



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Imagination Library
Date:	4 th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ewa Bajorek – Play Development Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
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
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To advise committee of completion of actions to establish Belfast City Council's Imagination Library pilot project following a Notice of Motion.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That committee notes the work carried out to date to establish the project, that officers will continue to manage the project and agree that the Notice of Motion is closed.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	People and Communities committee of 6 th December 2022 adopted a Notice of Motion referred from the 24 th November 2022 Business and Standards Committee and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting.
3.2	People and Communities committee of 7 th March 2023 agreed to defer a report which was presented by officers. This was to enable the proposer of the motion to liaise further with Council officers regarding the proposal and the anticipated costs in advance of a report being submitted to a future meeting.
3.3	The Special People and Communities committee of 29 th January 2025 agreed a non-recurrent amount of £10,000 would be allocated to support the pilot project.
3.4	Following engagement with the project delivery partner, Dollywood Foundation, in line with the standard operating model for the scheme, Council has agreed a contract to supply age-appropriate reading materials to a pilot cohort of 75 children for a period of 5 years.
3.5	The opportunity was very positively received on council's Facebook page, with 566 people liking the post and 149 sharing it.
3.6	Registrations to the project commenced on 1 st October 2025, with the Registrar's Office working directly with families registering their babies and encouraging them to sign up to the scheme. All 75 places were allocated within four days.
3.7	A celebration event, hosted by the Lord Mayor, was organised in City Hall on Thursday 23 rd October. Attendees included representatives from the Dollywood Foundation, families supported by the scheme and potential partners who may support extension of the scheme via financial support in the future. Family friendly activities were organised by the Play Services team.
3.8	Play Services will undertake regular monitoring of the scheme, in collaboration with the Dollywood Foundation, for the duration of the pilot project.
3.9	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no additional resource implications from this report.

3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications from this report.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None.