

**Appendix 1: Draft Council performance improvement objectives and indicative actions 2026-27 – for public consultation.**

Draft improvement objectives 2026 -27 (subject to consultation and engagement)	What we will deliver – proposed indicative actions 2026-27 (subject to consultation and engagement)
<p><b>Our Services</b></p> <p>We will continue to adapt and improve our services to better meet the needs of our residents and stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to deliver the <b>Planning Service Improvement Plan</b>.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver the <b>Customer Focus Programme</b>, to enhance our services and customer experience.</li> <li>• Deliver a <b>street cleansing programme</b> to create a cleaner and greener city.</li> <li>• Deliver <b>phase three of the kerbside glass expansion programme</b> to enhance customer service and improve recycling rates.</li> <li>• Finalise the development of the <b>Asset Management Strategy</b> and commence implementation to ensure Council owned and managed land and property assets will be used effectively to support service delivery and the delivery of objectives in the Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Our People and Communities</b></p> <p>We will improve our local areas and provide opportunities to support our residents to become healthier and engaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the development and delivery of the <b>Council's Physical Programme</b> to enable needs led investment across the city i.e. Capital Programme, Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, Belfast Investment Fund, Local Investment Fund, Social Outcomes Fund, PEACEPLUS, Urban Villages and other initiatives.</li> <li>• Progress development of the <b>next phase of the Leisure programme</b> to transform the quality of Council leisure facilities.</li> <li>• Progress the development of projects in the <b>Pitches Strategy</b> to enhance the quality and availability of sports pitches across the city.</li> <li>• <b>Enhance our playgrounds</b>, to ensure that we continue to provide high quality facilities and equipment across the city (Playground Improvement Programme).</li> <li>• Deliver <b>animation and outreach activities</b> in community, play and leisure development programmes.</li> <li>• Progress delivery of the <b>£10.28m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund</b> to help develop facilities that support neighbourhood tourism, improved environmental sustainability and social economy activity within communities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of <b>people using our leisure centres</b>, to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>• Deliver <b>improvements to parks and open spaces</b> to improve people's health and wellbeing through multimillion pound transformational schemes.</li> </ul>
<b>Our Place</b> We will create a more vibrant, attractive, and connected city (including the city centre).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the delivery of the <b>2026 Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann</b>, the world's largest annual festival of Irish music, song and dance.</li> <li>• Undertake work to <b>safeguard and enhance Council's historic, heritage and tourism assets</b> including Belfast Zoo, Historic Cemeteries, Wilmont House, Floral Hall, St. George's Market, Assembly Rooms and the Palm House.</li> <li>• Continue to progress <b>infrastructure works at the North Foreshore</b> to support the development of the site.</li> <li>• Continue to work with the developer on emerging development specifications for the <b>250-acre Giant's Park site</b> as set out in the Master Development Agreement.</li> <li>• Deliver the <b>Greenways and the Access to the Hills Programme</b> to improve the connectivity of the city.</li> </ul>
<b>Our Planet</b> We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver <b>effective waste management services</b> across Belfast.</li> <li>• Progress the <b>planet section of the Belfast Agenda</b>, which aims to create a sustainable, nature positive city (including investable local energy projects, sustaining and monitoring the UPSURGE demonstrator and satellite sites and a neighbourhood retrofit pilot).</li> <li>• Deliver <b>year two of the Council Corporate Climate Action Plan</b> to increase the climate resilience of Council assets and services and progress towards Council net zero emissions, (over 20 priorities including a Sustainable Food Policy, energy audits of Council buildings and retrofitting of Council buildings).</li> <li>• Continue to deliver the <b>Council's Tree Strategy and action plan</b> to help manage and improve the tree scape in the city.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Our Economy</b></p> <p>We will stimulate inclusive growth and innovation, help businesses to start-up and grow and create opportunities for more and better jobs and employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the <b>Enterprise Support Service to deliver ‘Go Succeed’</b> to increase the number of new business starts.</li> <li>• Deliver <b>employment and upskilling academies</b> to support business growth by promoting inclusive labour market opportunities in line with industry demand.</li> <li>• Support our suppliers by helping business cashflow through the <b>prompt payment of invoices.</b></li> <li>• Deliver the <b>Smart Belfast urban innovation programme</b> to enhance Belfast’s capacity for digital innovation.</li> <li>• Deliver the <b>Belfast Learning Festival</b> to increase awareness of the opportunities to engage in lifelong learning across the city.</li> <li>• Deliver an <b>enhanced Belfast Business Promise programme</b> implementing learning and recommendations from the programme review.</li> <li>• Continue to <b>recruit suitable entry level posts, e.g. placement opportunities</b>, as part of the Council’s People Strategy action plan, to support our inclusive growth ambitions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Compassionate City</b></p> <p>We will support our most vulnerable people to make Belfast a more caring, safe and inclusive city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver <b>local community action plans</b> as part of the Peace PLUS programme, to fund community activities and infrastructure project that help build peace and reconciliation in Belfast.</li> <li>• Deliver a <b>Community Support Plan</b> to support local communities and residents across the city.</li> <li>• Progress the delivery of up to 5 capital projects across the city as part of the <b>Peace PLUS Local Action Plan</b> to promote inclusive and shared spaces across Belfast i.e. Sanctuary Theatre, Distillery Street Redevelopment Project, Annadale Open Space, Access to the Hills and LGBTQIA+ Hub.</li> </ul>