



Belfast
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26
Date:	21 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Karen Anderson-Gillespie, Strategic Performance 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

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present the 2025-2026 Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report for consideration and approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i. approve the draft Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26 (Appendix 1) ii. authorise its publication on the council's website by the statutory deadline of 30 September (subject to any minor updates required, including the receipt of outstanding data detailed in section 3.3 and formal ratification by full council on 1 September).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act requires councils to agree improvement objectives on an annual basis and publish these in the form of a Performance Improvement Plan, by 30 June. The Act also requires that progress is regularly monitored against the improvement objectives and reported in an annual Self-Assessment of Performance, to be published by 30 September. Committee will be aware that in the 2025-26 Performance Improvement Plan, agreed by SP&R on the 23 May 2025, we committed to monitoring progress and providing quarterly performance reports to the CMT, the AAB, the ARP, SP&R Committee, and the full council.
3.2	<u>Performance Improvement Self-Assessment 2025-26</u> A draft 2025-2026 Performance Improvement Self-Assessment Report is attached at Appendix 1. In total there are 33 actions and 57 key performance indicators (KPIs) (i.e., 7 statutory and 50 self-imposed), of these: • All 6 improvement objectives have been achieved, and this has been consistently the case for the preceding 3 years. Performance improved in 2025-2026 compared with 2024-2025 in the sense that the proportion of KPIs on target increased from 82.0% to 84.2%, while KPIs showing positive change increased from 80% to 91%, indicating strong overall performance despite a lower number of actions. • 100% of the 33 actions were either achieved/completed or partially achieved. • Out of the 57 KPIs: ▪ 48 (84.2%) KPIs were on target or exceeded target (within 1% or better) – 4 statutory, 44 self-imposed. ▪ 2 (3.5%) were slightly adrift of target (between 1% and 5%) - 1 statutory, 1 self-imposed.

- 1 (1.8%) had no data available and will be reported in 2026-2027 following completion of Phase 2:
 - i. Collected an additional 650 tonnes of glass.
- 6 (10.5%) were adrift of target (more than 5%) – 2 statutory, 4 self-imposed:
 - i. Achieving the 30-week target for average processing time for **major planning applications** (statutory indicator).
 - ii. Achieving the 15-week target for average processing time for **local planning applications** (statutory indicator).
 - iii. Achieving less than 12 weeks average processing time for **householder applications and advertisement consent applications**.
 - iv. Completing 1 **Asset Management Strategy**.
 - v. Progressing 19 short-term council **Corporate Climate Action Plan** priorities.
 - vi. Supporting 75% of participants to move into a positive outcome from an **Employment or Upskilling Academy**.
- 52 (91%) KPIs showed positive change (5 statutory, 47 self-imposed)
- 4 (7%) KPIs showed negative change (2 statutory, 2 self-imposed):
 - i. Achieving the 30-week target for average processing time for **major planning applications** (statutory indicator).
 - ii. Achieving less than six weeks average processing time of **tree works applications and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)**.
 - iii. Completing 325 **business plans** to promote business start-up and job promotion (statutory indicator).
 - iv. Supporting 75% of participants to move into a positive outcome from an **Employment or Upskilling Academy**.

3.3

Committee should note that due to data availability timescales we are awaiting final, verified data for the following and that Appendix 1 will be subject to minor update once received:

- Planning and waste data from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).
- Comparative absence data for all councils from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).

3.4

A rationale has been provided within Appendix 1 where targets have not been met or there has been no improvement. Where targets have not been achieved or there has been no improvement, these will be monitored via the 2026-2027 Performance Improvement Plan, 2026-2027 Corporate Delivery Plan or at a departmental level.

3.5	<u>Next steps</u> Subject to consideration and agreement by the Committee, the proposed next steps include: i. 21 August: Full Council ratification of PIP Self-Assessment report ii. 11 September: Audit and Risk Panel Performance Update iii. 30 September: Submission of PIP Self-Assessment report to NIAO and published online
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or human resource implications arising directly from this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Performance Improvement Self-Assessment report 2025-26.