uncertainties associated with debt collection and the additional staffing resources that may be required by Councils in relation to managing parking and debt collection;
- Any transfer to a private provider may incur transfer costs;
- Councils with Pay on Foot systems operated by Dfl may make considerable savings by changing their operating systems, but this requires further investigation by the parties involved;
- Some larger car parks with significant income from parking charges may benefit from conversion to Pay on Foot barrier systems which may also increase income if removed from the Agency Agreement and operated by Third Party providers. Such systems could potentially provide live parking data;
- For many of the car parks operated by Councils, Pay and Display systems are considered the most economically viable option at this time

Through regular and ongoing discussions amongst the Off-Street Parking Regional Group and with AECOM, it is concluded that:

1. If the £1 for 3/5 hours tariff, currently in place in eight out of 11 Council areas was removed, there could be uplifts in the use of cashless parking and also revenue by way of less payment avoidance and ticket transfer, although this has not been directly accounted for in the AECOM assessments.
2. Increasing the proportion of cashless revenue could save Councils money in terms of cash collection and also increase user confidence by making it easier to pay for the parking duration that they need. Councils should more actively market the cashless payment facility.
3. The main reason why car park users are able to successfully appeal a PCN is due to them subsequently producing a valid paid parking ticket. However there is anecdotal evidence that users are passing paid tickets to each other in order to aid appeal. Councils still have to pay the full PCN processing cost to DfI, even if the appeal is successful. This situation could be avoided by requiring users to enter their vehicle registration number for all parking acts. This is already done for cashless parking, however converting the existing Pay & Display machines to alphanumeric versions would also address this, although this has not been directly costed within the AECOM study.
4. The difference in TA patrol hours that were billed in FY16/17 to each of the Councils should be presented to DfI and an explanation provided as to the differences.
5. Key Performance Indicators need to be developed further in order to assist with the delivery of the arrangement going forward, and this is being progressed by a sub-group within the Regional Group.
6. Clamping should be discussed further with DfI in order to identify current issues and to potentially provide a more effective service for local Councils in the future.

The overall conclusions are that:-

1. Councils extend the existing Agency Agreement with the DfI for the period 1 November 2019 – 31 October 2022;
2. Councils retain the ability to remove and add additional car parks at any time;
3. Councils consider the removal of individual car parks from the Agency Agreement in cases where Pay on Foot is considered a more economically advantageous system. (There may be an opportunity for a number of Councils to work collaboratively to tender for provision of Pay on Foot systems);
4. Councils should continue to monitor new technologies with a view to encouraging greater use of these by DfI and identifying improvement opportunities, post 1st November 2022;
5. Through the Regional Off-Street Parking Group, Councils should seek to utilise the data analysis produced by AECOM as a means of improving and reviewing the service provided by DfI and to explore opportunities to support changes in legislation required to address some of the issues highlighted, e.g. current requirements for clamping. Areas also identified for improvement include more effective use of clamping to recover bad debt; the conversion of Pay and Display machines to alpha-numeric in order to reduce the potential of fraud through presenting a valid ticket from a Third Party as proof of payment; increasing cashless payments; reviewing and introducing KPIs in respect of TA deployment and performance; and
6. Those Councils operating a £1 for 3 or 5 hour parking tariff should review this.

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Date: 20/11/17

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Subject:	Age Sector Platform Belfast Pensioners Parliament
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Age Sector Platform have asked the Council for support with the Belfast Pensioners Parliament 2018 and have sent a proposal to the Council asking the Council for a contribution of £3,000 and the use of The Great Hall for a day in March 2018 for the parliament. The funding is required to cover the cost of the catering on the day, conference materials and transport costs. Members are asked to consider this request and agree any support to be provided.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider agreeing to contribute £3,000 and use of the City Hall to Age Sector Platform to support the Belfast Pensioners Parliament in March 2018.

3.0	Main Report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Belfast Agenda states that people over 60 already make up one fifth of our population and it is forecast to increase dramatically to over one third by 2050. We need to celebrate this achievement but also plan ahead so that older people live life to the full for as long as possible.</p> <p>Members will be aware that The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership within BSP is currently developing a new 3 year Age-friendly Belfast Action Plan. Council officers have a leading role within HASP and it is anticipated will presented the draft Action Plan to members in the new year for consideration.</p> <p>The Age-friendly planning process ensures that older people have a voice and shape the services and decisions affecting their lives. We have well established ongoing engagement processes in place with older people which we use to identify priorities and to develop our action plans to secure improvements that will make Belfast more age friendly. As part of this the Council holds an annual Age-friendly Belfast Conference and age friendly questions are included in council residence surveys.</p> <p>The Greater Belfast Seniors Forum represent hundreds of older peoples groups across the City and officers attend all meetings. There is an annual joint meeting of the Greater Belfast Seniors forum and the All Party Reference Group on Older People where the older people can directly engage with elected members and in recent years the Lord Mayors' have hosted the Christmas Meeting of the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum in The Lord Mayor's Parlour.</p> <p>In addition AgeNI were also commissioned to consult with some of the harder to reach older peoples groups (disabled, carers, LGBT, BME and people living in residential care) using peer facilitators.</p>
<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Age Sector Platform</u></p> <p>Age Sector Platform represents a strong unified voice for older people in Northern Ireland. It is the charity responsible for the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament.</p> <p>Age Sector Platform has a membership of individuals and older people's groups across Northern Ireland, representing approximately 200,000 people.</p>

<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p>	<p><u>Local Parliaments</u></p> <p>There are plans to hold a parliament in each of the eleven council areas. These parliaments provide older people from across Northern Ireland with a local forum to discuss concerns they have in greater detail. They allow both local and regional issues to be identified, debated and voted upon. These events also offer an opportunity to provide information on local services and facilities.</p> <p><u>Benefits</u></p> <p>The Belfast parliament event will be attended by up to 100 older people and will be a mutually beneficial partnership with Belfast City Council that complements The Belfast Agenda and Age- friendly Belfast programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling meaningful consultation and engagement between older people and Belfast City Council - with a particular focus on 'hard to reach' older people. ▪ Providing opportunity for older people to engage with their elected representatives on Belfast City Council and to inform The Belfast Agenda. ▪ Age Sector Platform recognises the range of progressive activity taking place as part of Age Friendly Belfast and believes that the local parliament has a role to play in complementing and supporting this and that the parliament could become a key component in the Age Friendly Belfast calendar. <p>It will enable Councillors and city council staff to hear the opinions and views of older people and support community participation by older people – increasing their confidence and supporting social inclusion.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The £3,000 can be funded within the existing budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Proposal from Age Sector Platform</p>

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Proposal to Belfast City Council



Local Parliament – Belfast Council Area

About Age Sector Platform

Age Sector Platform (ASP) was established in 2008 to provide a strong, unified voice for older people. Since we were established we have grown steadily in size and reputation and today, through our network of over 100 individual members, 34 group members and connections to other age sector organisations, we are connected to over 200,000 older people (age 60+) across Northern Ireland.

Our objectives are:

- To **engage** with older people, helping them to make their voice heard
- To **enable** older people to advocate on their own behalf
- To **empower** older people so they can change their lives for the better

Everything ASP does is focused on recognising, maintaining and upholding the rights and dignity of older people to be viewed as equal and not as second class citizens. We work to ensure older people's right to independence, equal participation and self-fulfilment and to exercise choice and control in all aspects of their lives.

A key strength and characteristic of ASP is that we are led and directed by older people. Our Trustees are all older people who collectively represent the broad spectrum of our beneficiaries and share their lived experience across the main issues and challenges they face.

Local Parliaments

ASP is continually responding to direction and opinion from older people as we seek to develop and enhance the impact of the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament.

A survey conducted by ASP in 2014 highlighted that only 1 in 10 older people knew how their council operates or considered that their council engages with them effectively¹. Between February – April 2016, ASP undertook a 'pilot programme' of 'local parliaments' in each of the 11 new council areas, including Belfast City Council. A total of **810** older people participated in these events.

The pilot programme was extremely successful and we are keen to build on this. In addition to running the annual 2 day event, we want to run 'local parliaments' in each council area in early 2018. These will be one day events.

¹ Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament Survey, 2014

Rationale for Belfast Local Parliament

- **Increase number of older people participating in the pensioners parliament 'process'**: The annual 2- day Belfast Parliament is over subscribed. Many older people are therefore currently being denied an opportunity to be involved.
- Connect with 'hard to reach' older people in communities across the Belfast council area.
- Enable older people to engage with Belfast City Council and actively influence and contribute to **The Belfast Agenda** strategy and support the **Age Friendly Belfast** initiative
- Help to build membership of ASP

Benefits

The local parliament event, attended by up to 100 older people, will be a mutually beneficial partnership with Belfast City Council that complements **The Belfast Agenda** and **Age Friendly Belfast** programme:

- Enabling meaningful consultation and engagement between older people and Belfast City Council - with a particular focus on 'hard to reach' older people.
- Providing opportunity for older people to engage with their elected representatives on Belfast City Council and to inform **The Belfast Agenda**.
- Age Sector Platform recognises the range of progressive activity taking place as part of Age Friendly Belfast and we believe that the local parliament has a role to play in complementing and supporting this and that the parliament could become a key component in the Age Friendly Belfast calendar.
- Enable Councillors and city council staff to hear the opinions and views of older people and support community participation by older people – increasing their confidence and supporting social inclusion.

Our 'Ask'

We would ask Belfast City Council to give consideration to making Belfast City Hall available to host the Belfast parliament and also make a financial contribution **of up to £3,000** towards the associated costs of the event i.e. catering, printing etc.

Thank You For Giving This Proposal Consideration

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Subject:	ParkLife Education Programme - Evaluation
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the ParkLife Education Programme and in particular, present an evaluation undertaken of the Programme by Queen's University Belfast, for their consideration and agreement.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ note the contents of the report and the ongoing success of the ParkLife Education Programme; ▪ consider and endorse the ParkLife Evaluation report including key findings and recommendations; and ▪ support the related publicity.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The ParkLife Education Programme uses and promotes the Council's parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning. The Programme has been in operation since 2007 and is delivered under contract, by Ulster Wildlife, along with Council staff. In 2016, Belfast Healthy Cities awarded the Programme a 'Highly Commended' in the Healthy Living category which focuses on initiatives that encourage and enable people of all ages to live healthier lives and actively participate in society.</p> <p>The Programme has three main elements: schools, Saturday Clubs and community groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervised sessions are provided to 42 no. primary schools in Belfast whereby children walk to their local park where they learn about nature, the environment, parks' heritage and lots more. The Programme has direct links to the Curriculum and is delivered to Key Stage 2 children; ▪ Saturday Clubs take place on a monthly basis in 6 no. parks across the city and children along with their families take part in themed activities; and ▪ Educational sessions are held with 10 no. community groups in their local park with activities tailored to suit the needs and abilities of each group. <p>It was considered an opportune time to examine the effectiveness of the Programme in order to establish an evidence base for the benefits of outdoor learning as well as help guide our approach in the future delivery of the Programme. Queens University Belfast was commissioned as external evaluators to examine the school element of the Programme. The evaluation was designed to investigate the stated Primary and Secondary outcomes of the Programme. The Primary outcomes were that as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks; ▪ have learned more about their local park; and ▪ be more connected to nature. <p>The Secondary outcomes were that, as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability; ▪ have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors; and ▪ rate their health and well-being as higher.

Key Findings

3.2 The evaluation was undertaken between September 2016 and June 2017 in eight schools and comprised the completion of two on-line questionnaires. A total of 154 children completed the questionnaire before they took part in the Programme and a total of 143 children completed the questionnaire, after they had finished the Programme.

3.3 The findings indicated that the ParkLife Education Programme had a positive impact for all of the Programme outcomes measured and was a positive experience for the children who attended it. In summary, the post programme questionnaire indicated that the children:

- had a higher frequency of visits to their local park, were going there to enjoy nature and more of them mentioned outdoor/nature activities as their favourite activities outside of school;
- had an increase in learning from the knowledge based questions which were designed to test the main knowledge content of the Programme;
- were more positive about their connection and enjoyment of nature;
- had more positive attitudes to environmental sustainability;
- had more positive attitudes to learning outdoors and approximately 50% responses included being happy, good, fun loved/liked it and were excited;
- felt that the Programme had a beneficial effect on their health and well-being in that they were more positive about their energy levels, how they felt and their ability to pay attention in school;
- enjoyed learning outdoors (93%), the Programme was fun; and
- when asked for ideas on how they would teach outdoors, their responses reflected how the ParkLife Education programme is currently taught.

A copy of the evaluation report is included in Appendix A.

Recommendations

3.4 Based on the findings presented, the report recommends that:

- learning outdoors through the ParkLife Education Programme is a very positive experience for children and should be regarded as an example of good practice;
- the Programme should continue to be delivered in its current model so that many more children can participate and benefit from it; and
- the Council should consider sharing their learning from the Programme and the report with other Councils and organisations.

In relation to future research, the report recommends that:

- this evaluation should be repeated at a later date to increase the sample size, to

	<p>examine the Programme in more depth, build a larger evidence base and take into account potential further outcomes not previously considered; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a qualitative study such as focus groups, with the children should be incorporated in the evaluation to enable a deeper analysis of their understanding of the Programme and its impact on them. <p><u>Next Steps</u></p>
3.5	<p>Given the noteworthy findings from this evaluation, it is important that the ParkLife Education Programme continues in its current format and that its value and significance is communicated widely, as good practice. Publicity for the report is scheduled to take place in January 2018 and the report will be circulated to relevant organisations.</p>
3.6	<p>Whilst the evaluation provides a good baseline for demonstrating the cognitive, psychological and behavioural benefits of outdoor learning, it is important that a follow-up evaluation is completed to allow a much deeper investigation into the impact of the Programme as well as strengthening this evidence base. If Members agree to this recommendation, the evaluation could be scheduled to take place in the 2018/19 academic year.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>The annual budget for the ParkLife Education Programme is £80,000. The cost of a subsequent evaluation of the Programme is approximately £3,000 and can be accommodated from within existing budgets. The Programme is managed by the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>There are no known equality and good relation implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Report for Belfast City Council: An Evaluation of the ParkLife Education Programme by Queen’s University Belfast



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**REPORT FOR BELFAST CITY COUNCIL:
AN EVALUATION OF THE PARKLIFE
EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

DR KAREN KERR

OCTOBER 2017

Report for Belfast City Council: An evaluation of the ParkLife Education Programme

Karen Kerr

School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast

October 2017

How to Cite this Report

Any citation of this report should use the following reference:

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Glossary of terms

Closed question: a question with a defined set of responses to choose from. For example; yes, no, not sure or strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree.

Cohort: a group of people with a common characteristic. In the case of the current study, this refers to the group of children involved in the ParkLife Education programme.

KIDSCREEN 10: this is a set of health related quality of life questions for use with children and adolescents. It was designed by Ravens-Sieberer et al. (2010).

Likert scale: a group of questions used to ascertain people's attitudes towards something. For example, strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree.

Mean scores: A mean is the same as an average score.

N= in this study, this is shorthand for 'number of respondents'. For example n=124 means that 124 children answered the specific question being presented.

Open question: a question that does not have a defined set of responses to choose from. Respondents are presented with a blank space to provide their own answer.

Paired samples t-test: a t-test is a statistical analysis used to compare mean scores from a set of results (or answers to questions) to see how they are related and, in relating to this study, whether or not differences in the mean scores are a result of chance or a result of engagement with the programme. A paired t-test is used to compare two mean scores where you have two samples (i.e. pre and post responses) in which observations in one sample can be paired with observations in the other sample.

Reliability: there are various different reliability constructs and measures in research. In the current study, a statistical test called Cronbach's alpha was used. This measures the internal consistency of a group of questions (a scale) to see how closely related a set of questions are as a group. In other words, if they belong together (are about the same thing) and have been understood by the respondents as belonging together.

Scale: a group of questions that belong together as they are about the same concept and/or are measuring the same construct.

Statistically significant difference: when a result is not attributed to chance. In other words, in relation to this study when there is a difference between responses before and after the programme and it is very unlikely to have occurred because of the chance – it can be said to be attributed to the intervention or programme. This can be in a positive or negative direction. In this study, a positive direction shows a beneficial impact of the programme.

Subscales: this is a smaller set of questions with a larger scale, which are about part of a concept and/or are measuring a theme within a larger scale.

Executive summary

An evaluation of the Belfast City Council's (BCC) ParkLife Education Programme was carried out between September 2016 and June 2017. In total, 154 children in eight schools in the Belfast area took part in the evaluation for the programme. They completed pre-programme and post-programme online questionnaires which included a range of measures designed to investigate the primary and secondary outcomes of the programme. The results indicate a positive impact for all of the programme outcomes and engagement with the ParkLife Education Programme was a positive experience for the children involved.

The ParkLife Education Programme is managed by Belfast City Council and is delivered by Ulster Wildlife along with Council staff. It is an education programme which uses and promotes the Council's parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning and is designed to encourage children and their families to get outdoors and explore their local parks. The ParkLife Education Programme has three main elements: schools, Saturday Clubs and community groups. This evaluation focuses on the school element of the programme.

A total of 154 children completed the pre-programme online questionnaire and 143 children completed the post-programme questionnaire. In total, 60% of the children are girls, 40% are boys and all of the children were aged between 8 and 10 years old. The majority were born in Northern Ireland or Ireland (91%) and only 41% of the children said they had lessons outdoors before. The majority of children said 'no', they did not know anyone who had taken part in the programme before or responded 'don't know' (86% in total).

In relation to engagement with parks, in the post-programme questionnaire, more children selected the options which represent a higher frequency of visits to their park (for example, every day) and fewer children recorded 'Never'. More children also reported going to the park with their family, friends and with their teacher and to take part in more activities. Of particular note is the increase in the percentage of children who reported going to the park to 'enjoy nature' (pre = 33%, post = 48%) and to 'play' (pre = 61%, post = 80%). In relation to the children's favourite activities outside school, there was an increase in the percentage of children who mentioned outdoor/ nature activities (pre=0, post=12%). This is a noteworthy finding given that the children were responding to an open question and had the choice to write whatever they wanted in the response space. More children gave correct responses to each of the knowledge based questions designed to test the main knowledge content of the programme.

The children rated their connection to nature, overall and across all subscales, as higher in the post-programme questionnaire. In other words, the children were more positive about their general connection to nature, their empathy for creatures, their sense of oneness with nature, their sense of responsibility for nature and their enjoyment of nature. It is particularly good that there was a positive change in all these areas. Whilst the children in this study had a slightly higher score in most areas (with the exception of 'sense of responsibility') in comparison to a

national baseline (Kerr, 2015), their scores on the post-programme questionnaire were much higher than their scores on their pre-questionnaire and in comparison to all areas of the baseline.

The children's answers were more positive for eight out of 11 items relating to attitudes to environmental sustainability. In particular, there was a statistically significant positive difference for the question related to nature being strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles and the question related to people treating nature very badly. When asked to write down a problem happening in the environment 'at the moment', the children's responses on the post-programme questionnaire evidenced a greater variety of issues. For example, whilst there was more of a focus on littering/rubbish/dirt/trash and animal cruelty/dying in the pre and post-programme questionnaires the children also recorded wider issues such as animals having no food or homes, being endangered/not free and that bugs and plants are being harmed. They also focused more on pollution in the post-programme questionnaire. This is noteworthy given that this question was an open response item and the children had the choice to write any response in the answer space.

The children's answers were more positive for four out of five items relating to attitudes to learning outdoors. In particular, there was a statistically significant positive difference for two questions related to whether or not they liked learning outdoors and if they thought it was too difficult. When asked to record a word which best describes how they feel about learning outdoors, a higher percentage of responses were positive in the post-programme questionnaire (92.8%) compared with the pre-programme questionnaire (83.7%). For example, approximately 50% of the post-programme responses related to being happy, that learning outdoors is 'good' or 'fun' and that they loved it/liked it and were excited. An increase in open responses is noteworthy, as children could have responded in any way, given that there were no set response options for this question.

The children's answers were more positive for nine out of 10 items relating to health and well-being. In particular, the children were statistically significantly more positive about their energy levels, how they feel and if they are able to pay attention in school at the end of the programme. These are positive results and demonstrate the impact of the programme on the children's perceptions of their health and well-being.

When asked several questions about their experiences and reflections on the ParkLife Education Programme, the children were very positive, with 93% saying they enjoyed learning outdoors during the programme with 93% of subsequent open responses also being positive and mainly focused on how fun the programme was and the learning which took place. Again, this is noteworthy given that the children were presented with an open response box and could have chosen to write anything. When asked about their two best memories of the programme, 96.4% of the open responses were positive and the children talked about a wide range of specific activities which they took part in. For example, the most common responses were about 'learning' (animals/bugs/nature), 'digging/for worms', finding/collecting/looking at mini beasts/bugs and feeling/seeing things. All of these activities are a major part of the ParkLife Education Programme and the children remember them very well and fondly.

When asked if there were any problems when they were learning outdoors, 82% of the children who responded said there were no problems and, in a follow up open question, the majority

of children said there were no problems. When asked if they still have worries about learning outdoors, after the programme, 64% of the comments were 'none/nothing/liked it' and of the 26% of negative comments, only 17% could be related to the learning (17 comments). The majority of these comments were not about the ParkLife education programme but were about environmental or animals cruelty issues (9 comments, 9%), worries about 'getting things wrong' (7 comments, 7%), getting hurt/stung (5 comments, 5%) or being scared/worried/didn't like it (5 comments, 5%). Many of the comments relating to how the children would teach in the outdoors were a reflection of how the ParkLife Education Programme was taught, indicating that they were positive about how it was delivered.

As a result of the positive findings from this evaluation, it is apparent that learning outdoors in local parks through the ParkLife Education Programme, is a very positive experience for children across all the primary outcomes measured (Spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks; Have learned more about their local park; Be more connected to nature). It was also a very positive experience across all the secondary outcomes measured (Have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability, Have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors, Rate their health and well-being as higher). As a result of the findings, the ParkLife Education Programme should be considered as good practice and so the programme should continue to be delivered in its current model so many more children can benefit. Belfast City Council should consider sharing their learning from the programme and this report with other councils and organisations. It is also recommended that this evaluation be continued with subsequent cohorts to increase the sample size, to look in more depth at the programme and to build a bigger evidence base (to include a qualitative study) as well as to consider potential further outcomes not considered in the current study.

Background

This report presents findings from an evaluation of the Belfast City Council's (BCC) ParkLife Education Programme which ran between September 2016 and June 2017. In total, 169 children in eight schools in the Belfast area took part in the evaluation for the programme. They completed pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires which included a range of measures designed to investigate the primary and secondary outcomes of the programme.

This report will outline the background to the ParkLife Education Programme and its evaluation to include details on the sample, the measures used for each of the outcomes under consideration, the findings as well as conclusions and recommendations.

1.1 The Parklife Education Programme

The ParkLife Education Programme is managed by Belfast City Council and is delivered by Ulster Wildlife along with Council staff. It is an education programme which uses and promotes the Council's parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning and is designed to encourage children and their families to get outdoors and explore their local parks. The concept behind the programme is for children to:

- care for their local park
- learn about their local park
- meet new friends
- interact with other children
- play and exercise
- enjoy the fresh air, and
- become self-reliant

The ParkLife Education Programme has three main elements: schools, Saturday Clubs and community groups. This evaluation focuses on the school element of the programme whereby supervised sessions in parks are provided to schools throughout the year. The children walk to their local park where they can learn about a range of topics such as:

- animal and bird survival
- how trees change with the seasons, and
- history and heritage in our parks.

The school element of the programme consists of five sessions with each school throughout the school year. Two sessions are classroom based whilst the remaining three sessions take place in the local park. The programme is designed to be closely linked to the curriculum and is delivered to Key Stage two children (aged between 8 and 11) in 40 schools across Belfast. The evaluation presented here included a sample of eight schools who took part in the programme between September 2016 and June 2017.

1.2 The Evaluation

Queen's University Belfast, acting as external evaluators, and commissioned by Belfast City Council to examine the effectiveness of their ParkLife Education Programme, carried out the evaluation presented in this report. The evaluation comprised two online questionnaires: one carried out by the children before they took part in the programme (September 2016) and one carried out after the programme was complete (June 2017).

The evaluation was designed to investigate the stated primary and secondary outcomes of the ParkLife Education Programme. The Primary outcomes were that, as a result of taking part in the programme, the children will:

- Spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks
- Have learned more about their local park
- Be more connected to nature

The secondary outcomes were that, as a result of taking part in the ParkLife Education Programme, the children will:

- Have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability
- Have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors
- Rate their health and well-being as higher

In order to investigate these outcomes a range of measures were included in the questionnaire. The outcomes, matched to the corresponding measures are outlined in Table 1 (overleaf). Several background factors were also included in the questionnaire: age, gender, school and country of birth. The children were also asked if they have had lessons in the outdoors before and, if yes, where it was and what they did. They were also asked if they knew anyone who had previously taken part in the ParkLife Education Programme and, if so, who it is.

In the post-programme online questionnaire the children were also asked to evaluate the programme for themselves with a specific set of questions:

- Did you enjoy learning outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme? Why or why not?
- After the ParkLife Education Programme, what are your two best memories of learning outdoors?
- During the ParkLife Education Programme, were there any problems when you were learning outdoors? If so, what were they and how were they put right?
- Now that the ParkLife Education Programme is over, what worries do you still have about learning outdoors?
- If you were running the ParkLife Education Programme, how would you teach in the outdoors?

Outcome	Measures/questions
Primary outcomes	
Spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of park visits • Activities you do in your park • Favourite activity outside school
Have learned more about their local park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple choice questions directly related to the programme content
Be more connected to nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to Nature Index (Cheng and Monroe, 2010)
Secondary outcomes	
Have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Ecological Paradigm scale for children (adapted from Manoli, Johnson and Dunlap, 2007) • Write down a problem that's happening in the environment at the moment
Have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes to learning outdoors scale (adapted from Kerr, 2014) • Word to describe how you feel about learning outdoors
Rate their health and well-being as higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIDSCREEN 10 (Ravens-Sieberer et al., 2010)

Table 1: An outline of the measures used in the evaluation, matched to the primary and secondary outcomes for the ParkLife Education Programme.

A complete list of all the questions, scales and answer choices are listed in Appendix 1. Section 2 will present the findings from the measures used to examine the primary outcomes, section 3 considered the findings related to the secondary outcomes. The children's responses to the questions asking them to evaluate the programme are presented in Section 4 whilst Section 5 brings together the key findings and recommendations.

1.3 The sample

In total, 169 children took part in the evaluation, across eight schools in the Belfast area. A total of 154 children completed the pre-programme online questionnaire and 143 children completed the post-programme questionnaire. The difference in the number of responses between the pre-programme questionnaire and post-programme questionnaire was caused by absence on the day of testing and, in the case of one small school, withdrawal from the post-evaluation due to issues around potential closure of the school. Of the children who completed the pre-programme questionnaire:

- 60% of the children are girls, 40% are boys. A difference in the gender balance can be explained by the fact that one of the large schools has a girls-only intake.
- All of the schools were in the Belfast or Greater Belfast area
- 54% of the children recorded that they were 8 years old, 44% said they were 9 years old, 1% said they were 10 years old and a further 1% reported that they were 11 years old.
- 83% said they were born in Northern Ireland, 8% said they were born in the Republic of Ireland/Ireland with a 1% representation from each of the following countries: Algeria, England, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Poland, Sudan, Syria. A further

1% of the children recorded 'I don't know' when asked which country they were born in.

- 41% of the children said they had lessons outdoors before, 35% said they had not and 24% responded 'don't know'. Of the children who responded 'yes', 20 said they had lessons in a local park, 12 said the school grounds, six at a club, four on holidays/outside Belfast, three with family, two in a forest and two in a museum/planetarium. Of the children who responded 'yes', 24 said they learned about animals/plants/nature, seven said PE, four said it was other school content (e.g. reading, maths), two said playing and one child said they went camping.
- 50% of the children said they did not know anyone who took part in the ParkLife Education programme before, 36% responded 'don't know'. 14% said they did know someone with 6% saying this person/these people were 'a friend', 6% saying it was a family member, 1% saying 'my class' and 1% saying 'another class in school'. These findings would suggest that the majority of children who took part in the evaluation were not aware of the ParkLife Education Programme before they took part.

1.4 Statistical reliability and analyses

The raw data was uploaded into and analysed in a Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) file. All calculations of mean scores and statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS. The statistical reliability of the relevant scales (groups of questions) was conducted using Cronbach's alpha coefficient which is used for 'multi-item scales' and considers the internal consistency of the scale (Cohen, Manion and Morrison, 2011, p.640). As a guide, a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.60 to 0.69 is marginally/minimally reliable, 0.70 to 0.79 is reliable, 0.80 to 0.90 is highly reliable and >0.90 is very highly reliable (Cohen et al., 2011).

The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the Connection to Nature scale for the current data set (pre-programme questionnaire) was $\alpha=0.90$. The Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the four subscales were also calculated. These were $\alpha=0.82$ for the Enjoyment of nature subscale, $\alpha=0.79$ for the Empathy for creatures subscale, $\alpha=0.62$ for the Sense of Oneness subscale and $\alpha=0.51$ for the Sense of responsibility subscale. This means that the Connection to Nature scale and all four subscales can be considered to have acceptable internal consistency for presentation as scales in this report.

The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for Attitudes to learning outdoors scale was $\alpha=0.51$ which is borderline reliable as a scale and will be presented as such in this report. However, readers should interpret the findings related to the mean scores for this scale with caution as the reliability score falls slightly short of the recommended value ($\alpha=0.60$).

The other scales: attitudes to environmental sustainability and KIDSCREEN 10 did not evidence high enough reliability scores and so these will be presented item by item in the relevant sections.

For the purposes of this report, other analyses were conducted using SPSS for the quantitative questions (with fixed responses, whereby children select from the responses given). These included descriptive statistics (percentage of responses, mean scores, standard deviation) and/or t-tests, where relevant, to look for statistically significant differences between

responses at pre and post-test. Statistically significant differences can be in a positive or negative direction. All of the statistically significant results for the ParkLike Education Programme, presented in this report, were in a positive direction meaning the impact reported were positive. Conducting such tests allows for comparisons to be drawn between responses given by the children before they took part in the ParkLife Education Programme and after they took part.

Several questions had open responses (a free space to write their own response). For these questions, the responses were themed and coded using an iterative process similar to the process of qualitative data analysis outlined by Chi (1997). In other words, the children's comments/responses were 'grouped' according to similarity and the process of coding and categorisation resulted in constructs taken from the children's answers to the questions in the online questionnaire.

Primary outcomes

3.1 Spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks

In order to evaluate whether or not the programme had an impact on the children’s level of engagement with their local park, responses to the following questions were analysed:

- How often do you go to your park? (*One response from: Never, About once a year, About once every six months, About once a month, A few times a week, Every day*)
- When you go to your park, who do you go there with? (*Multiple responses could be chosen from: On my own, With my family, With my friends, With school [my teacher], With a club, Other*)
- What activities do you do in your park? (*Multiple responses could be chosen from: Play, Go for a walk, Ride a bike, Enjoy nature, Meet friends, Play sports, Take a shortcut, Attend events, Walk the dog, Attend clubs, I don't know, Other*)
- What is your favourite activity outside school? (*Open response, children were free to write whatever they wanted in a blank box*)

Figure 1 presents the **percentage of responses** for the question related to how often they go to their park, both in the pre and post questionnaire.

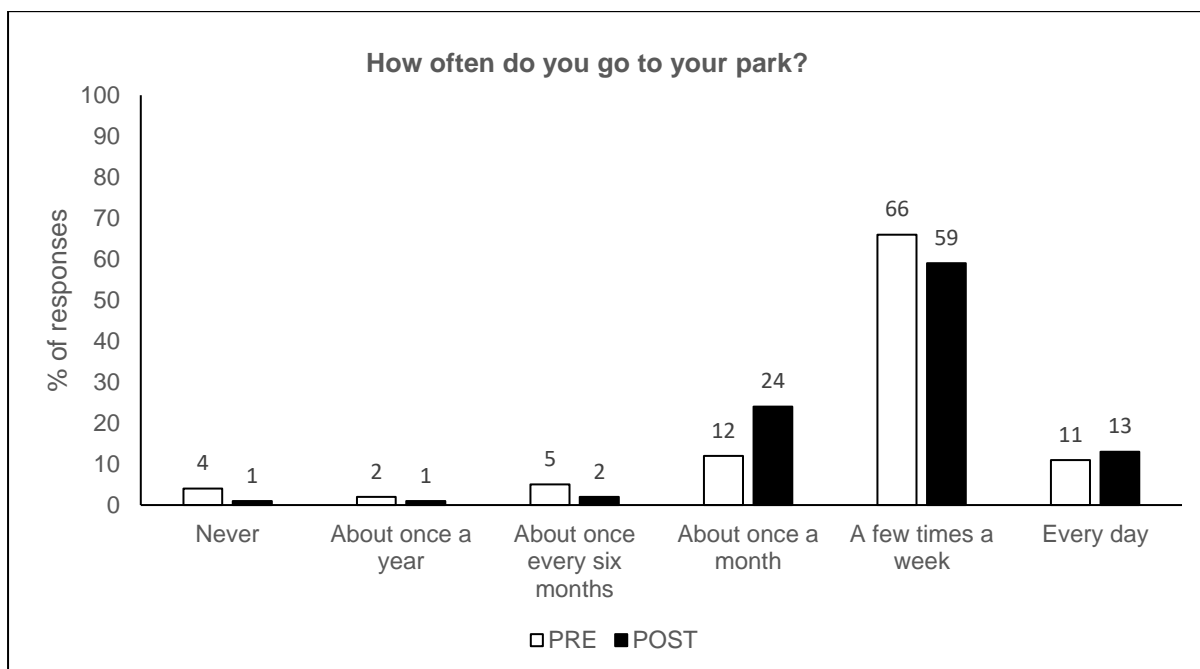


Figure 1: A bar graph to show the percentage of responses for frequency of park visits (pre and post). n=149 (pre), 140 (post)

Figure 2 shows the children’s selections with regard to who they go to the park with, both before they took part in the ParkLife Education Programme (pre) and after (post).

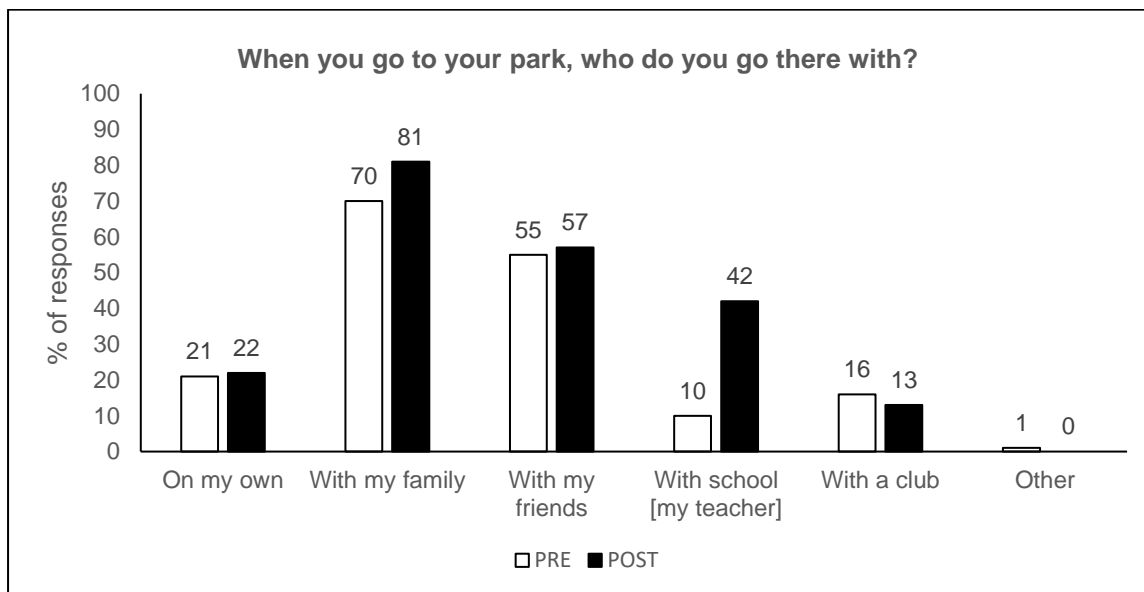


Figure 2: A bar graph to show the percentage of responses for who the children go to the park with (pre and post). n=154 (pre), 143 (post)

Figure 3 presents the findings related to the activities the children do in their park to show what they selected before they took part in the ParkLife Education Programme (pre) and after (post).

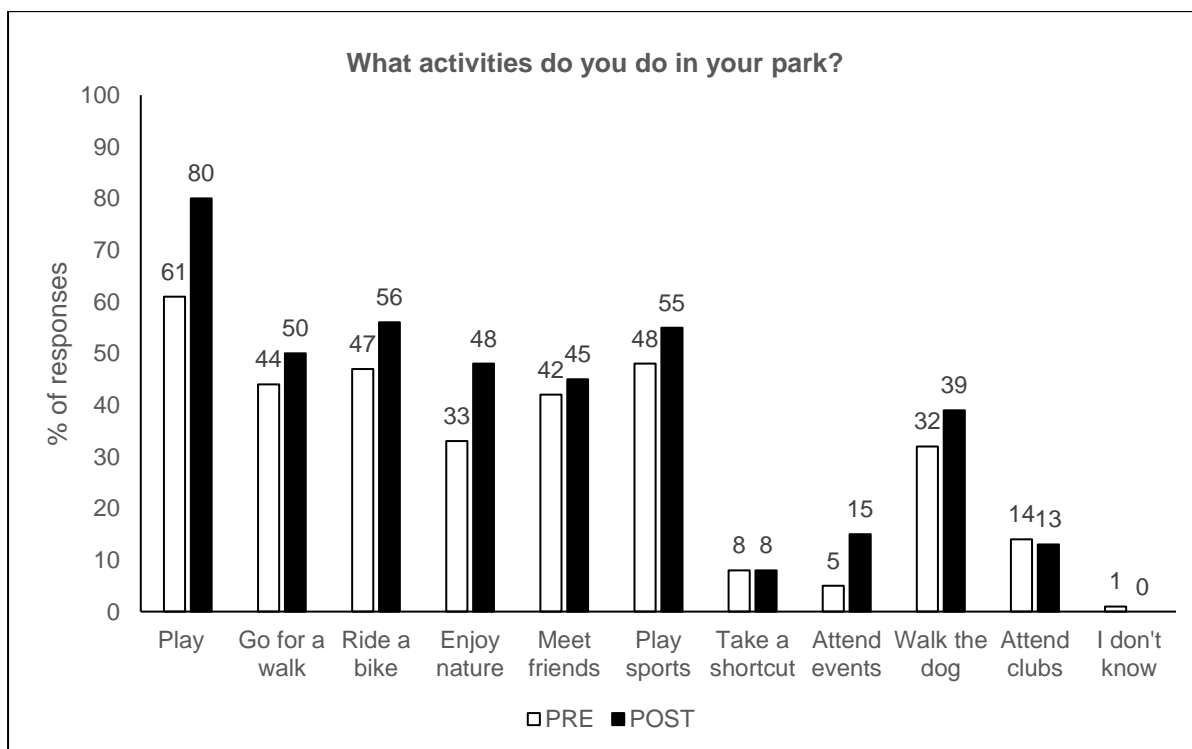


Figure 3: A bar graph to show the percentage of responses for activities in the park (pre and post). n=154 (pre), 143 (post)

Children also responded to the open question 'What is your favourite activity outside school?' Table 2 presents their responses, comparing pre and post responses.

Activity	PRE		POST	
	Frequency of response	% of responses	Frequency of response	% of responses
Football	40	26.3	31	20.8
Other sports/sporting games	40	26.3	35	23.5
Playing (generally/with pets)	13	8.6	8	5.4
'Playground' games	12	7.9	20	13.4
Spending time with friends/family	9	5.9	9	6.0
Going to/playing in the park	8	5.3	6	4.0
Screen time (computers and TV)	8	5.3	11	7.4
Cycling/bike activities	6	3.9	1	0.7
Art/crafts/baking	5	3.3	3	2.0
Don't know/nothing/other	5	3.3	3	2.0
Martial arts/boxing	4	2.6	1	0.7
Reading/writing/maths	2	1.3	3	2.0
Outdoor/nature activities	0	0	18	12.1
TOTAL	152		149	

Table 2: A summary of the children’s responses to ‘What is your favourite activity outside school?’ (pre and post)

These results indicate that, after the ParkLife Education programme, more children selected the options which represent a higher frequency of visits to their park ('a few times a week' and 'Every day') and fewer children recorded 'Never'. More children reported going to the park with their family, friends and with their teacher in the post-programme questionnaire. More children also reported going to the park for almost all of the listed activities. Of particular note is the increase in the percentage of children who reported going to the park to 'enjoy nature' (pre = 33%, post = 48%) and to 'play' (pre = 61%, post = 80%). In relation to the children’s favourite activities outside school, of particular note is the increase in the percentage of children who mentioned outdoor/ nature activities (pre=0, post=12%) particularly given that this was an open response question.

3.2 Learned more about their local park

The children were asked a series of questions to test their knowledge of common concepts taught during the ParkLife Education Programme. These were multiple choice questions, whereby the children had to choose the one correct answer from a list containing that one correct answer mixed up with several incorrect answers. They could also select 'I don't know' (See Appendix 1 for a complete list of the questions and answers). The questions are outlined below together with the percentage of children who answered correctly in the pre-programme questionnaire and the post-programme questionnaire:

- What are sycamore seeds often called? (pre: 32%; post: 52%)
- When do flowers appear on Daffodils? (pre: 56%; post: 59%)

- Who owns your park? (pre: 3%; post: 5%)
- Which was the first free park to open in Belfast? (pre: 9%; post: 16%)
- Which of these is the lightest? (pre: 76%; post: 78%)
- Why are hedges important? (pre: 3%; post: 12%)
- Why are animals different colours? (pre: 6%; post: 10%)

For all seven knowledge based questions, a higher number of children gave correct answers in the post-programme questionnaire compared to the pre-programme questionnaire.

3.3 Connection to nature

The children’s Connection to Nature (CNI) overall score was calculated on a scale from -2 to 2 and the children’s scores on each of the four subscales (Empathy for creatures, Sense of oneness, Sense of responsibility, Enjoyment of nature) were calculated on a scale from -2 to 2. The mean Connection to Nature scores for the children in this study was **1.18** (n=124, SD=0.67) at pre-programme and **1.30** (n=116, SD=0.44) at post-programme. The mean scores on the subscales, in order of highest to lowest, for the children in this study are as follows:

- Empathy for creatures subscale: mean score=**1.42** (n=142, SD=0.71) at pre-programme and **1.51** (n=129, SD=0.55) at post-programme
- Sense of oneness subscale: mean score=**1.30** (n=143, SD=0.73) at pre-programme and **1.44** (n=135, SD=0.56) at post-programme
- Sense of responsibility subscale: mean score=**1.05** (n=148, SD=0.83) at pre-programme and **1.23** (n=138, SD=0.66) at post-programme
- Enjoyment of nature subscale: mean score=**1.04** (n=139, SD=0.76) at pre-programme and **1.08** (n=128, SD=0.65) at post-programme

Figure 4 presents the **mean scores** for the overall CNI scale and each of the four subscales for the children who took part in this evaluation:

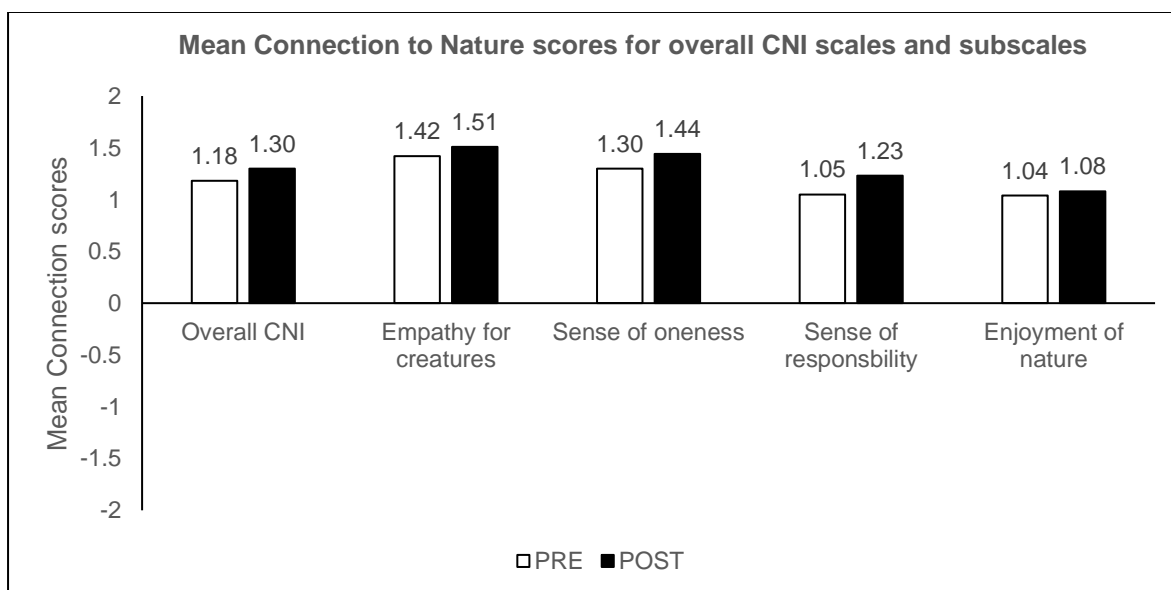


Figure 4: A bar graph to show the mean scores for the overall CNI scale and each of the four subscales.

These results show that the children rated their connection to nature, overall and across all subscales, as higher at the end of the ParkLife Education Programme. In other words, the children were more positive about their general connection to nature, their empathy for creatures, their sense of oneness with nature, their sense of responsibility for nature and their enjoyment of nature. It is particularly good that there was a positive change in all these areas. The children in this study had a slightly higher score in most areas (with the exception of 'sense of responsibility') in comparison to a national baseline conducted with a much larger sample of 2,240 children in Northern Ireland (Kerr, 2015). However, their scores on the post-programme questionnaire were much higher than their scores on their pre-questionnaire and in comparison to all areas of the baseline. It is important to note that the pattern of scores across the different subscales, from highest (Empathy for creatures) to lowest (Enjoyment of nature), is the same as the pattern found in the larger baseline study, also carried out in Northern Ireland (Kerr, 2015).

Secondary outcomes

4.1 Attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability

The children were asked to respond to an adaptation of The New Ecological Paradigm scale for children (adapted from Manoli, Johnson and Dunlap, 2007). This scale is designed to measure children's views of environmental sustainability. The following questions were on the pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires:

- Soon there will be too many people for the Earth to support
- Nature is strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles
- People are clever enough to keep from ruining the Earth completely
- People were created to rule over nature
- When people mess with nature it often ends up with bad results
- Plants and animals are mainly on Earth to be used by people
- To make sure everyone can live well, industries and jobs across the world need to grow steadily, not too fast
- People must live in balance with nature to survive
- The Earth is like a spaceship - there's limited room and not so many resources
- People will someday know enough about how nature works to be able to control it
- People are treating nature very badly

A full outline of the questions and response options are outlined in Appendix 1. Figure 5 presents the percentage of positive responses for each of the items at pre-programme and post-programme.

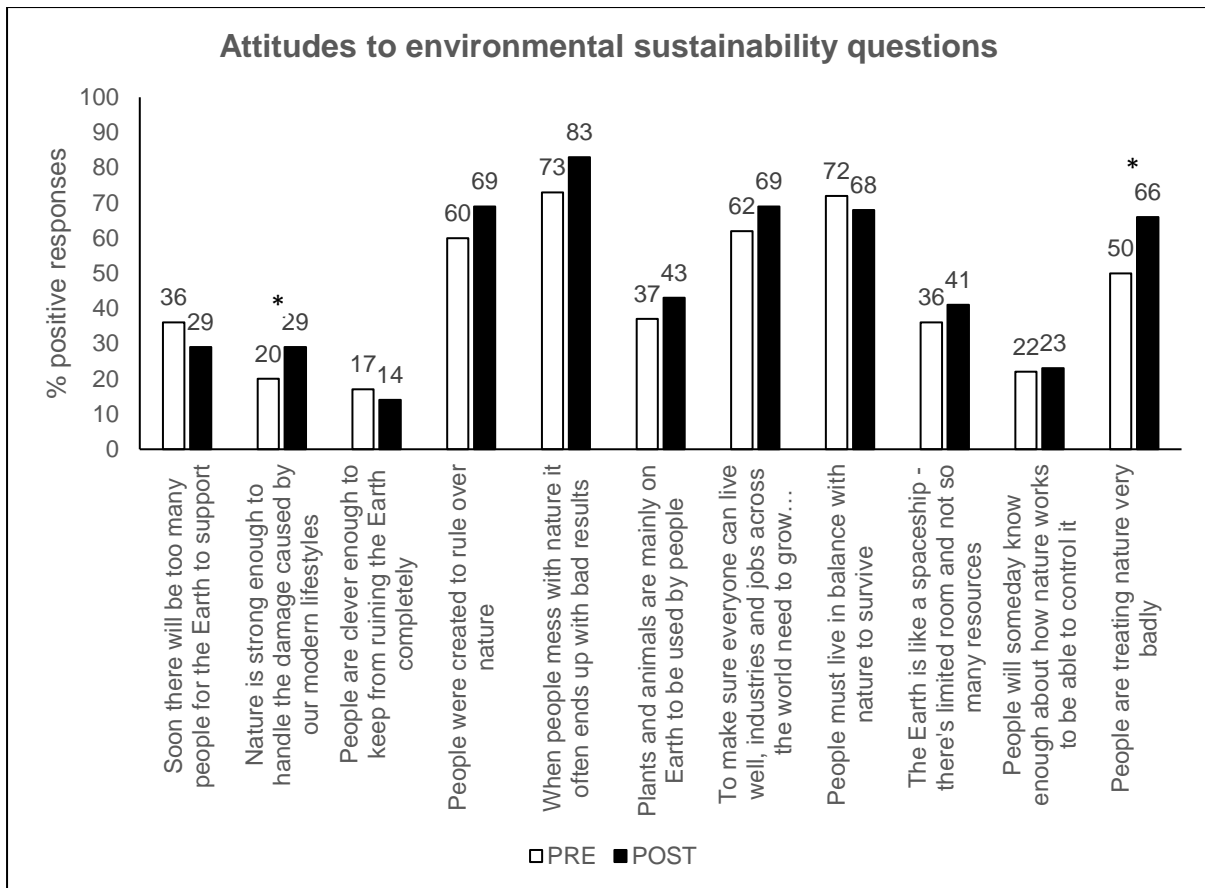


Figure 5: A bar graph to show the percentage of positive responses for the questions related to attitudes to environmental sustainability (pre and post), n=150 (pre), 140 (post). * represents a significant difference at $p < 0.05$.

Figure 5 shows that the children’s responses were more positive for eight out of the 11 items related to attitudes to environmental sustainability. A paired samples t-test was conducted for each of the items to compare if the mean scores at pre-programme and post-programme were statistically significantly different. This was the case for two items which evidenced a difference in a positive direction. In other words, the children answered more positively at the end of the programme:

- Nature is strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles ($p=0.029$)
- People are treating nature very badly ($p=0.022$)

As a general rule, a p-value of < 0.05 indicates a statistically significant difference, a p-value of < 0.01 indicates a highly significant difference and a p-value of < 0.001 indicates a very high significant difference.

The children were also asked to ‘write down a problem that’s happening in the environment at the moment’ both in the pre and post questionnaire. The results are presented in Table 3.

Problem	PRE		POST	
	Frequency of response	% of responses	Frequency of response	% of responses
Littering/rubbish/dirt/trash	43	49.4	43	43.4
Animal cruelty/dying	13	14.9	10	10.1
Trees cut down/burned	9	10.3	9	9.1
Animals and rubbish (inc. in the sea)	5	5.7	5	5.1
Animals having no food or homes	3	3.4	2	2.0
Animals – endangered/not enough of them	0	0	3	3.0
Animals – not free/in zoos	0	0	2	2.0
Animals – fighting	0	0	2	2.0
Bugs being harmed	0	0	1	1.0
Plants being harmed	0	0	2	2.0
Treating nature badly/don't care/not good/hurting/wrecking nature	7	8.0	5	5.1
Pollution (including general/air/sea)	0	0	6	6.1
Don't know/nothing	7	8.0	9	9.1
TOTAL	87		99	

Table 3: A summary of the children's responses to 'Write down a problem that's happening in the environment at the moment' (pre and post)

It is interesting to note that whilst there was more of a focus on littering/rubbish/dirt/trash and animal cruelty/dying in the pre and post-programme questionnaires the children also recorded wider issues such as animals having no food or homes, being endangered/not free and that bugs and plants are being harmed. They also focused more on pollution in the post-programme questionnaire. This is noteworthy given that this question was an open response item and the children had a choice to write any response in the answer space.

These results show that, for eight out of 11 items related to attitudes to sustainability, the children in this evaluation answered more positively in the post-programme questionnaire compared to the pre-programme questionnaire. In particular, there was a positive statistically significant difference in the pre and post responses to two items: 'Nature is strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles' (at $p < 0.05$) and 'People are treating nature very badly' (at $p < 0.05$). When asked to write down a problem happening in the environment at the moment, the children's responses on the post-programme questionnaire evidenced a greater variety of issues.

4.2 Attitudes to learning outdoors

A set of questions to consider the children's attitudes to learning outdoors was included in the pre and post-programme questionnaires. These were adapted from another study that evaluated children's participation in outdoor learning (Kerr, 2014):

- Learning in the outdoors will be (was) easier than learning in the classroom
- I will (did not) not have to learn as much in the outdoors, compared to in the classroom
- I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors
- I think learning in the outdoors will be (was) too difficult

- I think learning in the outdoors is (was) better than learning indoors

The wording in the brackets shows the slight rephrasing necessary for the post-programme questionnaire. Some of the questions are positively worded (the first, second and fifth) and some are negatively worded (the third and fourth). This is purposeful as it aids the checking of reliability. In other words, that a respondent will answer in a positive way regardless of how a question is worded. For example 'strongly agree' is the most positive response option for the first question [Learning in the outdoors will be (was) easier than learning in the classroom] but 'strongly disagree' is the most positive response for the third question [I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors]. A full outline of the questions and response options are outlined in Appendix 1.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of positive responses for each of the positively worded questions related to attitudes towards learning outdoors, for the pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires. The y-axis present the total figures for children who selected the positive options ('strongly agree' or 'agree'). Figure 7 shows the percentage of positive responses for each of the negatively worded questions related to attitudes towards learning outdoors, for the pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires. In this instance, the y-axis presents the total figures for children who selected the positive options ('strongly disagree' or 'disagree').

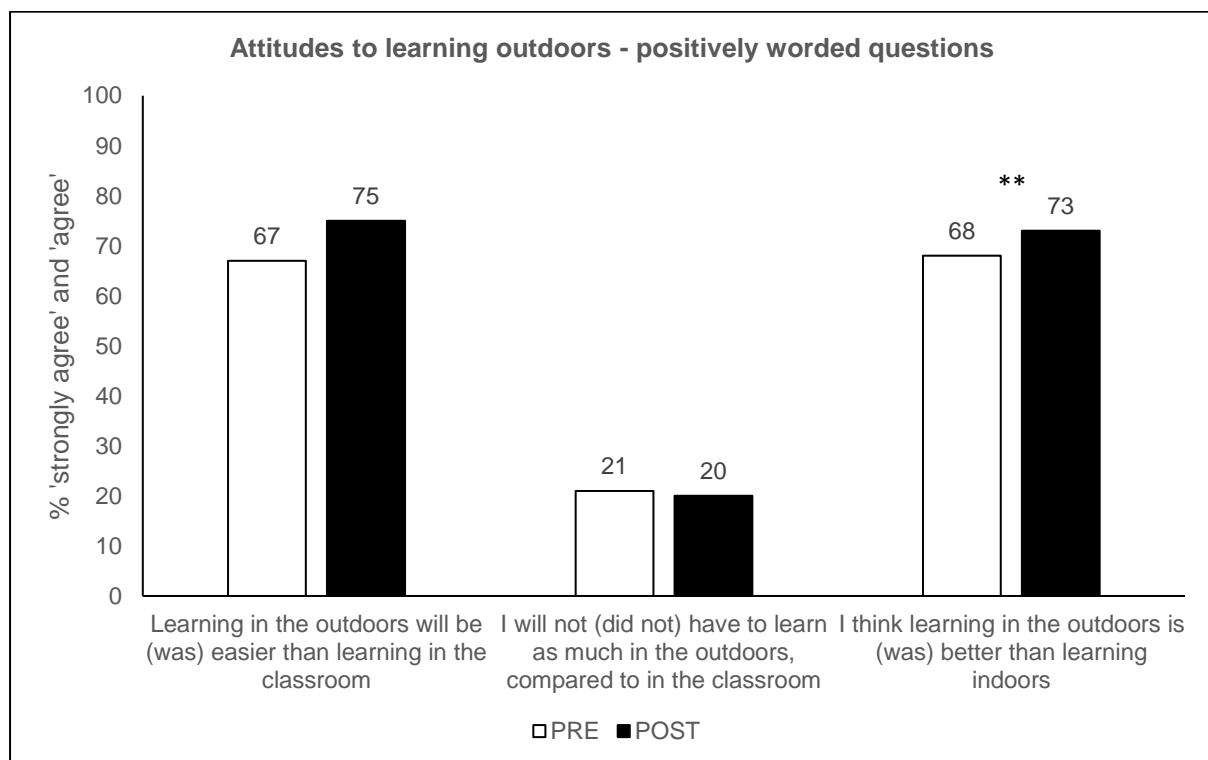


Figure 6: A bar graph to show the percentage of 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses for the positively worded questions related to attitudes to learning outdoors (pre and post), n=147 (pre), 140 (post). ** represents significance at $p < 0.01$.

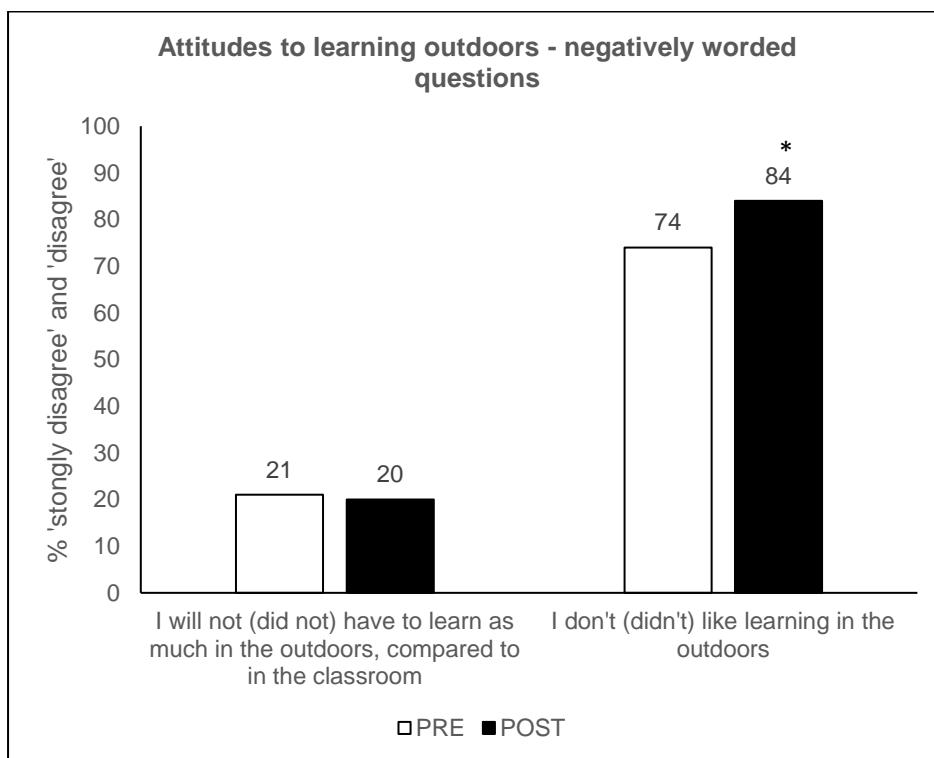


Figure 7: A bar graph to show the percentage of 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree' responses for the negatively worded questions related to attitudes to learning outdoors (pre and post), n=147 (pre), 140 (post). * represents a significant difference at $p < 0.05$.

A paired samples t-test was conducted for all of the items related to attitudes to learning outdoors to compare if the mean scores at pre-programme and post-programme were statistically significantly different in a positive direction. This was the case for two items:

- I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors ($p=0.035$)
- I think learning in the outdoors is (was) better than learning indoors ($p=0.005$)

As a reminder, a p-value of < 0.05 indicates a statistically significant difference, a p-value of < 0.01 indicates a highly significant difference and a p-value of < 0.001 indicates a very high significant difference. In other words, the first item here indicates a significant difference and the second one a highly significant difference between the pre and post-programme responses. Both are in a positive direction, meaning the children answered more positively at the end of the programme compared to when it started.

The children were also asked 'What word best describes how you feel about learning outdoors?' Table 4 presents a summary of their responses in both the pre and post-programme questionnaires. For example, approximately 50% of the post-programme responses related to being happy, that learning outdoors is 'good' or 'fun' and that they loved it/liked it and were excited. Full details of the words recorded by the children can be found in Appendix 2.

Response type	PRE		POST	
	Frequency of response	% of responses	Frequency of response	% of responses
Positive words	108	83.7	132	92.8
Neutral words	15	11.6	6	4.2
Negative words	6	4.7	4	2.8
TOTAL	129		142	

Table 4: A summary of the children's responses to 'What word best describes how you feel about learning outdoors' (pre and post)

These results show that, for four out of five items related to attitudes to learning outdoors, the children in this evaluation answered more positively in the post-programme questionnaire compared to the pre-programme questionnaire. In particular, there was a positive statistically significant difference in the pre and post responses to two items: 'I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors' ($p < 0.05$) and 'I think learning in the outdoors is (was) better than learning indoors' ($p < 0.01$). When asked to record a word which best describes how they feel about learning outdoors a higher percentage of responses were positive in the post-programme questionnaire (92.8%) compared with the pre-programme questionnaire (83.7%). An increase in open responses is noteworthy, as children could have responded in any way, given that there were no set response options for this question.

4.3 Health and well-being

The pre and post-programme questionnaires also included a group of questions related to the children's health-related quality of life, the KIDSCREEN 10 measure (Ravens-Sieberer et al., 2010) – a well cited and researched measure of children's health-related quality of life and well-being. The items on the KIDSCREEN measure included the following questions:

- Have you felt fit and well?
- Have you felt full of energy?
- Have you felt sad?
- Have you felt lonely?
- Have you had enough time for yourself?
- Have you been able to do things in your free time?
- Have your parents or guardians treated you fairly?
- Have you had fun with your friends?
- Have you got on well at school?
- Have you been able to pay attention?

A full outline of the questions and response options are outlined in Appendix 1. Figure 8 shows the percentage of positive responses for each of the KIDSCREEN 10 health and well-being questions, for the pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires.

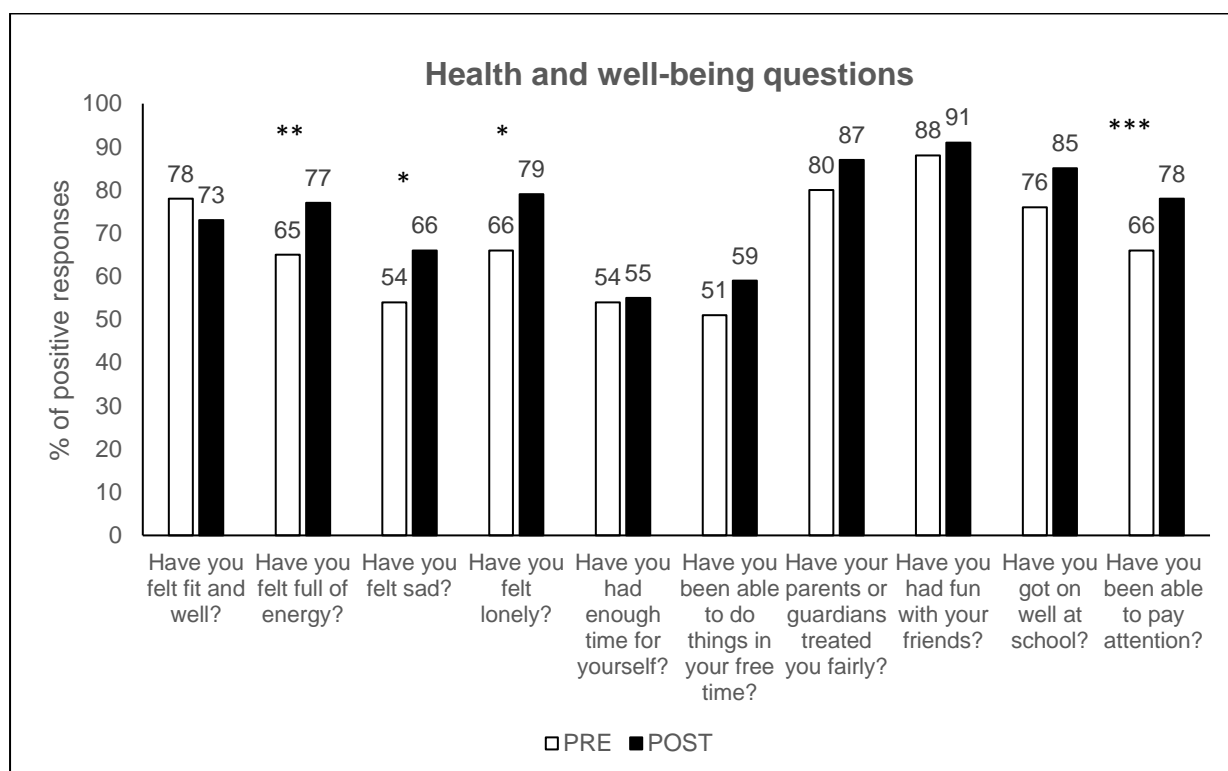


Figure 8: A bar graph to show the percentage of positive responses for the KIDSCREEN 10 health and well-being questions (pre and post), n=150 (pre), 140 (post). * represents a significant difference at $p < 0.05$, ** represents significance at $p < 0.01$.

A paired samples t-test was conducted for each of the items to compare if the mean scores at pre-programme and post-programme were statistically significantly different. These were all in a positive direction meaning the children answered more positively after the programmes, compared with their responses at the start. This was the case for four items:

- Have you felt full of energy? ($p=0.005$)
- Have you felt sad? ($p=0.032$)
- Have you felt lonely? ($p=0.027$)
- Have you been able to pay attention? ($p=0.0008$)

These results show that, for nine out of 10 items related to health and well-being, the children in this evaluation answered more positively in the post-programme questionnaire compared to the pre-programme questionnaire. In particular, there was a statistically significant difference in the pre and post responses to four items: 'Have you felt full of energy?' ($p < 0.01$, a highly significant difference), 'Have you felt sad?' ($p < 0.05$), 'Have you felt lonely?' ($p < 0.05$) and 'Have you been able to pay attention?' ($p < 0.001$, a very high significant difference). These differences were all in a positive direction, meaning the children answered more positively at the end of the programme compared to at the start.

The children's evaluation

In the post programme questionnaire, the children were asked several questions about their experience of the ParkLife Education Programme:

- Did you enjoy learning outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme? Why or why not?
- After the ParkLife Education Programme, what are your two best memories of learning outdoors?
- During the ParkLife Education Programme, were there any problems when you were learning outdoors? If so, what were they and how were they put right?
- Now that the ParkLife Education Programme is over, what worries do you still have about learning outdoors?
- If you were running the ParkLife Education programme, how would you teach in the outdoors?

In total 93% of the children who responded in the post-programme questionnaire said they enjoyed learning outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme. Figure 9 presents the results from this question.

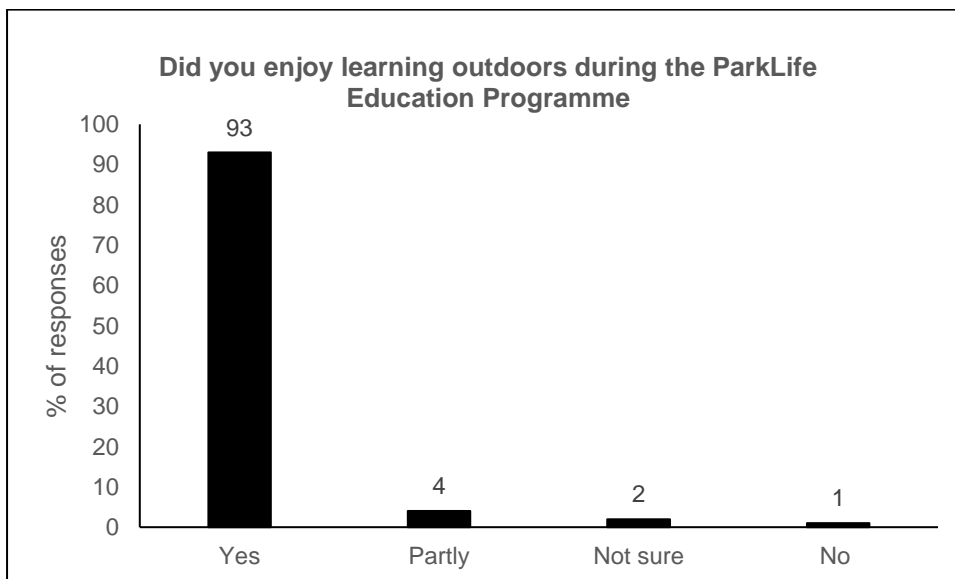


Figure 9: A bar graph to show the percentage of responses for the 'Did you enjoy learning outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme?', n=139.

When asked why they enjoyed the programme (or why not), 131 children responded with 170 phrases/comments. In total, 93% of these comments were positive, 3.5% of the comments were 'don't know/not sure/undecided' and 3.5% of the comments were negative. Table 5 presents a summary of these phrases/comments.

Positive phrases/comments	Frequency of response	% of responses
	158	93%
Fun	59	34.7
Learning (new things/about nature)	29	17.1
See things/enjoy nature/do things for real	22	12.9
Love/like (learning) outdoors	19	11.2
Liked/enjoyed specific activities	11	6.5
Like/love animals	6	3.5
Take care of nature/learn how to	5	2.9
Fresh air/not in a warm room	4	2.4
Easy	3	1.8
Neutral phrases/comments	6	3.5%
Don't know/not sure/undecided	6	3.5
Negative phrases/comments	6	3.5%
Cold	3	1.8
Gross/touching things	2	1.2
Boring	1	0.6
TOTAL	170	

Table 5: A summary of the children's responses in relation to why they did (or did not) like learning in the outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme.

Table 5 shows that the majority of responses were about having 'fun' and 'learning' during the ParkLife Education Programme. Very few phrases were negative. The children were also asked to record their two best memories of learning outdoors. In total, 120 children responded with 192 phrases/comments. In total, 96.4% of these comments recounting the programme positively, 3.1% of the comments were 'don't know' and 0.5% of the comments (one comment) were negative, where a child recorded 'none'. Table 6 presents a summary of these phrases/comments.

Positive phrases/comments	Frequency of response	% of responses
	185	96.4%
Learning (animals/bugs/nature)	36	18.6
Digging/for worms	33	17.2
Finding/collecting/looking at mini beasts/bugs	22	11.5
Feeling/seeing things	20	10.4
Games/puzzles/competitions	16	8.3
Finding/collecting things	16	8.3
Playing/walking/having fun (with friends)	14	7.3
Planting	7	3.6
Everything	6	3.1
Making bug homes/hotels	6	3.1
Making things	5	2.6
Named a tree	2	1.0
Our song	1	0.5
The first day	1	0.5
Neutral phrases/comments	6	3.1%
Don't know	6	3.1
Negative phrases/comments	1	0.5%
None	1	0.5
TOTAL	192	

Table 6: A summary of the children’s responses in relation to two best memories of learning outdoors.

The children were also asked to reflect on whether there were any problems whilst they were learning outdoors and, if so, what the problems were and how they were put right. Figure 10 presents the results from the question ‘During the ParkLife Education Programme, were there any problems when you were learning outdoors?’ In total, 82% of the children who responded to this question said there were no problems, 8% said not sure, 2% responded ‘partly’ and 8% said there were problems.

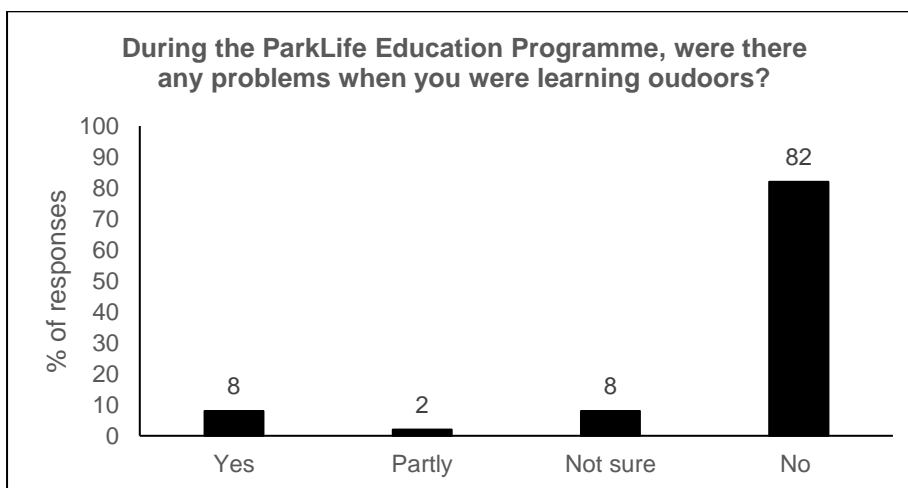


Figure 10: A bar graph to show the percentage of responses for the ‘During the ParkLife Education Programme, were there any problems when you were learning outdoors?’, n=139.

In an open question, the children were then asked that, if there were problems, what were they and how were they put right. In total, only 44 children responded to this question with 27 of these comments considered positive (*Nothing/no problems/put right = 17; Environmental/animal welfare issues = 8; Would let the bugs go again = 1; Ulster Wildlife person came to classroom because it was raining = 1*), 15 comments were 'don't know' and only two comments were negative (*Could not always understand what the teacher said = 1; Classmates treating badly = 1*).

The children were asked, in an open question, 'Now that the ParkLife Education Programme is over, what worries do you still have about learning outdoors?' In total, 100 children responded to this question with 64% of comments recorded as 'None/nothing/like it' and 7% of comments were 'don't know'. On the other hand, 26% of the comments were considered negative and these are outlined below:

- Environmental/animal cruelty issues = 9 comments (9%)
- Getting things wrong = 7 comments (7%)
- Getting hurt/stung = 5 comments (5%)
- Still scared/worried/didn't like it = 5 comments (5%)

It is important to note that 9% of these worries are related to the environment, and not the ParkLife Education Programme specifically.

Finally, at the end of the questionnaire, the children were asked 'If you were running the ParkLife Education programme, how would you teach in the outdoors?' In total, 114 children responded to this question with 130 comments. Overall, 13.8% of these comments were 'don't know'. All of the other comments presented ideas. A summary of these is outlined below, together with the percentage of responses for each area/idea:

- Teach/learn content/approaches from ParkLife Education Programme = 35 comments (27.0%)
- Good/well/clearly/nicely = 21 comments (16.2%)
- Nature/animal preservation/care/importance = 18 comments (13.8%)
- In a fun/happy way = 14 comments (10.8%)
- Same as ParkLife Education Programme teacher = 9 comments (6.9%)
- Fairly = 6 comments (4.6%)
- Safely/clean/dry = 5 comments (3.8%)
- Games = 4 comments (3.1%)

It is interesting to note that 27% of these comments specifically mentioned teaching/content/approaches from the ParkLife Education Programme and a further 6.9% of the comments specifically mentioned teaching in the same way as their programme teacher. Also, 13.8% of the comments were about nature/animal preservation/care/importance which are all part of the ParkLife Education Programme.

The findings presented in this section show that the children evaluated the ParkLife Education Programme very positively with 93% saying they enjoyed learning outdoors during the programme with 93% of subsequent open responses also being positive and mainly focused how fun the programme was and the learning which took place. When asked about their two best memories of the programme, 96.4% of the open responses were positive and the children

talked about a wide range of specific activities which they took part in. When asked if there were any problems when they were learning outdoors 82% of the children who responded said there were no problems and, in a follow up open question, the majority of children said there were no problems. When asked if they still have worries about learning outdoors, after the programme, 64% of the comments were 'none/nothing/liked it' and of the 26% of negative comments, only 17% could be related to the programme (17 comments). Many of the comments related to how they children would teach in the outdoors were related to the ParkLife Education Programme. Overall, with several reflective questions, the children involved in this evaluation reflected very positively on the programme.

Key findings and Recommendations

6.1 Key findings

This report presents findings from an evaluation of the Belfast City Council's (BCC) ParkLife Education Programme which ran between September 2016 and June 2017. In total, 169 children in eight schools in the Belfast area took part in the evaluation for the programme. They completed pre-programme and post-programme questionnaires which included a range of measures designed to investigate the primary and secondary outcomes of the programme. The key findings for each outcome are summarised below:

Primary outcomes

- *Spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - More children selected the options which represent a higher frequency of visits to their park (for example 'Every day') and fewer children recorded 'Never' and more children reported going to the park with their family, friends and with their teacher.
 - More children also reported going to the park for almost all of the listed activities. Of particular note is the increase in the percentage of children who reported going to the park to 'enjoy nature' (pre = 33%, post = 48%) and to 'play' (pre = 61%, post = 80%).
 - In relation to the children's favourite activities outside school, there was an increase in the percentage of children who mentioned outdoor/ nature activities (pre=0, post=12%) particularly noteworthy given that this was an open response question.
- *Have learned more about their local park.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - More children gave correct responses to each of the knowledge based questions designed to test the main knowledge content of the programme.
- *Be more connected to nature.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - The children rated their connection to nature, overall and across all subscales, as higher. In other words, the children were more positive about their general connection to nature, their empathy for creatures, their sense of oneness with nature, their sense of responsibility for nature and their enjoyment of nature. It is particularly good that there was a positive change in all these areas.
 - Whilst the children in this study had a slightly higher score in most areas (with the exception of 'sense of responsibility') in comparison to a national baseline

(Kerr, 2015) their scores on the post-programme questionnaire were much higher than their scores on their pre-questionnaire and in comparison to all areas of the baseline.

Secondary outcomes

- *Have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - The children answered more positively for eight out of 11 items related to attitudes to sustainability. In particular, there was a statistically significant difference (in a positive direction) between the pre and post responses to two items: 'Nature is strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles' (at $p < 0.05$) and 'People are treating nature very badly' (at $p < 0.05$).
 - When asked to write down a problem happening in the environment 'at the moment', the children's responses on the post-programme questionnaire evidenced a greater variety of issues. For example, whilst there was more of a focus on littering/rubbish/dirt/trash and animal cruelty/dying in the pre and post-programme questionnaires, the children also recorded wider issues such as animals having no food or homes, being endangered/not free and that bugs and plants are being harmed. They also focused more on pollution in the post-programme questionnaire. This is noteworthy given that this question was an open response item and the children had a choice to write any response in the answer space.

- *Have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - The children answered more positively for four out of five items related to attitudes to learning outdoors. In particular, there was a statistically significant difference in the pre and post responses to two items: 'I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors' ($p < 0.05$) and 'I think learning in the outdoors is (was) better than learning indoors' ($p < 0.01$). These were both in a positive direction as the children answered more positively in the post-programme questionnaire.
 - When asked to record a word which best describes how they feel about learning outdoors a higher percentage of responses were positive in the post-programme questionnaire (92.8%) compared with the pre-programme questionnaire (83.7%). For example, approximately 50% of the post-programme responses related to being happy, that learning outdoors is 'good' or 'fun' and that they loved it/liked it and were excited. An increase in open responses is noteworthy, as children could have responded in any way, given that there were no set response options for this question.

- *Rate their health and well-being as higher.* After the ParkLife Education Programme:
 - The children answered more positively for nine out of 10 items related to health and well-being. In particular, there was a statistically significant difference in the pre and post responses to four items: 'Have you felt full of energy?' ($p < 0.01$), 'Have you felt sad?' ($p < 0.05$), 'Have you felt lonely?' ($p < 0.05$) and 'Have you been able to pay attention?' ($p < 0.001$). All of these were both in a positive direction as the children answered more positively in the post-programme questionnaire, which demonstrates the impact of the programme on the children's perceptions of their health and well-being.

When asked several questions about their experiences and reflections on the ParkLife Education Programme, the children were very positive, with 93% saying they enjoyed learning outdoors during the programme with 93% of subsequent open responses also being positive and mainly focused how fun the programme was and the learning which took place. When asked about their two best memories of the programme, 96.4% of the open responses were positive and the children talked about a wide range of specific activities which they took part in. For example, the most common responses were about 'learning' (animals/bugs/nature), 'digging/for worms', finding/collecting/looking at mini beasts/bugs and feeling/seeing things. All of these activities are a major part of the ParkLife Education Programme and the children remember them very well and fondly.

When asked if there were any problems when they were learning outdoors 82% of the children who responded said there were no problems and, in a follow up open question, the majority of children said there were no problems. When asked if they still have worries about learning outdoors, after the programme, 64% of the comments were 'none/nothing/liked it' and of the 26% of negative comments, only 17% could be related to the learning (17 comments). Many of the comments related to how they children would teach in the outdoors were related to the ParkLife Education Programme.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings presented in this report, it can be concluded that the ParkLife Education Programme evidences a positive evaluation and the following recommendations can be presented.

Recommendations for the ParkLife Education Programme:

- Learning outdoors through this programme, in local parks, is a very positive experience for children and should be considered as good practice. This positive experience has an impact across many areas: learning, attitudes to learning outdoors, connection to nature, attitudes and awareness of environmental sustainability and their rating of their health and well-being.
- That the programme continues to be delivered in its current model so many more children can benefit.
- Belfast City Council should consider sharing their learning from the programme and this report with other councils and organisations.

Recommendations for future research:

- It is also recommended that this evaluation be continued with subsequent cohorts to increase the sample size, to look in more depth at the programme and to build a bigger evidence base as well as to consider potential further outcomes not considered in the current study.
- Given the depth and richness of the children's responses to the open question, a further evaluation study should include a qualitative study with, for example, focus groups. Speaking to the children face-to-face presents an opportunity to look in more depth at their understanding from the programme and the benefits for them expressed in their own words. It also affords the opportunity for them to reflect on and offer explanations for the findings from the questionnaire data.

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Appendix 1

An overview of the analysed questions/scales from the pre and post-programme questionnaires

Questions/Scale (if applicable)	Response options/response groups
Background factors	
Are you a boy or a girl?	Boy Girl
How old are you?	8 9 10 11 12 Other (if other, please write your age in the box below)
What is the name of your school?	<i>Open response</i>
In which country were you born?	Northern Ireland England Wales Scotland Republic of Ireland I don't know Somewhere else (please say where in the box below)
Have you had lessons in the outdoors before?	Yes No Don't know
If yes: Where was it and what did you do?	<i>Open response</i>
You are about to take part in the ParkLife Education programme with your class. Do you know anybody who has taken part in the programme before?	Yes No Don't know
In the last question you said you know someone who has taken part in the ParkLife Education programme before. Who are they?	A friend A family member My class Another class in school Another person (please write who they are and how you know them in the box below)
Engaging with nature in local parks	
How often do you go to your park?	Every day A few times a week About once a month About once every six months About once a year Never

When you go to your park, who do you go there with?	On my own With my family With my friends With school [my teacher] With a club Other people (please write who they are and how you know them in the box below)
What activities do you do in your park?	Play Go for a walk Ride a bike Enjoy nature Meet friends Play sports Take a shortcut Attend events Walk the dog Attend clubs I don't know Other activities (please write the other activities in the box below)
What is your favourite activity outside school?	<i>Open response</i>
Learned more about local park and wildlife	
What are sycamore seeds often called?	Cars Helicopters Trucks I don't know
When do flowers appear on Daffodils?	Spring Summer Autumn Winter I don't know
Who owns your park?	Park wardens Ulster Wildlife The animals You The Council I don't know
Which was the first free park to open in Belfast?	Botanic Gardens Ormeau Park Waterworks I don't know
Which of these is the lightest?	A leaf A stone A branch I don't know
Why are hedges important?	Shelter They provide food They are home for wildlife (sometimes called a habitat) All of the above I don't know

Why are animals different colours?	To attract other animals To scare other animals To blend into their environment (sometimes called camouflage) All of the above I don't know
Connection to Nature	
Enjoyment of Nature subscale	
I like to hear different sounds in nature	Strongly disagree
I like to see wild flowers in nature	Disagree
When I feel sad, I like to go outside and enjoy nature	Neither agree nor disagree
Being in the natural environment makes me feel peaceful	Agree
I like to garden	Strongly agree
Collecting rocks and shells is fun	
Being outdoors makes me happy*	
Empathy for Creatures subscale	
I feel sad when wild animals are hurt	
I like to see wild animals living in a clean environment	
I enjoy touching animals and plants	
Taking care of animals is important to me	
Sense of Oneness subscale	
Humans are part of the natural world	
People cannot live without plants and animals	
Being outdoors makes me happy*	
Sense of Responsibility subscale	
My actions will make the natural world different	
Picking up trash on the ground can help the environment	
People do not have the right to change the natural environment	
Attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability	
Soon there will be too many people for the Earth to support	Strongly agree
Nature is strong enough to handle the damage caused by our modern lifestyles	Agree a little
People are clever enough to keep from ruining the Earth completely	Not sure
People were created to rule over nature	Disagree a little
When people mess with nature it often ends up with bad results	Disagree
Plants and animals are mainly on Earth to be used by people	
To make sure everyone can live well, industries and jobs across the world need to grow steadily, not too fast	
People must live in balance with nature to survive	
The Earth is like a spaceship - there's limited room and not so many resources	
People will someday know enough about how nature works to be able to control it	
People are treating nature very badly	
If you can, please write down a problem that's happening in the environment at the moment	<i>Open response</i>

Attitudes to learning outdoors	
Learning in the outdoors will be (was) easier than learning in the classroom	Strongly agree
I will (did not) not have to learn as much in the outdoors, compared to in the classroom	Agree a little
I don't (didn't) like learning in the outdoors	Not sure
I think learning in the outdoors will be (was) too difficult	Disagree a little
I think learning in the outdoors is (was) better than learning indoors	Strongly disagree
What word best describes how you feel about learning outdoors? (pre) Now that the Parklife Education Programme is over, what word best describes how you now feel about learning outdoors? (post)	<i>Open response</i>
Health and well-being: The KIDSCREEN-10 measure	
Have you felt fit and well?	Never Slightly Moderately Very Extremely
Have you felt full of energy?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always
Have you felt sad?	Always Often Sometimes Seldom Never
Have you felt lonely?	Always Often Sometimes Seldom Never
Have you had enough time for yourself?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always
Have you been able to do things in your free time?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always
Have your parents or guardians treated you fairly?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always

Have you had fun with your friends?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always
Have you got on well at school?	Not at all Slightly Moderately Very Extremely
Have you been able to pay attention?	Never Seldom Quite often Very often Always
The children's evaluation	
Did you enjoy learning outdoors during the ParkLife Education Programme?	Yes No Partly Not sure
Why or why not?	<i>Open response</i>
After the ParkLife Education Programme, what are your two best memories of learning outdoors?	<i>Open response</i>
During the ParkLife Education Programme, were there any problems when you were learning outdoors?	Yes No Partly Not sure
If so, what were they and how were they put right?	<i>Open response</i>
Now that the ParkLife Education Programme is over, what worries do you still have about learning outdoors?	<i>Open response</i>
If you were running the ParkLife Education programme, how would you teach in the outdoors?	<i>Open response</i>

*Although this question appears in two subscales, it is only asked once on the questionnaire

Appendix 2

A complete list of the children's Responses to 'What word best describes how you feel about learning outdoors?' in the pre and post-programme questionnaires.

PRE-PROGRAMME QUESTIONNAIRE

Positive words	Frequency	% of responses
	108	83.7
Happy	26	20.2
Excited/excitable	13	10.1
Fun	10	7.7
Good	10	7.7
Like/love/love it/outdoors	9	7.0
Peaceful	8	6.2
Fantastic	4	3.1
Cool	3	2.3
Great	3	2.3
Amazing	2	1.6
Brilliant	2	1.6
Better than indoors	2	1.6
Play/ with friends	2	1.6
OK	2	1.6
Awesome	1	0.8
Confident	1	0.8
Curious	1	0.8
Enchanting	1	0.8
Extraordinary	1	0.8
Fantastic	1	0.8
Hedgehogs	1	0.8
Nice	1	0.8
Protective	1	0.8
Speechless	1	0.8
Want to dance	1	0.8
Wonderful	1	0.8
Neutral words	15	11.6
Don't know	11	8.4
Not sure/unsure	4	3.1
Negative words	6	4.7
Chores	1	0.8
Cold	1	0.8
Shy	1	0.8
Nerves	1	0.8
Sad	1	0.8
Speechless	1	0.8
TOTAL	129	

POST-PROGRAMME QUESTIONNAIRE

Positive words	Frequency	% of responses
	132	92.8
Happy	34	24.0
Good	13	9.2
Fun	12	8.5
Like/Love/loved it	8	5.6
Excited	5	3.5
Fantastic	5	3.5
Great	5	3.5
Positively mention PEP	4	2.8
Amazed/amazing	3	2.1
Learned	3	2.1
Nature/naturey	3	2.1
Brilliant	2	1.4
Confident	2	1.4
Digging	2	1.4
Incredible	2	1.4
Interesting	2	1.4
Joyful	2	1.4
Peaceful	2	1.4
Sad it's over	2	1.4
Active	1	0.7
Awesome	1	0.7
Better	1	0.7
Calm	1	0.7
Cool	1	0.7
Encourages me to go outside more	1	0.7
Enjoyed	1	0.7
Excellent	1	0.7
Fab	1	0.7
Gleeful	1	0.7
Important	1	0.7
Instantly not regretful	1	0.7
Magnificent	1	0.7
OK	1	0.7
Perfect	1	0.7
Plants	1	0.7
Satisfying	1	0.7
Sorry for the animals	1	0.7
Strange but nice	1	0.7
Super	1	0.7
Tell the world about it	1	0.7
Neutral words	6	4.2
Don't know	6	4.2
Negative words	4	2.8
Sad	2	1.4
Hard	1	0.7
Terrible	1	0.7
TOTAL	142	

Contact

**School of Social Sciences Education and Social Work
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Belfast BT7 1HL
T: +44 (0)28 9097 5941/3323
E: education@qub.ac.uk
Web: www.qub.ac.uk**

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Subject:	Dog-friendly Badging Scheme
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Committee is reminded that at its meeting of 12 September 2017, at the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Committee agreed to investigate the introduction of an opt-in badging scheme which would indicate which premises in Belfast were dog-friendly.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the content of this report;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the outlined proposal to allow officers to continue discussions with other organisations.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Officers have undertaken web based research and established that there are a number of on-line resources dedicated to the promotion of dog friendly facilities, including ‘Dugs’n’pubs’, ‘Bring Fido’, ‘The Kennel Club’, as well as TripAdvisor.
3.2	Of particular relevance is the work undertaken by Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), and officers have now met with colleagues from TNI.
3.3	During discussions with TNI, it became apparent that they maintain a webpage of pet friendly activities, including details of pet-friendly accommodation, dog walks and dog-friendly restaurants.
3.4	TNI operate a voluntary, star rating membership scheme for accommodation providers, and their Dog Welcome scheme is among 10 welcome schemes in which members may participate. Accommodation providers complete an application form and the property is then assessed against a range of criteria. If successful, their listing on TNI’s consumer website is updated to display the relevant logo, and they are also issued with a window sticker/badge for display at the property. At present there are 72 accommodation properties accredited with the Dogs Welcome Scheme, which includes a number in Belfast.
3.5	Other attractions, including restaurants and bars, also have the option to publish the following attributes against their product on the TNI website: Dogs accepted inside; Dogs accepted outside dining area.
3.6	This is self-assessed and not against any criteria. Products with these attributes attached have the ‘dog friendly’ symbol against their product listing on the TNI website. While a number of non-accommodation premises have signed onto the TNI dog friendly listings, there is not a branded badge currently available for premises to display to customers. A total of 1372 activities and facilities are listed at the following link to the Discover Northern

3.7	<p>Ireland website, across all sectors, using 'dog friendly' as a search criteria:</p> <p>https://www.discovernorthernireland.com/explore/search-results/?SearchTermIn=dog+friendly</p>
3.8	<p>The listing includes a number of Belfast bars and restaurants. However, it should be noted that the web link below shows just two Belfast bars that specifically market their facilities as being dog friendly:</p> <p>https://www.discovernorthernireland.com/about-northern-ireland/pet-friendly/dog-friendly-pubs-and-restaurants/</p>
3.9	<p>There is also a number of examples of these Belfast premises undertaking significant social media work, using a range of platforms, to engage with customers to promote their dog-friendly activities and special events.</p>
3.10	<p>Hospitality Ulster have offered to support the scheme, and the opportunity to use the organisation as a conduit to contacting bars and restaurants in Belfast with a view to generating awareness and knowledge of how relevant businesses might participate in the scheme. Hospitality Ulster have also offered to assist with any marketing activities that might be undertaken.</p>
3.11	<p>While a number of non-accommodation premises have signed onto the TNI listings there is no appropriately branded badge for these premises to display to customers. This is an activity that could be taken on regionally by TNI or by the City Council locally.</p> <p>The three keys strands/options of the scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>social media and website</u>: as well as each business's ability to market their pet-friendly facilities and events to customers themselves using their own social media platforms, the Tourism NI website and the Belfast Welcome Centre provide excellent opportunities for businesses to engage with customers and market themselves as being dog friendly; ● <u>industry information and marketing</u>: in collaboration with Hospitality Ulster, we can provide bars and restaurants across Belfast with information regarding TNI's established processes and how business owners might opt into the scheme should they be interested;

<p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>branding and badges</u>: the City Council could consider assisting in the design, production and distribution of appropriate and agreed branded badges for display at the participating premises, subject to partners' supported agreement. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It would not be proposed that Belfast City Council would have any additional role around regulation of issues to do with any scheme other than assisting with the badging, and promotion of the website. It is anticipated that these activities will require minimal resources, and can be resourced within existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>



Subject:	Provision of Dog Statistics to DAERA
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Vivienne Donnelly, Enforcement Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is to begin publishing statistics on its website on the Dog Wardens' enforcement activities undertaken by all Councils in accordance with The Dog (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council's Dog Warden Service enforces the legislation on the responsible control of dogs under The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. This legislation covers a range of

	issues concerning dogs including licensing, stray dogs, dog attacks and the powers available to Dog Wardens to address these matters.
3.2	All Councils are required to provide quarterly statistics to DAERA on the range of enforcement activities undertaken by their respective Dog Warden Services. DAERA have a statutory duty to collate the statistics. The statistics are often requested by stakeholders, the media and the public.
3.3	Both the Department and Councils deal with a range of requests for dog-related information, for example, correspondence cases, Assembly Questions, media requests and Freedom of Information requests. Making the dog statistical information available on-line will provide direct access to this information without first having to approach the Department and / or Councils. It is anticipated that this will have the effect of reducing the volume of dog related statistical requests made to the Department and Councils. You may also wish to consider putting your Council's dog related statistics onto its website.
3.4	Publishing the statistics on the website makes the information readily accessible to everyone. DAERA have informed the Council that the statistics for the period 1 st April 2017 to 30 June 2017 was published on their website the 2 nd October 2017. A link to the statistics can be accessed on the DAERA website at http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/council-dog-summary-statistics .
3.5	A timetable for the quarterly update of the statistics is outlined in the attached letter sent to the Chief Executive in Appendix 1.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications
	<u>Asset & Other Implications</u>
3.7	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.8	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Letter to Chief Executive from DAERA

**Animal Health and Welfare Policy
Division**
Animal Identification, Legislation and
Welfare Branch



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

The Old Library
County Hall
Coleraine BT51 3HS
Telephone: 02870 340871
Email: Brenda.Kelly@daera-ni.gov.uk
Kay.Faulkner@daera-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: DA2-08-6787~4

15 September 2017

Dear Suzanne,

I am writing to advise you of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (the Department) intention to make the Councils' dog statistical returns publicly available on the Department's website, and to include a link to the returns on the NI Direct Website. You may already be aware of this as it has been discussed and agreed at the Animal Welfare Council Project Board on 18th January 2017. More recently it also received the approval of the Northern Ireland Dog Advisory Group (NIDAG). The reason for this approach is outlined in the following paragraphs.

The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (Article 52) requires Councils to provide information as required by the Department. This information is collected on a quarterly basis, collated and held by the Department. It is then referred to by Councils and the Department when providing responses to dog related information requests.

Both the Department and Councils deal with a range of requests for dog-related information, for example, correspondence cases, Assembly Questions, media requests and Freedom of Information requests. Making the dog statistical information available on-line will provide direct access to this information without first having to approach the Department and/or Councils. It is anticipated that this will have the effect of reducing the volume of dog related statistical requests made to the Department and Councils. You may also wish to consider putting your Council's dog related statistics onto its website.

On 1st August 2017 my colleague (Kay Faulkner) wrote to officers in each Council who are involved in providing the Department with the quarterly statistical returns, and advised them of the Department's intention. It is intended to commence publication of statistical returns on 2nd October 2017, starting with the first quarter of the current financial year, namely April to June 2017. Thereafter, publication dates will be as detailed in the table provided below.

Quarter:	Councils to provide statistics to the Department by:	Department to collate and publish returns by:
Apr - Jun	31 st July	2 nd Oct
Jul - Sep	31 st Oct	30 th Nov
Oct - Dec	31 st Jan	28 th Feb
Jan - Mar	30 th Apr	31 st May

The Department plans to issue a Press Release in late September to advise the public that dog statistics for each Council area will be available online from 2nd October 2017. I will ensure that you are copied into the Press Release.

Historically, there have been some issues around the timely provision of the quarterly returns and Departmental officials have worked with the Councils to ensure accuracy and to improve turnaround times. It will now be the responsibility of each Council to ensure that all required statistical information has been provided by the designated date. The Department will be publishing the information on the specified publication date and therefore, any omissions or outstanding returns will be annotated in the publication.

There will be a footnote added to the published document advising that figures have been provided by local Councils and that any enquiries regarding the content should be made to the relevant Council.

I am happy to discuss any issues or concerns you may have regarding the content of this letter, if you would find that helpful.

Yours sincerely

Brenda Kelly

BRENDA KELLY



Subject:	Request for The Use of Ormeau Park
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Brian McKinley, Events Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Cancer Research UK for the use of Ormeau Park.
1.2	Cancer Research UK proposes to hold a Race For Life “Pretty Muddy” event at Ormeau Park on Saturday 1 September 2018 from 10.00 am. They will require access to the park on Friday 31 August, 9.00 am for the set-up and will be on site on Saturday 1 September until 10.00 pm to dismantle the event. The organisation wishes to make this an annual event based on the success of previous events at this location.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Cancer Research UK event at Ormeau Park on Saturday 1 September 2018 and all subsequent annual “Pretty Muddy” events at this location subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Event Organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction. ○ The Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities. ○ The Event Organisers shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancer Research UK proposes to hold a Race for Life “Pretty Muddy” event at Ormeau Park on Saturday 1 September 2018 from 10.00 am. ▪ Pretty Muddy is a 5k women only entry-level obstacle course. The event first came to Ormeau Park, Belfast in 2015 and attracted over 3000 ladies, helping Cancer Research UK to raise over £170 000, to help fund research into 200 different types of cancer. ▪ A participation fee of approximately £15 will be charged to cover the event organisation. The event will not be profit making. ▪ The Event Organisers will be required to submit an Event Management Plan to the Council prior to their event, in a timely manner and undertake the appropriate notifications, as necessary. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.2	<p>The event will not impact on any bookable facilities therefore no loss of revenue is expected.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p>
3.3	<p>No Staff overtime is anticipated for the event.</p>

3.4	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Any reinstatement work carried out as a result of the event will be paid for by the organisers.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Proposed Visit of the Royal Horticultural Society Bulb Committee to the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show in 2019
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Brian McKinley, Events Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of the report is to present to Members a request received from the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group (NIDG) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend a joint invitation to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bulb Committee to attend the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show to be held in Barnett Demesne in 2019. ▪ Provide hospitality associated with their proposed visit in 2019. <p>A copy of the request from the NIDG is attached for information in Appendix 1.</p>

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That the Council with the NIDG, extends a joint invitation to the RHS Bulb Committee to attend the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show to be held in Barnett Demesne in 2019; ▪ That the Council provides hospitality associated with the proposed visit of the RHS Bulb Committee to the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show in 2019; and ▪ Permit Officers to attend meetings with the RHS Shows Manager and NIDG to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for their visit.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Belfast Spring Flower Show has formed an integral part of the Spring Fair which is annual event attracting around 10,000 visitors to Barnett Demesne. The NIDG has worked in close partnership with Officers over many years to plan the Flower Show element of the event and without their goodwill and support, the success of this event could be undermined. ▪ The NIDG has indicated that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bulb Committee would be interested in returning to the Flower Show in 2019 and may be prepared to hold their late Daffodil Show here in an effort to spread and increase their influence beyond London. Their predecessor, the Daffodil & Tulip Committee attended the City of Belfast Flower Show in 2004 where they assisted with the judging of exhibits and also granted RHS awards to some Irish Bred Plants. ▪ As the RHS rarely hold their Shows outside London, for Belfast to host their Late Show would be a great boost to local horticulture and a recognition of the unique historic and current position that Northern Ireland holds throughout the world, as a centre for specialist daffodil breeding. ▪ The NIDG has requested that the Council extends a joint invitation to the RHS Bulb Committee to attend the Flower Show to be held in April 2019 and for the Council to provide the necessary hospitality associated with the proposed visit. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.2	<p>Based on the hospitality provided in the 2004 visit, the cost for additional hospitality in 2019 is approximately £2,244 which will be accommodated from within existing budgets.</p>

3.3	<p><u>Human</u> Officers will be required to attend meetings with the RHS Shows Manager and NIDG to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for the visit in 2019.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> It is an acknowledgment of the international standing of Northern Ireland's daffodil breeders that the RHS Bulb Committee has indicated that they wish to attend the City of Belfast Flower Show in 2019 and possibly hold their Late Daffodil Show there.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1- Request received from the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group</p>

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101/17

Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

Founded: 1976

President
Brian S. Duncan

Chairman
Terry Haley

Hon. Secretary
Dave Hardy

Hon. Treasurer
Derrick Turbitt

Mrs Rose Crozier
Director – Belfast City Parks
Belfast City Council,
City Hall,
Belfast BT1 5GS

18th Oct. 2017
Received by
[Signature]
19 OCT 2017
City & Neighbourhood
Services Dept

Dear Madam,

Some years ago, in 2004, The Daffodil & Tulip Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society came to Northern Ireland on the joint invitation of the Belfast City Council and the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group. They visited the Horticultural and Daffodils show at Malone House, assisted in judging, held one of their regular meetings and granted some RHS Awards to Irish bred plants.

There has been an indication from the RHS Bulb Committee (the successor to the D & T Committee) that they would be interested in returning in 2019 – indeed, even that they might be prepared to hold their Late Daffodil Show in Northern Ireland as part of their ambition to spread and increase their influence beyond London. With this aim in view they have held their Late Show in Harrogate for the last couple of years and seek another location outside London. To have their Late Show held in Belfast would be a great boost to local horticulture and a recognition of the unique historic and current position that Northern Ireland holds throughout the world as an important centre for specialist daffodil breeding.

For such a visit to happen an invitation would need to be sent to the RHS as soon as possible. This could either be issued directly from the Belfast City Council, or preferably as a joint invitation with the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group.

This initial letter is to enquire if the Belfast City Council would consider issuing such an invitation and to offer hospitality to delegates as in 2004. I append a rough draft of the programme for 2004 for your information. If you agree in principal then I think it would be necessary to form a small joint committee to discuss and arrange the programme. If the RHS was prepared to bring their Late Show to Belfast the implications would be greater inc. considerations about co-ordination of their schedule and our current Belfast Show schedule. There would need to be meetings with RHS Shows manager and the Committee Chairman and Secretary.

Currently we have three N. Ireland members on the RHS Bulb Committee so we already have a good line of communication.

I look forward to your preliminary response and suggestions how we might proceed..

Yours Sincerely,

Terry Haley (Chairman)

Dave Hardy (Hon Sec.)



NIDG & RHS Committee Visit Belfast Spring Show 24/25th April 2004

Friday 23rd April - RHS members arrive at Barnett's Demesne
by taxi or otherwise as arranged Pick-up by assigned hosts for overnight stay.

Saturday 24th April.

RHS members brought to Show by hosts.

6.30am – 10.30pm	Staging of Exhibits
10.30am – 11.00am	Coffee for Judges and RHS visitors
11.00pm Prompt	Judging of Exhibits
1pm	Reception RHS Visitors and Judges 21
1.30pm	Lunch for Judges and RHS visitors
	Welcome/Greetings
	Belfast Parks??
	NIDG Vice-Chairman
	RHS Vice Chairman?
2.45pm – 3.30pm	RHS Committee Meeting in Montgomery
3.30pm - 5pm	Visit Show
5.00pm	RHS visitors picked up by hosts
7.30pm	Cocktails (hosted by the RHS ?)
8.00pm	Daffodil Dinner @ Belfast Castle 40
	Speeches
	Belfast Parks??
	NIDG Chairman
	RHS Chairman
	Individual from
10pm	Depart for hosts residences.
	Host
	Guests
Nial and Hilary Watson.	Lady Skelmersdale;
	Sally Kington. David Matthews
Geo. and Sandra Wilson	Dave Vivash
Sandy and Mary McCabe	Reg. Nicholl
Brian and Betty Duncan	John Blanchard; Noel Burr Jan Pennings
	Jan Dalton; Geoff Ridley
A.N.Other	Len Olive;

Sunday 25th April

9.30am	RHS Visit to home of Brian Duncan, Omagh.
10.30am	Coffee
12noon	Buffet Lunch
12.30pm	Depart for Ringhaddy Daffodils,
	Dan McCormick @ Show
2.00pm	Arrive Ringhaddy Daffodils
4pm	Depart Ringhaddy Daffodils
5pm	Arrive back at Belfast Spring Show
6pm	Depart for Airport



Subject:	Dog Control in Parks and Open Spaces
Date:	5 th December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To inform Members of proposals for public consultation in relation to options for controlling dogs off leads in our parks and Open Spaces. A number of ideas will be put to the public to gauge opinions and allow for any creative responses to be considered. The consultation process is to inform options and no decisions have been made in terms of implementation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approve the process outlined and agree to bring a report to committee for approval.

3.0	Main report
3.1	A sizeable percentage (approx. 20%) of park users are dog walkers; this was evidenced in the SOPARC ¹ surveys carried out in 2015 in conjunction with QUB. One of the objectives of the Council is to promote responsible dog ownership and dog control within our parks assets in order to provide spaces that are safe and welcoming for all users.
3.2	Currently “dogs off lead” in our outdoor facilities is enforced under BCC bye-laws as follows: “A person having charge of a dog shall keep the dog on a lead and under proper control, and restrained from giving reasonable cause for annoyance or alarm to other persons”
3.3	Any person convicted of this offence will be liable to a £500 fine.
3.4	In order to promote responsible dog ownership and not simply through enforcement, BCC engage in awareness raising activities, partnership working with schools, community groups and outside agencies working across the Council. Therefore, the enforcement powers available under the bye-laws simply provide a useful additional tool to the ongoing work of the Council in seeking to address all dog related issues across the city.
3.5	The Council are seeking to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restriction.
3.6	As a background, The Clean Neighbourhoods Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which became law in Northern Ireland on 01 April 2012 contains a range of legislative measures to improve the quality of the local environment by giving district councils additional powers to deal with a range of issues including dogs.
3.7	In terms of dog related issues, the legislation allows us to introduce four dog control orders as below: 1. Prohibit dog fouling 2. Make it an offence to allow dogs off lead in designated areas;

¹ SOPARC is a methodology developed with QUB to measure use of parks and open spaces.

	<p>3. Exclude dogs from designated areas; and</p> <p>4. Limit the number of dogs that one person can be in control of at any one time.</p>
3.8	<p>Number 1 and 4 above have been implemented by the council, however we are seeking to implement measures outside of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Legislation and use existing byelaws, complemented with additional measures agreed through a public consultation process, to control dogs off leads in our sites in a balanced way that meets the needs of all of our users.</p>
3.9	<p>Feedback received from a consultation exercise carried out in 2012 in relation to dog control in Parks, highlighted the requirement for facilities that allow dogs to exercise off lead. To inform decisions on future initiatives it was proposed to run a pilot project in North Belfast to introduce a dog enclosure in Grove Playing Fields.</p>
3.10	<p>The pilot project has been in operation for over a year and the dog enclosure has now become a permanent feature of the park and continues to grow its user base as we adapt and improve the facility through ongoing feedback and engagement with our customers.</p>
3.11	<p>The information gained from the consultation exercise helped us to better understand all the issues and complexities around the dog issues in Parks and has assisted Council officers to consider options to assist with dog control in parks.</p>
3.12	<p>Officers have identified a number of options to provide dog owners with areas in parks where dogs can be allowed off leads. If agreed the new arrangements would be supported by enforcement powers that would be implemented by our Warden Service as required.</p>
3.13	<p>Two options have been identified as operationally viable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Introduction of additional dog enclosures in the following areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Belfast – Orangefield Park ▪ West Belfast – Falls Park ▪ South Belfast – Clement Wilson Park
3.14	<p>The proposed dog enclosures would be modelled on the successful enclosure in Grove Playing Fields. The fenced enclosure creates no doubt or confusion with regards to where dogs are allowed “off lead” at all times in that particular open space.</p>

	<p>2. Time zoning system – this option allows for dogs to be off lead and exercise in the entire park, or designated areas of the park, but only at certain times of the day. E.g. One hour am and one hour pm. This option provides a potential solution for those users who are unable to visit the local “dog enclosure” either on a particular day or on an on-going basis due to mobility issues or other reasons.</p> <p>It is proposed that this option would be more beneficial on condition that option 1 is implemented in tandem, as both options complement each other in providing facilities for dogs off lead at all times within a neighbourhood.</p> <p>It is proposed that the “Time Zoning System” will be piloted in our 17 Green Flag accredited sites across the city for one year with a further report being brought back to committee in early 2019 after all relevant data and statistics from the pilot have been analysed.</p> <p><u>Proposed Time Frame</u></p> <p>3.15 Timeframe for implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation on proposals Feb-Apr 18 ▪ Committee approval May 18 ▪ Implementation of new enclosures by Sept 18 ▪ Review of new measures Sept 19 <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications.</u></p> <p>3.16 The installation of fenced enclosures in the three sites listed above will cost in the region of £15k each. These costs will be met through area revenue budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.17 None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

Pollinators (Councillor Milne to raise)

The Council should recognise the value of pollinators, which contribute an estimated £600 million to the UK economy by enabling food production. In the past few years pollinator numbers have declined, which not only has an economic cost with regards to food production, but is also detrimental to biodiversity. The negative impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides are well documented, and are a contributing factor towards the fall in pollinator numbers. The UK government's declaration to commit to the EU's further restrictions of neonicotinoid pesticide applications, even in the event of Brexit, is therefore welcome.

I would request that the Committee agrees to write to the European Commission outlining Belfast City Council's support of the further EU restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticide applications and also write to the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) detailing both support for the proposed restrictions and agreement that such restrictions should be retained in the event of Brexit.

Additionally, I would request that the Committee agrees to further improve local biodiversity outcomes by investigating the feasibility of increasing and improving habitat provision for local pollinators, as outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2015-2020).

Councillor Georgina Milne

29th November, 2017

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