



People & Communities

Committee Plan 2024- 2025



Belfast
City Council

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Introduction

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

Its specific functions include:

- Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety and wellbeing at a local level
- Developing and delivering programmes, events and activities to promote health, safety and well being at a local level.
- Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.
- Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.
- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including:
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Cleansing
 - Waste Management
 - Parks and Leisure Service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle)
 - Neighbourhood and Development Services
 - Community Services,
 - Community Safety
 - Emergency Planning
 - Building Control

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Micky Murray (Chair)
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Deputy Chair)
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor David Bell
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Christina Black
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Christine Bower
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Ruth Brooks
Party: DUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Sarah Bunting
Party: DUP
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Fred Cobain
Party: DUP
Ward: Castle



Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Party: SDLP
Ward: Lisnasharragh



Councillor Paul Doherty
Party: SDLP
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Tracy Kelly
Party: DUP
Ward: Botanic



Councillor Anthony Flynn
Party: Green Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Geraldine McAteer
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Paul McCusker
Party: Independent
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Tomás Ó Néill
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Old Park



Councillor Nicola Verner
Party: DUP
Ward: Court

Belfast City Council Priorities

The Belfast Agenda

The Belfast Agenda is the city's community plan.

It was first published in 2017, following extensive engagement with residents and partners. It sets out a long-term vision for Belfast and shared outcomes for the city, supported by shorter-term action plans to help achieve those aims.

Managed by the Belfast Community Planning Partnership (BCPP), it guides what council and

other public agencies in the city will do, in collaboration with businesses and communities, to make Belfast better.

Last year, the BCPP began to review and update the Belfast Agenda. "Continuing the conversation" with residents, the BCCP has agreed 14 priorities for the period 2023-27. Action plans aligned to each of these priorities have been developed and will be updated on an annual basis.

Council Planning Framework

Our Corporate Plan is the main strategic plan for our organisation. It sets out how we will support the Belfast Agenda and deliver our own organisational priorities, services, and programmes. We also have several supporting strategic plans to help manage and direct specific activity.

For example, our Local Development Plan which is the spatial planning framework for the city and our medium-term financial plan which sets out the financial strategy for the council.

These strategic plans, including the Improvement Plan, are supported by annual Departmental and Committee Plans to ensure activity for the year ahead is managed.

The People & Communities Committee Plan for 2024 - 2025, which is aligned to the Corporate Plan, outlines the key areas of work that this committee will be responsible for delivering. These are set out on the following pages.



City and Neighbourhood Services

The City and Neighbourhood Services (CNS) Department was developed in 2016 -17 as part of a restructuring process designed to ensure a more customer focused approach to the delivery of front-line services. As the largest department within Council, CNS brings together around 1,400 staff with the aim of achieving effective and efficient customer facing services through modern, integrated, high-quality, and cost-effective delivery on a city-wide basis.

The department delivers a range of statutory and core services to the residents and visitors of Belfast including essential services such as: emptying the bins, cleaning the streets and inspections and enforcements relating to public and environmental health.

Resources and Fleet

This comprises waste collection, waste management including strategies and policies, recycling centres, and the supply and maintenance of vehicles across council. The vision is complex and ambitious and has several elements which focus on developing a sustainable operating model which places value on the city's waste as a resource, supports the circular economy and helps to mitigate the impact of climate change on the city of Belfast.

Open Spaces and Streetscene (OSS)

Open Spaces and Streetscene is about clean and well-maintained public realm, open spaces, and streets. It's a new way to provide a consistent service across the city by integrating former parks and former street cleansing - sharing management, resources, equipment, and budgets.

Community Provision (Neighbourhood Services)

This encompasses the umbrella of community-type services Council currently offer - like community safety, good relations, community development, and health and wellbeing. Information was initially gathered in 2019 with the support of Centre for Effective Services (CES) to develop a plan for what future service provision might look like, by engaging with staff, benchmarking with other organisations to see what models they use and assessing user needs.

City Services

City Services cover a vast array of issues ranging from keeping neighbourhoods clean and safe, to ensuring the food we eat, water we drink and the air we breathe is not damaging to health. Amalgamating all the regulatory and enforcement services currently within CNS into a single multi-functional City Service, will enable the Department to operate more efficiently and effectively by maximising resources, avoiding duplication, and making it easier for customers to understand the services provided. Four portfolios have been developed: Business, Neighbourhood, Residential, and Bereavement & Emergency Planning.

Our People and Communities

What we will deliver in 2024/25

Build capacity within our communities.

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Implement the recommendations of the review of Belfast City Council Funded advice services.
- Develop and implement a Community Support Plan which outlines Council's agreed approach to Community support and Neighbourhood Integration and Community Planning Priorities.

Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Delivery and administration of DFC social supermarkets fund to deliver food/ wrap around support in areas of need.

Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan

- Development of the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and action plan.
- Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan.

<p>Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Belfast Pitches Strategy and action plan. Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative. Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres. Scope a review of all Council managed allotment facilities and report back to People and Communities committee. Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and undertake a review of selection criteria for the capital programme. (Implement the programme of development of playgrounds across the city to further improve accessibility).
<p>Community Safety</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Anti-social behaviour management in Parks.

Our Place

What we will deliver in 2024/25

<p>Heritage Tourism</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall.
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Director City & Neighbourhood Services	
Off-Street Car Parking	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.
Open Spaces	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.
Reservoir Improvement Programme	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).

Our Planet

What we will deliver in 2024/25

<p>Transition to low carbon</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members. ▪ Agree council approach to funding for a fleet replacement strategy. ▪ Explore opportunities to fund the conversion of the fleet to alternative non fossil fuels (electric) in conjunction with the Director of Finance. ▪ Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery. ▪ Implement and deliver on the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan. ▪ Undertake a review of the Belfast Tree Strategy after year 1 (Oct 2024) and then every 3 years after.
<p>Promote sustainable circular economy approaches</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services. ▪ Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval. ▪ Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council. ▪ Consider findings of the report on Paint Re-use scheme and seek approval for full implementation. ▪ Review of litter bin provision across the City including learning from trial city centre recycling project.

Climate Resilience

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Scope and develop a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Compassionate City

What we will deliver in 2024/25

<p>Belfast Youth Council</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate, an active and engaged Belfast City Youth Council who work with relevant fora and elected members to ensure that the needs of children and young people are reflected within the Belfast agenda and council priorities.
<p>Good Relations Action Plan</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the Good Relations action plan to promote good relations to persons of different religious belief and political opinions or racial group and promote cultural diversity and positive cultural expression for all cultural identities.
<p>Community Safety</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>In 2024/ 25 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing. Facilitation of the multi-agency 5 (D) PCSP meeting to support decision making and discussion on the People and Community Safety Action plan and Policing plan.

Improving Our Services

What we will deliver in 2024/25

Bereavement Services	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Undertake a review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.
Port Health	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Undertake a service review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.
House in Multiple Occupancy	In 2024/ 25 we will:
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Undertake a service review of HMO services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.

Organisational Priorities

What we will deliver in 2024/25

Bereavement Services

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- CNS to work with Physical Programs and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.
- CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building.

Port Health

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.

Digital Development

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core areas of City & Neighbourhood Services.

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard

- Development and implementation of the in-cab technology to enhance operational performance and efficiency.

Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

Asset Management

In 2024/ 25 we will:

Senior Responsible Officer:

Stephen Leonard
Director City &
Neighbourhood Services

- Develop a container policy for parks.

Key Expenditure

The expenditure for the People & Communities Committee is assigned as follows:

Service	Net Expenditure 2024 - 25 (£)
City Services	£5,889,460
Neighbourhood Services	£27,574,719
Open Spaces and Street Scene	£25,552,061
Resources and Fleet	£38,343,055
Support Services	£7,404,903
TOTAL	£104,764,198

Contact us:

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