



Subject:	Collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for N. Ireland & District Councils and continuation of funding for a joint Post
Date:	6 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officers:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager James Cunningham, Assistant City Protection Manager

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

Some time in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek continued support from Belfast City Council for maintaining the current arrangements and the Council's contribution for the Health and Safety Partnership Officer post, until the end of the 2027/2028 financial year.
1.2	The purpose of this multiagency joint funded role is to enhance collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that Members approve the continued funding for the H&S Partnership Officer post until the end of the 2027/2028 financial year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members are reminded that the Council, in April 2010, agreed to support collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) and district councils by investing in a Partnership Liaison Officer post. This post ensures the continuing effective partnership and operational delivery of the joint Health and Safety strategy between district councils and the HSENI.
3.2	This officer post is currently employed by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council and the costs associated with the post are divided equally amongst the 12 partners (11 district councils and HSENI).
3.3	Attached as Appendix 1, are the Minutes of the March 2010 Health and Environmental Services Committee, providing background on the necessity of the PLO post.
3.4	Members are further reminded that at a meeting of the People and Communities Committee in January 2024, Members agreed to a two-year extension of support and a funding contribution, for continuation of the Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post to 31 st March 2026
3.5	Correspondence has been received from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council seeking continued support from all Councils for a further two-year extension of the current arrangements, to ensure continuity of the post beyond March 2026 and to facilitate retention of the current postholder and the continuing partnership working with HSENI.
3.6	As previously highlighted to the Committee, the main purpose of the Partnership Officer remains as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assist in the continuing development and implementation of the Strategic Framework for Partnership Working by building effective working relationships and processes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate the delivery of specific aspects of partnership arrangements such as joint planning, joint enforcement initiatives and campaigns, joint training and innovative ways of targeting resources more effectively. • Monitor the output of these defined areas of joint work. • Liaise with district councils and their representative bodies and partners on issues relating to workplace health and safety and provide a district council perspective on the Partnership Team. • Support district councils in meeting their partnership commitments, particularly when developing business plans etc. • Act as an effective communication channel between district councils and HSENI. • Ensure that district council interests are fed into the joint planning processes.
3.7	The effectiveness of the Partnership officer role was reviewed in 2024/5 by all 11 Councils via the Health and Safety Liaison Subgroup of Environmental Health NI, resulting in a refreshed job description with added focus on ensuring value for all 11 contributing District Councils.
3.8	The effectiveness of the current arrangements will continue to be reviewed jointly by all 11 Councils.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.9	Belfast City Council's contribution to the funding of this post will be in the region of £7,000 per annum which is included within existing budget. There are no human resource implications as Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will continue to be the employing authority and provide day-to-day management support and recover costs from the 12 partners (11 district councils and HSENI).
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.10	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	There are no issues associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - March 2010 Health and Environmental Services Committee