



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Council – Probation Board for N Ireland (PBNI) partnership working (Allotments maintenance)
<b>Date:</b>	12th March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales - Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard - Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek permission from Committee to implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Probation Board of Northern Ireland (PBNI) to provide a maintenance support service for allotment users.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to approve the attached MOU and to give permission for its implementation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Open Spaces and Streetscene officers have held meetings with PBNI to explore the possibility of working in partnership to provide maintenance services for allotment users. The pilot initiative will focus on the Annadale site. The MoU attached at appendix A is the practical outworking of those discussions. The committee is asked to approve the MoU, which would allow officers to begin its implementation.
3.2	The Council has a long-established partnership in place with the PBNI through the provision of its graffiti removal service. This partnership is facilitated under a similar MoU arrangement to the one proposed herein. We are keen to build on this relationship in order to provide support to both existing and new allotment users, with the focus initially on our Annadale site.
3.3	Primarily the support by PBNI will be aimed at supporting those plot holders who are unable, for a variety of reasons e.g. sickness, are unable to manage their own plots at the time being. The plots will be agreed with the allotment committee and holders in advance of any works being carried out.
3.4	Proposed works undertaken as part of this MoU by the PBNI team will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work to manage and maintain individual plots, where the plot holder is currently unable to manage the plot themselves due to temporary illness;</li> <li>- Work to manage and maintain those plots that have not been allocated for a long period of time due to being in a state of disrepair and therefore, unattractive to any new tenant.</li> <li>- Work to manage and maintain common areas and internal hedges (this would normally be the responsibility of the allotment holders).</li> </ul>

3.5	Work will be carried out one day per week during normal working hours. The PBNI team will be supervised by their own staff at all times when on site. It is anticipated that the programme of work will begin from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 and will last to September 2024. Work will be carried out one pre agreed day per week within normal working hours.
3.6	All existing allotment users will be communicated with in advance of the initiative beginning. This will be directly through our parks outreach team, and also through the Allotment committee which is fully supportive of the initiative, and will be involved in its implementation.
3.7	The MoU has been vetted by BCC Legal Services
	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b>
3.8	All costs associated with the operation of this MoU will be covered by the PBNI. This will include any equipment, PPE and / or fuel costs.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b>
3.9	There are no equality or good relations implications in this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix A – Memorandum of Understanding