

Belfast Alleyway Transformation programme 2026 to 2028



Belfast
City Council

The Programme

Purpose of the programme

The main work packages

Piloting and scaling phase

Immediate next steps

Programme deliverables

Ambition:

'Residents experience alleyways as safe and vibrant shared spaces that support well being, strengthen neighbourhood connection and enable communities to share the spaces around them'

Main deliverables:

1. A long-term sustainability plan

A detailed service model for how we will deliver the citywide alleyways programme over the long term

2. Belfast City Council Business Case

A costed growth proposal for the onward delivery of the programme

3. Twenty-five miles of transformed alleyways

On-the-ground delivery of approximately 800 alleyway projects



Main work packages

As part of the Bloomberg contractual commitment, Belfast City Council will deliver significant work-strands:

1. Programme management and governance
2. Data and Insights
3. Resident mobilisation
4. Stakeholders & partner engagement
5. Alleyway Transformation resources
6. **Piloting and scaling**
7. Development of a 'Future State' Delivery Model
8. Learning & Evaluation



6. Piloting and scaling

Alleyway projects will be delivered through a '*learn and adapt*' approach. Insights from each phase will inform and shape subsequent phases.

Timeline

From July 2026 to December 2027

How will it work?

- **Three-month phases** with 'learn and adapt'
- Engage '**sponsor**' organisations to support local project visioning and delivery
- City Council to provide a **resource pack** (this will develop as we learn more about local need)
- Up to **60 neighbourhood-led alleyway projects** underway in phase one
- Aiming for **800 projects** by end of the programme.



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What's the role of the 'sponsor'?

The sponsor organisation will be funded by Council to support neighbourhood groups. The role of the sponsor is likely to include:

- Identify and onboard local neighbourhood groups
- Facilitate groups to develop their vision and implementation plan
- Draw down micro-grants and technical support on behalf of the groups and ensuring appropriate expenditure
- Support the 'learn and adapt' process; gather relevant data, support programme evaluation
- Support to showcase the project and complete final reports.



What's in the resource pack?

The pack will be available to participating groups. Its contents will develop as we learn more about local need but is likely to include:

- Support from the local 'sponsor' organisation
- Starter pack: (e.g.) litter pickers, gloves, bags, etc.
- Materials (eg) seeds, bedding plants, planters, pots, compost, tools, pop-up furniture, etc.
- Temporary access to Euro Bins service
- Prioritised bulky waste pick up
- Access to micro-grants
- Access to volunteer services (when appropriate)
- Advice, technical support and 'animation' from Belfast City Council and its partners



Immediate next steps

- Establish the programme governance
- Recruit the three-person team
- Ramp up stakeholders and community engagement and awareness of the opportunities
- Develop first version of the alleyways support resource package
- Onboard the first group of 'sponsor' organisations this month
- Roll-out the first pilots

