



Subject:	Heritage Lottery Nature Towns and Cities - Launch Event
Date:	9th September 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes ☐ No ☒

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek the Committee's retrospective approval for the Chairperson's attendance at the parliamentary launch of the Heritage Lottery's Nature Towns and Cities project.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to grant retrospective approval at outlined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 5th August, it had noted that the Council, in conjunction with Ulster Wildlife, had been awarded £850,514 from the Heritage Lottery's Nature Towns and Cities to oversee the delivery of a range of initiatives across Belfast and surrounding areas. The Council's initiatives would build on existing initiatives, such as the Future of Northern Ireland's Urban Green Spaces report, and work undertaken on Nature Recovery Networks and Belfast 2024.
3.2	Subsequent to the August meeting, an invitation was extended to the Chairperson to attend the parliamentary launch of the initiative on 8th September at the Terrace Pavilion in the House of Commons, an event sponsored by Clive Betts M.P. Given the significance and scale of the project, it was considered appropriate that the Council be represented at the event. However, given the timing of Committee meetings, it has not been possible to seek prior approval, hence authority is being sought retrospectively.
4.0	Financial Implications
	The costs associated with attendance at the event, including flights and accommodation, is estimated at £350.00, provision for which exists within departmental budgets.
5.0	Appendices
	None.