



Subject:	Asset Management i) Morton Community Centre – Licence Renewal with Streetwise Community Circus ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence Agreement with Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens
Date:	20 February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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 ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve: i) Morton Community Centre – Licence Renewal with Streetwise Community Circus - Approve Council entering into a new licence agreement with Streetwise Community Circus for premises at Morton Community Centre. ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence Agreement with Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens - Approve the grant of a licence agreement between the Council & Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens to cover their use of a portion of Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) as a community garden to deliver up the objectives of the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project in partnership with the Council
3.0	Main Report
3.1	i) Morton Community Centre – Licence Renewal with Streetwise Community Circus <u>Key Issues</u> The current Licence Agreement with Streetwise Community Circus C.I.C. is due to expire on 31 March 2026 and a new agreement has been offered to the group subject to Members' approval. The existing Licence allows the group to exclusively occupy a small office, store and open mezzanine storage area, with their use of the main hall covered under separate centre booking arrangements. Under the Licence the group were permitted to install curtains and 2no lattice beams and rope trapeze within the main hall, these will be allowed to remain with the group's liability for repair, maintenance and indemnity to continue as before. The Group are willing to enter into a new rolling one year licence agreement from 1 April 2026 which can be renewed up to a maximum of five years. The Estates Unit have recommended an uplift in the annual licence fee from £4,530.00 to £4,850.00 which has been accepted by the group subject to Members' approval. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Council will receive a revised rent of £4,850.00 per annum. Council's Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit to agree the new licence agreement. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
3.2	ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence Agreement with Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens

	<u>Key Issues</u> Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens (FoBBG) are intending to partner with the Council in the delivery of the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section). Subject to Members approval, the Council will enter into a licence agreement with FoBBG to commence as soon as possible which will continue up to and including 30th September 2026 then month to month thereafter up to a maximum of 6 further months with a one month notice period. A licence fee will not be applicable. Members will be aware that there are two further licences presently in place at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) between the Council & Queens University Belfast (QUB) and the Council & Friends of the Fields (FotF). Both QUB & FotF have been partnering with the Council in the delivery of the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project at Botanic Gardens (Lower Section). The QUB Licence commenced on 25th February 2023 and will remain in place until 30th September 2026 then month to month thereafter up to a maximum of 6 further months with a one month notice period. The Friends of the Field licence commenced on 1st September 2025 and will remain in place until 31st August 2026. See map attached at Appendix 1 showing the location of the proposed area to be licenced to FoBBG in the context of the two other areas on the site already licenced to QUB & FotF. Members will be aware of the recent discussions taken in respect of the Pitches Programme including the proposals for the Lower Botanic site for a new GAA pitch with further detail on this to come back in March. <u>Financial and Resources Implications</u> Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. FoBBG are partnering with the Council in the delivery of the Upsurge Project and therefore a licence fee shall not be applicable. <u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – See map attached at Appendix 1 showing the location of the proposed area to be licenced to FoBBG in the context of the two other areas on the site already licenced to QUB & FotF.