



Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2025-2026 Quarters 1 & 2
Date:	4 th November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan – Leisure Development 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

Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period April- September 2025 (quarters 1 and 2).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date of the Belfast Boxing Strategy annual work plan for the current year 2025/26.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council agreed, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) for delivery of an agreed annual action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.</p>
3.2	Committee agreed on 4 March 2025 to extend to extend the scope of the strategy and to provide funding for the delivery of the work plan from 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026
3.3	The IABA have provided council with a detailed breakdown of programmes to be delivered under six main areas. Salary – Development Officer and Coaches, Pathways, Events, Coach Education, Club Support and Governance.
3.4	Following this decision, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has continued to meet quarterly with the most recent meeting taking place via MS Team on Thursday 23rd October.
3.5	The Steering Group is chaired by the Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers, IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials attending. Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan and the programme is on schedule to deliver all KPIs within budget.
3.6	Monitoring - The Leisure Development Unit works directly with IABA officials to verify reporting on performance, vouching actual spend and provides detailed reports for discussion at the Steering Group.
3.7	Performance - Council agreed a total of 38 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes.

	<p>IABA have complied with reporting requirements and their performance report for 25/26 (Quarter 1 & 2 is at Appendix 1). IABA have provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and have advised that they anticipate that all KPIs will be achieved by the end of 25/26.</p>
3.8	<p><u>25/26 Action Plan</u></p> <p>The IABA have an extensive city-wide programme planned for Q3 & Q4 including:</p> <p>Halloween Box Cup- Running 26th- 28th October at Girdwood Community Hub. Over 400 entries confirmed which will require 3 rings. Competitors from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Italy.</p> <p>Harry Cunningham Boxing Cup- 19th-20th November Balmoral Hotel- Competitors from Cyprus, Italy and Greece taking part.</p> <p>Female Development Squad- between 40- 50 females, including female coaches. Venues to include Cairn Lodge and Midland</p> <p>Fundamentals Coaching Course- to take place at the City of Belfast Boxing Club (the first course ever to be delivered in East Belfast).</p> <p>Antrim 6s – to take place in December and that will attract between 300-350 boxers.</p> <p>Try- it day in Girdwood - 22nd October. 4 schools coming in to participate.</p> <p>Day of Boxing 19th November to coincide with Men's Mental Health Day and will involve schools from all parts of the City</p>
3.9	<p>The funding for the Belfast Boxing Strategy work plan is scheduled to finish on 31st March 2026.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A total of £200,000 is available within the current year to support the current Action Plan. It is projected that the full budget will be expended in 2025-2026.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Members agreed that an equality screening be undertaken prior to a decision being made in relation to funding for 19/20. Officers finalised this screening and the findings show that progress has been made in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups and this has been reported separately through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The IABA continue to target underrepresented groups in its delivery of the 25/26</p>

	programme with particular focus on the events, club based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1: IABA 2025-2026 Performance Report to end of Quarter 1 & 2