



Subject:	The Belfast Boxing Strategy 2026-2027
Date:	20 March 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan – Leisure Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <p>To seek committee approval to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and delivery of the related programme for a final year from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027.</p> <p>Future funding arrangements for this programme will be determined following adoption of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for Belfast including a new action plan and funding arrangements.</p>
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked:</p> <p>i. To extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and funding for delivery of the related work programme from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At SP&R Committee on the 19th December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrees to invite the IABA to a future meeting to discuss the implementation and recommendations made in a NI Equality Commission report; • Approves the Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 payment to the IABA; and • Requests that future funding be considered for the delivery and continuation of the Council's Boxing Strategy post March 2026.
3.2	<p>The IABA have been invited to the SP&R committee to discuss both their response to the Equality Commission and the work carried out through the boxing strategy.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Belfast Boxing Strategy</u></p> <p>Council with Partners developed a Belfast Boxing Strategy 2012 – 2022. The January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed 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. Council has continued to offer financial support through People and Communities committee on an annual basis.</p>
3.4	<p>The IABA provided SP&R 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.</p>

3.5	<p>The below table highlights the current timeline for the development, consultation and implementation of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 302 1497 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="279 302 882 353">Action</th> <th data-bbox="882 302 1497 353">Timeline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 353 882 459">Presentation to elected members via Party Group Briefings</td> <td data-bbox="882 353 1497 459">March - 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 459 882 564">Presentation to SP&R Committee for approval</td> <td data-bbox="882 459 1497 564">March/April - 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 564 882 616">Conduct final 12 week public consultation</td> <td data-bbox="882 564 1497 616">May 2026-July 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 616 882 667">Review of findings from Public Consultation</td> <td data-bbox="882 616 1497 667">August 2026- September 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 667 882 817">Report requesting approval of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy to P & C Committee</td> <td data-bbox="882 667 1497 817">October 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 817 882 869">Development of Strategy Delivery Plan</td> <td data-bbox="882 817 1497 869">October- December 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 869 882 974">Report requesting approval of final Action Plan to P & C Committee</td> <td data-bbox="882 869 1497 974">January 2027</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 974 882 1122">Launch of the New Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and Action Plan</td> <td data-bbox="882 974 1497 1122">February 2027</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Timeline	Presentation to elected members via Party Group Briefings	March - 2026	Presentation to SP&R Committee for approval	March/April - 2026	Conduct final 12 week public consultation	May 2026-July 2026	Review of findings from Public Consultation	August 2026- September 2026	Report requesting approval of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy to P & C Committee	October 2026	Development of Strategy Delivery Plan	October- December 2026	Report requesting approval of final Action Plan to P & C Committee	January 2027	Launch of the New Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and Action Plan	February 2027
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3.6	<p>The above timelines highlights that Belfast City Council will not have a new PASD strategy in place for the financial year for 2026/27.</p>																		
3.7	<p>Members are asked to consider extending the boxing strategy for one year whilst the new strategy and implementation plan is developed.</p>																		
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> A total of £200,000 is available within the next financial year to support a new Belfast Boxing Strategy Action Plan</p>																		
3.9	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>																		
4.0	<p>Appendices – No documents attached</p>																		
	<p>None</p>																		