

An aerial photograph of Belfast, Northern Ireland, featuring the prominent Belfast City Hall with its large green dome and classical architecture. The city hall is situated on a large, paved plaza with green spaces and a statue. The surrounding area is densely packed with various buildings, including modern glass-fronted structures and older brick buildings. The city extends to the horizon under a clear sky.

# People & Communities

Committee Plan 2025-2026



**Belfast**  
City Council



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# Introduction

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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 Ruth Brooks (Chairman)  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett (Deputy Chair)  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Collin



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 Nicola Bradley  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Fred Cobain  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Castle



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



Councillor Paul Doherty  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Black Mountain



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



Councillor Nicola Verner  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



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 Gary McKeown  
**Party:** SDLP  
**Ward:** Botanic



Councillor Ian McLaughlin  
**Party:** DUP  
**Ward:** Court



Councillor Hedley Abernethy  
**Party:** Alliance Party  
**Ward:** Ormiston



Councillor Conor Maskey  
**Party:** Sinn Fein  
**Ward:** Castle

## 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 2025 - 2026, 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 a wide a varied portfolio to deliver front line services and resources to neighbourhoods and communities across the city. Neighbourhood Services works across three portfolios which includes community support and integration, developing our community assets and programming, and community safety & good relations (including PeacePlus).

### City Services

City Services cover a vast array of front line and regulatory areas, four portfolios have been developed: Business, Neighbourhood, Residential, and Bereavement & Emergency Planning. The areas of service delivery range from food hygiene and food standards, health and safety regulation in business in the city, to Port Health regulation and consumer safety. We also provide public health and housing services, environmental protection regulation ranging from air quality, contaminated land, noise control and Scientific services. Our Bereavement and administration services sit within the Emergency Planning and off streetcar parking portfolio. Finally the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) is a key regulatory service coordinated and delivered by BCC on behalf of all 11 Councils and sits within the Neighbourhood portfolio alongside Pest Control, Dog warden Services, the Enforcement team and animal welfare .

# Our People and Communities

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

### Build capacity within our communities.

#### In 2025/ 26 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 a new Community Support Plan for the period 2025-29 which set out the basis for how we provide support to local communities and residents across the city. This will include support to the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors.

### Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Continue to deliver the Social Supermarkets programme to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the city.

### Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan  
Director City &

- Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan to facilitate the growth and development of boxing across Belfast.
- Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.

Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scope the recommended options from the review and agree an action plan for allotments</li> <li>▪ Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) to ensure that we can continue to provide high quality playground facilities and equipment across the city.</li> </ul>

## Our Place

### What we will deliver in 2024/25

Heritage Tourism	In 2025/ 26 we will:
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
Off-Street Car Parking	In 2025/ 26 we will:
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>  Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city.</li> </ul>



<b>Open Spaces</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space.</li></ul>
<b>Reservoir Improvement Programme</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).</li></ul>

# Our Planet

## What we will deliver in 2024/25

<b>Transition to low carbon</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Siobhan Toland Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members.</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop the Net Zero Fleet Replacement Strategy to agree council approach to transition to an alternative (non-fossil) fuel.</li> <li>▪ Continue to deliver the Fleet Replacement Programme gradually replacing existing old fleet with new low emission vehicles.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Deliver the Belfast City Council's Tree Strategy and action plan to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations.</li> </ul>
<b>Promote sustainable circular economy approaches</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.</li> <li>▪ Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.</li> <li>▪ Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.</li> <li>▪ Complete a review of litter bin provision to ensure adequate resourcing and arrangements for waste disposal across the city.</li> </ul>

**Climate Resilience**

**In 2025/ 26 we will:**

**Senior Responsible Officer:**

Stephen Leonard  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Develop the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to set out our approach to address threatened species and habitats and protect and restore biological systems.
- Develop a Herbicide use policy for the Council



# Compassionate City

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

### Good Relations Action Plan

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

**Jim Girvan**

Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Continue to implement the Good Relations Action Plan to support the delivery of locally identified good relations priorities.

### Community Safety

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

**Jim Girvan**

Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.
- Continue to facilitate the five multi-agency (D) PCSP's which work to make communities safer, making sure that the voices of local people are heard.

### Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

**Jim Girvan**

Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Delivery of the ending violent against women and girls' initiative

# Improving Our Services

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

### Bereavement Services

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

### Port Health

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

### Houses in Multiple Occupancy

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the HMO service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits

<b>Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Jim Girvan Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work effectively through with CI and CHR to progress the Neighbourhood Services Pathway Forward to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible services to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Warden</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officers:</b> Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the park warden service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Park Events and Outreach</b>  <b>Senior Responsible Officers:</b> Stephen Leonard and Jim Girvan Directors City & Neighbourhood Services	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work effectively through with CI and CHR to complete the review of the parks, events and outreach service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.</li> </ul>



# Organisational Priorities

## What we will deliver in 2025/26

### Bereavement Services

#### In 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- CNS to work with Physical Programmes 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 2025/ 26 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 2025/ 26 we will:

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Siobhan Toland  
Director City &  
Neighbourhood Services

- Progress plans to 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 regulatory areas of City Services & community safety within Neighbourhood Services.

#### Senior Responsible Officer:

Jim Girvan

- Procure and implement a modern booking system for parks and community facilities subject to digital services work programme.

Director City & Neighbourhood Services	
<b>Asset Management</b>	<b>In 2025/ 26 we will:</b>
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Stephen Leonard Director City & Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop a container policy for parks.</li></ul>

## Key Expenditure

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

Service	Net Expenditure 2025 - 26 (£)
City Services	£ 7,958,161
Neighbourhood Services	£ 29,467,816
Open Spaces and Street Scene	£ 27,722,717
Resources and Fleet	£ 36,799,346
Support Services	£ 7,475,232
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 109,423,272</b>



### Contact us:

City and Neighbourhood Services  
Cecil Ward Building  
4-10 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8DP



[staffnews@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:staffnews@belfastcity.gov.uk)



028 9032 0202



[www.belfastcity.gov.uk](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk)



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