

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast  
City Council**

30th January, 2024

**MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid Meeting in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 6th February, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

**AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Presentations**

- (a) Open Botanic - Forward South Partnership

3. **Restricted**

- (a) Presentation - Belfast Advice Group
- (b) Funding Request from Belfast Advice Group (Pages 1 - 8)
- (c) Waste Update (Pages 9 - 228)
- (d) Update on Macmillan 'Move More' Programme (Pages 229 - 232)

- (e) Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group Update (Pages 233 - 238)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Reference Group on Older People Update (Pages 239 - 246)
- (b) Draft response to DfC Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework Consultation (Pages 247 - 254)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Cherryvale Playing Fields - Recent Animal Welfare Cases (Pages 255 - 258)
- (b) Article 4 and 5 of Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order (Pages 259 - 278)
- (c) Events in Parks Requests (Pages 279 - 284)
- (d) Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot - MoU (Pages 285 - 298)
- (e) Dual Language Street Signage Application (Pages 299 - 302)
- (f) Naming of New Street (report to follow)
- (g) Alleygates Phase 5 Update (Pages 303 - 306)

6. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Signage at Ruby Murray Park - Councillor Murray
- (b) Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces - Councillor Flynn

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Reference Group on Older people
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, CNS

**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?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	That the People and Communities Committee note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.</p>
3.2	The meeting was held on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the City Hall and the main items were as follows.
3.3	The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with the following updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027.
	<b>Social Connections</b>
3.4	Connection hubs will be places across the city where older people can come to access information. G6 and HASP are being consulted on locations for the Connection Hubs. Feedback has identified that there is already a lot of information out there, but that the creation of Hubs would identify location(s) where this could be shared.
	<b>Social Isolation Training</b>
3.5	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust organised further Isolation and Loneliness training online and in person as part of Positive Ageing month. The training was delivered by the Northern Regional College.
	<b>Positive Ageing Month October 2023</b>
3.6	Age Friendly Belfast organised 10 different events across the month and the feedback was really positive. At the Age Convention Event on 25 <sup>th</sup> October 130 older people attended and were provided with information from different speakers. Evaluation sheets highlighted a number of people attending for the first time and keen to come back again.



3.7	<p><b>Volunteer Celebration Event</b></p> <p>Taking place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 4.30pm- 6.30pm. This year's event will showcase examples of volunteering across Belfast, but more importantly thank the amazing volunteers for their contribution to older people in Belfast.</p>
3.8	<p><b>2024 Age Friendly Calendars</b></p> <p>Being delivered out to organisations who support older people and have received requests to post out to individuals. The calendars also contain some useful contact numbers for older people and their carers.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Winter Planning</b></p> <p>An update on winter planning for older people including Keep Warm Packs, Fuel Stamps, Belfast Warm &amp; Well project, and Affordable Warmth Project was provided.</p>
3.10	<p><b>Cost of Living Support</b></p> <p>The Lead Officer gave an overview of the Cost-of-Living support. Cost of Living Booklets will be distributed to organisations who support older people and the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum as well as advice providers and libraries. Further information will also be available here <a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support">Cost of living support (belfastcity.gov.uk)</a></p>
3.11	<p><b>Overview of support provided by Community Centres to older people.</b></p> <p>The Community Services Assistant Unit Manager gave an overview of the centre-based programming delivered by staff (including winter activity programmes) in the directly managed community centres across Belfast. She also provided information on the support that Community Development Officers can provide to older people's groups with capacity building needs, the partnership working with a range of agencies and organisations and the types of activities provided by external agencies for older people in the community centres. <a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communitycentres">www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communitycentres</a></p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities outlined in this report are met within existing resources.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>All activity outlined in this report is captured in the Belfast Age Friendly Plan which has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Reference Group on Older People meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023</p>

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# Reference Group on Older People

Tuesday, 12th December, 2023

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REFERENCE GROUP ON OLDER PEOPLE

Members present: Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors T. Brooks, Ferguson and  
McCabe.

In attendance: Ms. J. Holland, Age Friendly Coordinator (temporary);  
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer - Community Provision;  
Ms. L. Wallace, Community Centre Supervisor; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors S. Douglas and Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 19th September, 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

### **Update on Age Friendly Belfast Plan - J. Holland**

The Age Friendly Coordinator reported that the action plan contained four separate themes and that the area which was being worked on currently was connection hubs. She stated that consultations had taken place on a preferred location for the connection hub and that 2 Royal Avenue had been cited as the preferred option.

The Members were informed that the objective in setting up the connection hub was to establish a central location where older people could receive information on events and issues pertinent to them. The Age Friendly Coordinator reported that officers would be seeking the views of the Health Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) on making use of 2 Royal Avenue as a central information and communication hub for older people.

The Reference Group was informed that training on social isolation was being undertaken by the Health and Social Care Trust (HSC) and that further sessions had been scheduled to take place during November and December 2024. The Age Friendly Coordinator reported on the success of 'Positive Ageing Month' and the Age Friendly Convention which had been attended by over one hundred and thirty older people. The Reference Group was informed that, as a result, of Positive Ageing Month, older people had been made aware of the range of events which had been planned and those which had taken place across the city.

The Age Friendly Coordinator reported that, once again, the tea dances had proved very popular and were well attended, and that access to dementia services had been highlighted as a priority for 2024. In terms of winter planning, the Members were informed that, due to resource limitations, winter warmth stocks were limited and were now operated by the Housing Executive. The Age Friendly Coordinator reported that the fuel stamps scheme continued to operate and had proved popular with older people, allowing them to budget and assist with their energy costs.

In response to a question from the Chairperson in regard to the beneficiaries from the social isolation training, she was informed that it was available to care workers and those from within the voluntary and community sector. The Age Friendly Coordinator stated that she would check if future social isolation events could be programmed for 2024.

In response to a further question from a Member in regard to the availability of recordings on social isolation training, given that Members who were in full time employment found daytime training sessions difficult to attend, the Age Friendly Coordinator stated that she would ascertain if such training recordings could be made available for Members.

The Reference Group noted the information provided and thanked the staff for their dedication and work in organising the range of Age Friendly events and paid particular tribute to the work provided by the staff operating the handyman scheme.

#### **Overview of Cost of Living Support - M Higgins**

The Lead Officer reported that a cost-of-living guide had been produced and that the Council had received approximately one million pounds from the Department for Communities (DfC) to assist with its hardship scheme. The Members were reminded that a Cost of Living Working Group had been established by the Council which had agreed the approach adopted to administer and distribute the resources attached to the hardship fund. The Lead Officer reported that older people had been identified as a key cohort to benefit from the hardship programme.

The Reference Group was informed that the Council intended to work with delivery partners who had expertise in that area and who were best placed to provide support to meet identified need.

Noted.

#### **Overview of Older Peoples' Groups and Support Provided by Community Centres – Lorraine Wallace/Lisa Wilson**

The Community Centre Supervisor reported that, of the twenty-seven council run community centres in Belfast, twenty-six had undertaken activities targeted at older people. The Reference Group was informed that Community Development Officers provided the lead in a diverse range of activities, including direct activity provision by Council staff, with the various community centres.

The Members were informed that Community Development Officers collaborated with other support workers in order to provide for the needs of older people and were available to assist with grant applications, support with governance, programming, including a range of other support facilities. Ms. Wallace referred to a range of external groups which delivered services within the Council owned community centres, including fitness activities, arts and

crafts and learning and skills development. She highlighted the importance of community centres in the provision of a warm and safe space for older people, enabling them to connect and socialise with others.

The Chairperson highlighted the importance of the role played by local community centres and requested that information be brought back to a future meeting of the Working Group, identifying the reasons why political representation was no longer sought for Community Centre Councils.

A Member requested if a mechanism could be put in place to provide support and guidance to non-Council operated community centres and if Community Development officers could provide them with information and guidance as part of an extended outreach programme.

The Community Centre Supervisor agreed to offer information and guidance to those non-Council affiliated local community centres, including the information which those groups could gain from access to the Council website offering information on activities and the provision of practical support for those groups.

The Reference Group noted the information provided from the Lead Officer and she agreed to provide an update on the background on the decision not to appoint political representatives to the various Community Centre Councils, as had been the case during previous Council terms.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Reference Group agreed that its next meeting be held on Tuesday, 19th March, 2024 at 12.30 p.m.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework- Draft Framework: Draft BCC Consultation response
<b>Date:</b>	6 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>After Committee Decision</b></td> <td style="width: 5%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>After Council Decision</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sometime in the future</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Never</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The main purpose of this report is to advise members of Department for Community (DfC) consultation relating to the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework and seek members' approval for the draft response to be submitted in advance of the deadline of 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the consultation exercise, consider the draft response that has been prepared and approve that this is submitted as a formal council response.</li> <li>To note that the consultation ends on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February and approve that the draft response is issued in advance of that deadline. Any additional comments from February Council can be issued by officers to DfC after the formal end date of 9<sup>th</sup> February.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background information</b></p> <p>Members may be aware that DfC is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for its voluntary and community sector support. To this end, a consultation was launched by the Department on 15 November 2023. The current open consultation relates to DfC's investment in the voluntary and community sector infrastructure support. This investment is currently made primarily through organisations operating at a regional level such as NICVA, Advice NI and Volunteer Now.</p> <p>The Department's engagement took place between March and June 2023 and involved a range of methods to inform the shape and design of new policy and funding frameworks. This included the formation of a stakeholder's reference group, open invitation workshops, roundtable discussions, targeted workshops with different subsectors such as Age, LGBTQ+, Minority Ethnic communities, Disability, Women's sector, and local government officers as well as a survey to explore headline needs and priorities.</p>
3.2	<p>Sector infrastructure organisations are defined as'... those whose main purpose includes providing support to other voluntary and community organisations: building capacity and skills within the sector through training, advice, information exchange, convening, policy work, consultancy and providing platforms and access to resources (including physical spaces).</p> <p>The full consultation document, supporting materials and online questionnaire can be accessed at <a href="#">Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure and Support Policy Framework - NI Direct - Citizen Space</a> The following is a summary of the main elements.</p>
3.3	The draft framework identifies an overarching vision of "A confident, independent and collaborative sector which empowers and sustains local action and volunteering; a sector that represents the diversity of our communities and supports the delivery of inclusive and accessible services and programme for government outcomes through partnership,



	<p>innovation and challenge”. It identifies the need for a spectrum of infrastructure support across four headline areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and Advocacy</li> <li>• Collaboration and Partnerships</li> <li>• Capacity Building (practical skills and resilience) and</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> </ul> <p>The infrastructure support framework is built on six core values;</p> <p>Value 1: Accountability</p> <p>Value 2: Active Participation</p> <p>Value 3: Social Justice</p> <p>Value 4: Independence</p> <p>Value 5: Collaboration</p> <p>Value 6: Sustainability</p>
3.4	<p>The framework identifies five key areas where the DfC can lead and deliver in support of sector outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating effective partnerships: working with sector partners, with government and independent funders</li> <li>2. Sustained investment in sector infrastructure: commissioning an integrated framework of support geared towards a common outcomes framework</li> <li>3. Creating a more enabling regulatory and policy environment: delivering the agreed reforms to charity regulation and strategic policy</li> <li>4. Applying and championing improved funding practices: exploring, developing, applying and sharing good practice</li> <li>5. Improving understanding about the work and impact of the sector: collating, interpreting and sharing data and evidence</li> </ol>
3.5	<p>Although this consultation is centred on the framework to support to regional organisations DfC also notes that it will work with local government to redesign the community development element of the Community Support Programme (CSP) and align it with the vision, outcomes and delivery priorities of the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework.</p> <p>Members will be aware that Council received significant funding through the CSP. Officers received approval at last month’s committee to develop a new Community Support Plan for the city and engagement with DfC will form part of that work to ensure that any emerging plan aligns with any changes to the Community Support Programme and any other relevant programmes.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Response to Consultation</b></p> <p>The draft Belfast City Council response to this consultation is provided in Appendix 1. Members are asked to consider this document and approve its submission as the formal Belfast City consultation response.</p>
3.7	<p>The key elements to note in the response are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition that DfC provided a range of engagement methodologies during its information gathering stage that was appropriate and inclusive.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft Framework clearly articulates DfC’s intention and sets out the infrastructure support needs, core values, vision, headline outcomes and identified areas where DfC can maximise its impact.</li> <li>• Council broadly agrees that each element of the framework sets out reasonable ambitions that will underpin support to regional support organisations which are relevant to the implementation of the framework.</li> <li>• The draft framework presents the DfC’s intention and is high level, Council’s response notes that resourcing and implementing the aspirations outlined have yet to be discussed and that this should include consideration of the CSP and how local organisations are supported. There is reference in the framework to sustainability, collaboration, partnership working and accountability. These are areas that require further consideration and explanation.</li> <li>• Although focussed on regional infrastructure organisations, the council response notes that there is little reference to the relevance of these organisations in supporting smaller groups, neighbourhood community based organisations and communities of interest. The definition of support provided by Community Infrastructure Organisations (sub-regional), Community Infrastructure Organisations (sub-sectoral) and Volunteer Centres is useful but further detail on how these will interact with each other to provide accessible support should be considered.</li> <li>• The role of Local Authorities is mentioned but is very limited. The response highlights that the role of local council in providing support to the sector, through provision of funding and investment and partnership working needs to be specified in the Framework. In particular, Community Planning needs to be specified in the Framework and its function and relationship with regional support organisations elaborated on.</li> <li>• The response reiterates the need to work with local government to redesign the community development element of the Community Support Programme.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> No implications at present for Belfast City Council</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> No implications at present for Belfast City Council</p>
3.8	
3.9	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	Appendix 1 – Draft Belfast City Council Response to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework

## **Appendix 1- Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework - Draft Framework: Draft BCC Consultation response**

### **Overview**

The Department is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for our voluntary and community sector support. This includes agreeing with our partners on the outcomes that we should prioritise in future years. A review of sectoral needs will inform how we can better support the sector to deliver outcomes set out in any future Programme for Government.

### **Engagement**

As part of this review, we engaged with a wide range of organisations in the sector, to draw together their collective experiences, understand key priorities and needs, listen to ideas and opinions, and add voice and input to help us shape future programmes for whom the refresh will deliver. We have also engaged with other departments, local government, independent funders and established a reference group comprising of a range of sectoral interests.

Our engagement approach involved a range of methods to inform the shape and design of new policy and funding frameworks and took place between March and June 2023.

### **Definition**

Sector infrastructure organisations are those whose main purpose includes providing support to other voluntary and community organisations: building capacity and skills within the sector through training, advice, information exchange, convening, policy work, consultancy and providing platforms and access to resources (including physical spaces).

### **Identified Needs**

The Department has surveyed VCS organisations and led an extensive programme of engagement to explore the range of needs and priorities for future infrastructure delivery. This process has confirmed the need for a spectrum of infrastructure support across four headline areas:

- Leadership and Advocacy
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Capacity Building (practical skills and resilience) and
- Volunteering

### **Core Values and Ways of Working**

#### Value 1: Accountability

A shared commitment to act with high standards of integrity and professionalism. This includes being open, honest, and transparent in the interests of a shared and common agenda and demonstrating mutual respect, and accountability for our actions and in our decision making.

#### Value 2: Active Participation

A shared commitment to the active participation of all stakeholders in Northern Ireland, which seeks to address inequalities of power and ensures genuine opportunities for participation, involvement, and influence. This is rooted in the shared belief that communities and people have the right, and should be empowered to, identify their own needs and interests and the outcomes required to meet these.

#### Value 3: Social Justice

A shared commitment to human rights, equality, and anti-discrimination. This involves promoting, advancing, and protecting human rights and equality in our society, while recognising the intersectional impacts of inequality and discrimination experienced by individuals, groups, and communities.

#### Value 4: Independence

A shared understanding of the need for an independent, resilient, and sustainable voluntary and community sector to meet shared societal outcomes; recognising and supporting the sector's legal rights to give voice to civic society, to participate in, shape, comment and challenge public policy and decision making and to determine and manage its own affairs.

#### Value 5: Collaboration

A shared commitment to promoting and sustaining opportunities for relationship building, collaboration and partnership working between our sectors, and to broadening shared experience and understanding, for the benefit of the communities and people we serve.

#### Value 6: Sustainability

A shared commitment to climate justice and sustainable development, including promoting cultural, environmental, economic, and socially sustainable policies and practices.

***Belfast City Council strongly agrees with the values and practices outlined as a way of supporting the relationship between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector.***

***Resourcing and implementing the aspirations outlined have yet to be discussed and that this should include consideration of the CSP and how local organisations are supported. There is reference in the framework to sustainability, collaboration, partnership working and accountability. These are areas that require further consideration and explanation. The section on collaboration should include reference to local authorities as a key sector/stakeholder in this work, particularly through the Community Support Programme and Community planning structures and opportunities.***

***Belfast City Council strongly agrees that a future Concordat/agreement would be strengthened if a legal duty were created to require NI Executive Ministers to act in compliance with the concordat values and practices when making decisions and carrying out ministerial responsibilities.***

***Belfast City Council has no preference on the term used to refer to a wider range of "civil society" organisations: a very broad definition that includes everything outside the state (public sector) and the market (private sector).***

#### **Vision**

"A confident, independent and collaborative sector which empowers and sustains local action and volunteering; a sector that represents the diversity of our communities and supports the delivery of inclusive and accessible services and programme for government outcomes through partnership, innovation and challenge"

Belfast City Council strongly agrees with the intention of Vision within the context of delivering on government outcomes. Further thought will be given to how the Vision relates to our Community Planning outcomes, themes and priorities.

#### **Headline Outcomes**

The Department has developed 4 headline outcomes to articulate what success looks like against this vision:

#### Leadership and Advocacy headline outcome

Strong leadership and effective advocacy within the sector promotes the interests of our diverse communities and enables community connection and engagement.

#### Volunteering headline outcome

Volunteering activity is enabled and supported to maximise benefits for individuals, organisations and communities.

#### Core Capacity and Resilience headline outcome

Core capacity and resilience of organisations within the sector is sustained and further developed to enable people and communities to thrive.

#### Collaboration and Partnership headline outcome

Effective collaboration and partnership enhance the impact of the sector's work.

***Belfast City Council strongly agrees with the four headline outcomes. However, we recognise that the outcomes also need to reflect that the VCSE sector works within a wider system that includes local government, communities, service users, funders, partnerships and networks and that all parts of that system need to play an active part.***

***Council notes that it would be useful to clarify the definition of sector-led and to clarify whether work be led by the VCSE sector. If this is the case, detail on how the VCSE sector will be resourced to undertake this work and what the governance arrangements will be to ensure accountability.***

### **Delivering the Ambition**

DfC's recent engagement and discussion with stakeholders points to five key areas where the Department for Communities can lead and deliver in support of sector outcomes:

1. **Creating effective partnerships:** working with sector partners, with government and independent funders
2. **Sustained investment in sector infrastructure:** commissioning an integrated framework of support geared towards a common outcomes framework
3. **Creating a more enabling regulatory and policy environment:** delivering the agreed reforms to charity regulation and strategic policy
4. **Applying and championing improved funding practices:** exploring, developing, applying and sharing good practice
5. **Improving understanding about the work and impact of the sector:** collating, interpreting and sharing data and evidence

***Belfast City Council agrees with the five delivery areas.***

***Council welcomes the department's commitment to working in partnership with sector infrastructure organisations to ensure effective delivery against the agreed vision and outcomes and the creation of a regional infrastructure delivery partnership covering the***

***whole of NI. Further consideration should be given to the role of local government and community planning in delivering support and resources to achieve sector outcomes.***

***Belfast City Council welcomes the commitment to redesign the Community Support Programme in partnership with local government and align it with the vision, outcomes and delivery priorities of the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework. We welcome the Department for Communities recognition of the distinct role of local government in supporting grassroots community development activity within council areas which will be enabled and enhanced by the provision of high quality regional and sub-regional sectoral infrastructure support.***

***Council suggests that further detail on how Community Infrastructure Organisations (sub-regional), Community Infrastructure Organisations (sub-sectoral) and Volunteer Centres will interact with each other to provide accessible support to small locally based organisations should be considered.***

***We welcome the intention to provide sustained investment. A commitment to fund organisations and service provision beyond short-term funding cycles and ensure sustainability will contribute significantly to achieving the stated Vision. Council agrees with the Indicative Priorities for Investment.***

***Measuring impact and sharing data will contribute significantly to our understanding of sector, its services and needs of the users and communities. We will give further thought to the how we gather and share this information and its contribution to evidence-based decision making.***

#### **Statutory Assessments**

***Belfast City Council agrees with the conclusion of the equality screening exercise.***

#### **Rural Needs Impact Assessment**

***Belfast City Council cannot identify any further issues that the proposed draft framework presents for rural communities at this time.***



<b>Subject:</b>	Cherryvale Park – Dog Welfare
<b>Date:</b>	06 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director for City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (OSS Portfolio) Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer OSS Colin Willetts, OSS Area Manager East

**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?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>	
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on two reported incidents of dog illness following a suspected ingestion of grass cuttings within Cherryvale Park and playing fields reported to the Council on 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023. The report provides a sequence of events leading to, and following, the dogs illness reports, as well as the actions taken by officers prior to and following the incident, in order to ensure that our park remains safe for all users. This is included at table one of the main report.	
1.2	To update members on the actions taken by Council officers to ensure the ongoing safety of all Cherryvale park users.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the actions taken by Council officers to ensure the safety of all park users of Cherryvale, following reports of dog illness.</li> <li>Agree that an update on the outcome of the grass cutting test sample to be brought back to committee when it is received.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>	
3.1	Table one below provides a sequence of events leading to and following the dog illness incidents reported on 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023.	
3.2	<b>Table One</b>	
	<b>Early December 2023</b>	A request was made by the contractor for the fencing work in Cherryvale to have the grass cut on pitch 1 so that they could conduct the work on the pitch for preparation on the work to install catch nets. Due to ongoing fencing work, the pitch had become inaccessible for council staff since late August 2023.
	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	GAA pitch cut. Due to the amount of grass involved as cutting routines had not being carried out since late August, the cuttings were disposed of within the wooded area.
	<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023</b>	Council officers were notified by Cllr Smyth and Cllr de Faoite that dogs had been sick after consuming something with the wooded area of Cherryvale Playing Fields. Officers subsequently checked the wooded area and identified a white substance which was removed immediately. Officers notified PSNI who then took the white substance away for testing.



<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	BCC officers received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the dumped grass in the wooded area in Cherryvale Playing Fields, claiming that their dog was sick having consumed some of the grass. A response was sent on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January. Officers requested further information from the dog owners' vet on what may have caused her dog to become ill, and any subsequent toxicology tests. Officers have not received a response to date.
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	Two FOI requests received by Belfast City Council asking for confirmation on the type of fertiliser that was used on the grass of the pitches at Cherryvale. The Council confirmed in response that no fertiliser had been used on the grass that was cut for over one year as the pitch was not being used for a full season and the major repair work was completed by returfing. Both FOI requests have been responded to.
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024</b>	The grass mound was removed by tractor and placed into skips which were moved off site. An operative manually removed all remaining small amounts of grass with a shovel.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<p>Council officers requested test sample from grass cuttings and a COSHH sheet from the fertiliser supplier as a precaution. Currently awaiting sample testing results from laboratory however it must be noted that the grass had not received any fertiliser treatment in over 12 months.</p> <p>The manufacturer made the following comment: <b><i>'Overlooking the product composition in combination with the SDS I don't expect any issues at normal application rates as the dog would need to have digested all fertilizer over a very large area'.</i></b></p>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024</b>	<p>PSNI officers confirm that the white substance removed by them from the site was not in a state suitable for testing. And therefore, the substance remains 'unidentified'. PSNI officers made the following observation: <b><i>'From informal discussion with colleagues who are trained in field testing, they have never seen a substance take on this consistency before, so it has been suggested that this is not a 'controlled drug'. However, the substance remains unidentified'.</i></b></p> <p>Officers have requested that the sample be returned in case the Council require to carry out any further testing.</p>

3.3 **Maintaining dog welfare within our parks.**

Members will be aware that maintaining high levels of both cleanliness and safety within our parks includes having regard for all parks users as well as considerations for animal welfare. As mentioned above, following the dog illness incident, we have increased the amount of signage advising dog owners to keep their dogs on leads. And whilst our officers make every effort to ensure the site is safe for all users, we cannot guarantee that all sites are free from inedible material. The best way to ensure pets remain safe is to keep them on a lead.

To date the Council has received no evidence to suggest that the reported cases of dogs illness at Cherryvale park was related to any product used by or work practice employed by Council

	<p>operatives. Despite this, all of the grass cuttings from the pitch have now been removed from the site as a precaution. We await results from the laboratory sample from the cuttings. An update on this will be brought to this committee when it is received.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.4	Minimal impact. Open Spaces and Streetscene will bear the cost of additional signage and test sampling.
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications in this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Implementation of new powers for District Councils under the Waste and Contaminated (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and the Operational Arrangements on Fly-Tipping - Protocol Agreement between Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Belfast City Council
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>					
Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>					
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>					
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 80px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p><b>The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022</b></p> <p>To make Members of the People and Communities Committee aware that The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022, which came into force in January 2023, gives councils a joint responsibility with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) for certain matters under the aforementioned legislation including, but not limited to the offence of fly-tipping.</p>
1.2	<p>No additional funding has been provided to councils by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to support the implementation of the new powers under Article 4 and 5 of the Waste and Contaminated (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. These powers are discretionary for councils to use in circumstances where they chose to do so.</p>
1.3	<p>Council officers have been involved in discussions with officers from other councils in Northern Ireland in order to agree a consistent and proportionate approach, as these matters may involve operations and offences which extend beyond Belfast City Council area.</p>
1.4	<p>The NIEA is the waste licensing authority for NI and it obtains the fees associated with legitimate waste operators. NIEA has been the sole enforcing authority under Article 4 and 5 for the previous 25 years. It is therefore unlikely that councils will seek to use their discretionary powers under Article 4 or 5 where the NIEA should be seeking to regulate the matter using its licensing powers.</p>
1.5	<p><b>Operational Arrangements on Fly-Tipping - Protocol Agreement between Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Belfast City Council</b></p> <p>Both the NIEA and local Council have powers and responsibilities to deal with fly-tipping. The Protocol sets out the criteria for the determination of responsibility for waste crime incidents between NIEA and local Councils.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report;</li> <li>• Agree the Fixed Penalty Rate for Article 4 offences to be set at £400;</li> <li>• Decide whether or not to offer an early payment discount;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an early payment discount is to be offered agree a discounted rate of £300 the Article 4 Fixed Penalty Notice is paid within 10 days;</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>New Enforcement Powers</b>
3.2	<p><b>Article 4</b></p> <p>Power to enforce against the Unauthorised or Harmful Deposit, Treatment or Disposal of Waste under the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997. Under Article 4 of the Order <i>a person shall not (a) deposit controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be deposited in or on any land unless a waste management licence authorising the deposit is in force and the deposit is in accordance with the licence; or (b) treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be treated, kept or disposed of (i) in or on any land (ii) by means of any mobile plant, except under and in accordance with a waste management licence; (c) treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to health.</i></p>
3.3	<p>The offence under Article 4 is commonly referred to as fly-tipping. If a fly-tipping offence, under Article 4, is detected by an Authorised Officer the Officer may give to that person, Notice offering them the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice cannot be less than £100 and not more than £400.</p>
3.4	<p>Our officers are currently dealing with fly-tipping offences under the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 with a Fixed Penalty Rate of £80, reduced to £60, if paid within 10 days. However, the offence of fly-tipping has been described by the former Department of the Environment as a premeditated act involving more than a single item of waste collected together and moved to a location without any regard to its final legitimate disposal. On the contrary, littering tends to involve smaller quantities of material which are dropped or disposed of shortly after the item has become of no further use to the offender.</p>
3.5	<p>Officers from councils in NI set up a working group to try to agree a consistent and proportionate approach to the enforcement of Article 4 as this type of offence can involve movement of waste across council boundaries. <b>It is proposed that all councils set the Fixed Penalty Rate for this offence at £400. If a council wishes to agree an early payment discount, it is proposed that this should be a discounted amount of £300 if paid within 10 days of the date of the notice.</b></p>

3.6	<p><b>Article 5</b></p> <p>Article 5 of the Order imposes a <i>“duty of care” on any person who imports, produces, collects, carries, treats, or disposes of controlled waste or, as a broker or dealer has control of such waste, shall take all such measures applicable to them in that capacity as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of Article 4 of the Order.</i></p>
3.7	<p>Powers available under Article 5 are much broader and are likely to involve illicit waste operations and other commercial and industrial entities. There is an extensive list of offences included in Article 5 of the Order, which would impact the volume of work and officer involvement and will require more consideration on resources needed and operability. It is more likely if Council were to exercise these discretionary powers it would be done so in partnership with relevant bodies including NIEA.</p>
3.8	<p>Article 5 powers can be used to assist with enforcement matters in relation to commercial waste. Officers are aware of the impact of additional financial burdens on the business community which is already under significant financial strain following the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. It is anticipated that officers will use a graduated approach when dealing with potential offences under Article 5. However, there could still be situations where there are no other means of resolving an issue other than to use Article 5 powers. An offence under Article 5 has a set Fixed Penalty of £300.</p>
3.9	<p>It is proposed that Members would agree that Article 5 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997, should only be implemented when there is a significant possibility of significant harm to the environment or where conditions are prejudicial to health or when there are no other means of resolving an issue other than to use Article 5 powers.</p>
3.10	<p>We have a small team of authorised officers working in this area where the key role is detecting littering and fly tipping offences. This team already works closely with colleagues in our Open Spaces and Street scene function. These powers came into effect on 2 January 2023 and are a useful additional regulatory tool. However we will need to continue to assess and monitor the impacts on resources and budgets. Therefore depending on the impact of application of these discretionary powers it may be necessary to bring a further report back to committee. We will avail of additional training to support implementation.</p>
3.11	<p>The Operational Arrangements on Fly-Tipping - Protocol Agreement between Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Belfast City Council is attached. (See Appendix)The Protocol sets</p>

out the criteria for the determination of responsibility for waste crime incidents between the NIEA and local councils as follows:

**Volume of waste deposited**

3.12 Local Councils will have responsibility for all non-hazardous waste deposits under 20 cubic metres in volume or accumulations of several small-scale fly-tipping incidents.

3.13 The NIEA will have responsibility for all waste deposits over 20 cubic metres in volume regardless of the waste classification.

**Photo of waste emptied from a bin lorry = 18.5m<sup>3</sup>**



**Classification of the waste deposited**

3.14 Local Councils will have responsibility for all hazardous waste of a type and volume that could be accepted at an appropriately authorised Council operated civic amenity or waste recycling centre.

The NIEA will have responsibility of all other hazardous waste of a type and volume which would not be accepted at a Council operated Recycling Centre.

Mixtures of waste containing hazardous material that cannot be safely removed will be treated as hazardous in their entirety.

It is noted there is an error in Appendix 1 of the Protocol as NIEA has not included Article 4 and 5 as powers now available to councils. This has been brought to the attention of NIEA and it is anticipated this amendment will be made to the Protocol. Members are asked to agree in principle, subject to amendment of Appendix 1, to sign the Protocol.

3.15	<p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Budget within the City Services will be utilised to train staff to enforce the new powers. NI councils hope to source this training jointly in order to reduce the costs. There may additional income from the service of Fixed Penalty Notices. The impacts of these new powers on budgets and resources will be monitored.</p>
3.16	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Operational Arrangements on Fly Tipping Protocol</p>



OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON FLY-TIPPING -

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT BETWEEN

NORTHERN IRELAND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

AND

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

## **Contents**

- 1. Background**
- 2. Definition and roles**
- 3. Remit**
- 4. Incident management and reporting methods**
- 5. Hazardous Waste**
- 6. Resolution of disputes**
- 7. Joint working**
- 8. Information Sharing**
- 9. Data Collection**
- 10. Management and Review**

## 1. Background

The fly-tipping of waste remains a high profile environmental issue. It is a criminal activity that can blight communities and reduces the quality of life for residents. It can often begin a spiral of decline and has the potential to cause serious pollution to the environment. In some cases, it may also be a risk to human health as well as causing harm to the environment. The incidence of fly-tipping is a further demand on the revenue budgets of Local Councils and the NIEA which needs to be addressed collaboratively across the region

'Fly-tipping primarily arises from household and or commercial sources and both are controlled under a specific legal duties known as the waste *'Duty of Care'*. This duty applies to anyone, including householders who dispose or transfer their waste (except household waste transferred to the local Council). It applies at all times throughout the year and includes the transfer of waste, for example, to:

- Private companies or individuals (e.g. skip hire operators);
- Private individuals who may offer to take waste for profit (i.e. on payment); and
- Private individuals who offer to take or dispose of waste.

In addition, the legal 'duty of care' means that everyone must:

- Only transfer waste to a person authorised to receive it.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure responsible disposal and prevent fly-tipping/illegal disposal by someone else; and
- Prevent the escape of waste or it causing pollution or harm.

Whatever the source, fly-tipping constitutes illegal waste disposal. It is a criminal offence attracting significant penalties. Unscrupulous individuals use fly-tipping as a way of avoiding costs of the proper management of waste. It also undermines the legitimate waste industry.'

Both the NIEA and local Councils have powers and responsibilities to deal with fly-tipping (Appendix 1). However clarity of working arrangements is vital to efficient and effective services for the public. This agreement defines the agreed roles and responsibilities of the NIEA and Local Councils in dealing with fly-tipping and illegal waste disposal.

## 2. Definition and roles

Fly-tipping *"is the illegal disposal of household, industrial, commercial or other controlled waste without a waste management licence. The waste can be liquid or solid. Fly tipping is not the same as littering (1)"* Unlike litter – which is often dropped habitually, sometimes accidentally, and usually involves only single, small waste items – fly tipping is larger in scale and usually considered a premeditated, wilful act. Fly-tipping poses a threat to humans and wildlife, it has a negative impact on our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where illegal operators undercut those operating within the law. At the same time, the reputation of legal operators is undermined by rogue traders.

The motivation of the perpetrators is largely driven by financial gain or financial saving. Although other factors such as laziness, proximity to local amenities and simple disregards for the environment play a part.

Both the Local Council and the NIEA have powers to deal with fly-tipped waste (see Appendix 1). Accordingly fly tipping incidents need to be treated on a case-by-case basis in determining the most appropriate authority to deal with the incident.

Within this agreement the general approach taken will see the NIEA deal with waste disposal incidents concerning larger quantities of waste, which have a greater environmental risk and may have commercial involvement and/or involve organised criminality. Local Councils will deal with smaller scale incidents in terms of quantity, environmental risk and commercial involvement.

### **3. Remit**

The criteria for the determination of responsibility for waste crime incidents between the NIEA and Local Councils are as follows:

#### **(i) Volume of waste deposited**

- Local Councils will have responsibility for all non-hazardous waste deposits under 20 cubic metres in volume or accumulations of several small-scale fly-tipping incidents.
- The NIEA will have responsibility for all waste deposits over 20 cubic metres in volume regardless of the waste classification.

In summary, 20 cubic metres generally relates to less than a single small lorry load.

(See Appendix 1 regarding estimation of waste volumes)

#### **(ii) Classification of the waste deposited**

- Local Councils will have responsibility for all hazardous waste of a type and volume that could be accepted at an appropriately authorised Council operated civic amenity or waste recycling centre.
- The NIEA will have responsibility of all other hazardous waste of a type and volume which would not be accepted at a Council operated Recycling Centre.

(See Appendix 2 regarding hazardous wastes which may be accepted at Council Recycling Centres)

#### **4. Incident management and reporting methods**

Reports on waste crime incidents are received from a range of sources by both the NIEA and the Local Council and both have systems and procedures in place for incident recording, assessment and handling.

As part of that assessment and with regard to the criteria in Section 2, the receiving body may refer the incident to the partner agency for consideration and action. Any referrals between the NIEA/Local Council should be made using the 'Incident Referral Form' (see attachment).

Completed referral forms should be forwarded to the following email address:

- (i) NIEA – [EnvironmentalCrime@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EnvironmentalCrime@daera-ni.gov.uk)
- (ii) Belfast City Council -xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Upon receipt the NIEA/Local Council will assess the referral and if content will confirm receipt by return on the email address above. Responsibility for the incident management will rest with the accepting Local Council/NIEA who may engage with relevant third parties.

#### **5. Hazardous waste**

It is agreed that hazardous waste would normally be identified by simple checks at the site (form, colour, smell) and a precautionary principle would apply. Waste sampling and testing will not normally be employed but may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Mixtures of waste containing hazardous material that cannot be safely removed will be treated as hazardous in their entirety. However, if possible any hazardous waste from the waste pile (e.g. fridge) should be safely removed to reduce potential removal costs.



## 9. Data collection

It is recognised that data collection and analysis are important in better understanding the issue of fly-tipping. Analysis can help identify trends in activity, fly-tipping hotspots and problem waste streams which can assist in developing effective interventions to tackle the issue.

The district council and the NIEA will work collaboratively to develop and improve collection and analysis where possible to include:

- (i) Waste disposal location (postal address including postcode)
- (ii) Waste volume and type
- (iii) Cost associated with clean-up (collection and disposal costs only)

This information may be used by district councils and NIEA for the purposes of:

- (a) Informing and educating the public about the incidence of fly tipping and the costs associated
- (b) Assessment of fly tipping hotspots
- (c) Assessment of fly tipping volumes and waste streams
- (d) Assessment of costs of clean up

## 10. Management and review

This operational agreement should be reviewed by the Fly-tipping sub group of the Joint Central & Local Government Waste Working Group 12 months after implementation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed on behalf of

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_XXXXXXXXXX\_\_\_\_\_

Signed on behalf of

Belfast City Council

Date: xxxxxxxxx

## Appendix 1

Legislation	NIEA	Local Council
Waste & Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997	ART 4,5,38, 27	ART 28
The Litter (NI) Order 1994	ART 7	ART 3, 7
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2011		Amends Litter Order re FPNs & Litter clearing Notices

## Appendix 2

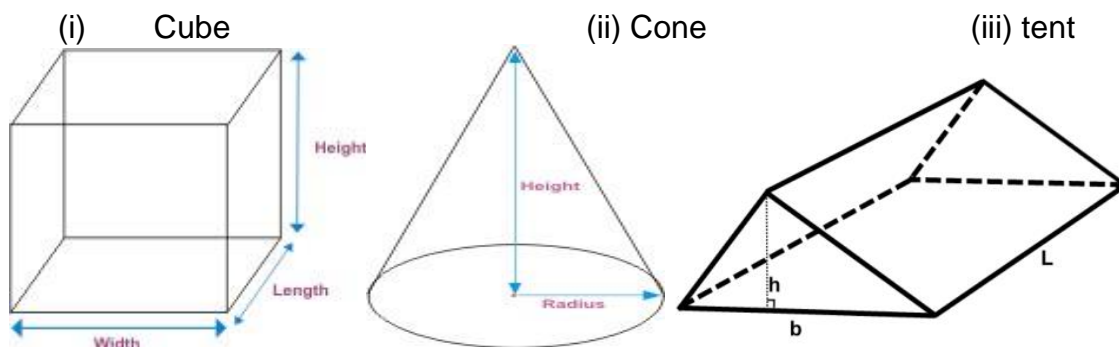


Information to assist NIEA and Council officers in estimating waste volumes

E.g. photo of waste emptied from bin lorry = 18.5 m<sup>3</sup>



How to estimate volumes of waste:

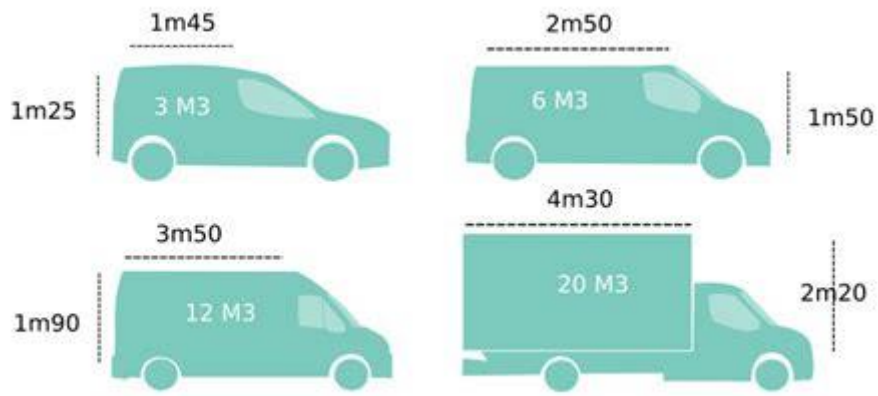


(i) Calculating a cube shape deposit – length x breadth x height

(ii) Calculating a cone shape deposit –  $\frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times \text{radius}^2 \times \text{height}$

(iii) Calculating a tent shape deposit –  $\frac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{length} \times \text{height}$

VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE VOLUMES (IN CUBIC METRES) OF VEHICLES



The list below provides a broad directory of the range of hazardous materials (including relevant EWC Code) which may be acceptable at an appropriately authorised Local Civic Amenity/Recycling centres. It is recognised that the wastes acceptable vary on a site by site basis and reference should be made to the site specific license conditions for confirmation that the site is authorised to accept such wastes.

<b><u>EWC Code</u></b>	<b><u>Waste Description</u></b>
03 01 04*	sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood, particle board and veneer containing dangerous substances
13 01 01*	hydraulic oils, containing PCBs [Note A]
13 01 04*	chlorinated emulsions
13 01 05*	non-chlorinated emulsions
13 01 09*	mineral-based chlorinated hydraulic oils
13 01 10*	mineral based non-chlorinated hydraulic oils
13 01 11*	synthetic hydraulic oils
13 01 12*	readily biodegradable hydraulic oils
13 01 13*	other hydraulic oils
13 02 04*	mineral-based chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 05*	mineral-based non-chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 06*	synthetic engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 07*	readily biodegradable engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 08*	other engine, gear and lubricating oils
14 06 01*	chlorofluorocarbons, HCFC, HFC
14 06 02*	other halogenated solvents and solvent mixtures
14 06 03*	other solvents and solvent mixtures
14 06 04*	sludges or solid wastes containing halogenated solvents
14 06 05*	sludges or solid wastes containing other solvents
15 01 10*	packaging containing residues of or contaminated by dangerous substances

15 02 02*	absorbents, filter materials (including oil filters not otherwise specified), wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by dangerous substances
16 01 07*	oil filters
16 01 08*	components containing mercury
16 01 09*	components containing PCBs [Note A]
16 01 13*	brake fluids
16 02 09*	transformers and capacitors containing PCBs [Note A]
16 02 10*	discarded equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 [Note A]
16 02 11*	discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons, HCFC, HFC
16 02 12*	discarded equipment containing free asbestos
16 02 13*	discarded equipment containing hazardous components other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02 12 [Note B]
16 02 14	discarded equipment other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02 13
16 02 15*	hazardous components removed from discarded equipment [Note B]
16 03 03*	inorganic wastes containing dangerous substances
16 03 05*	organic wastes containing dangerous substances
16 05 04*	gases in pressure containers (including halons) containing dangerous substances
16 06 01*	lead batteries
16 06 02*	Ni-Cd batteries
16 06 03*	mercury-containing batteries
16 06 06*	separately collected electrolyte from batteries and accumulators
17 02 04*	glass, plastic and wood containing or contaminated with dangerous substances
17 03 01*	bituminous mixtures containing coal tar
17 03 03*	coal tar and tarred products
17 08 01*	gypsum-based construction materials contaminated with dangerous substances

17 09 02*	construction and demolition wastes containing PCB (for example PCB-containing sealants, PCB-containing resin-based floorings, PCB-containing sealed glazing units, PCB-containing capacitors) [Note A]
20 01 13*	solvents
20 01 14*	acids
20 01 15*	alkalines
20 01 17*	pesticides
20 01 21*	fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste
20 01 23*	discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons
20 01 26*	oil and fat other than those mentioned in 20 01 25
20 01 27*	paint, inks, adhesives and resins containing dangerous substances
20 01 29*	detergents containing dangerous substances
20 01 31*	cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
20 01 33*	batteries and accumulators included in 16 06 01, 16 06 02 or 16 06 03 and unsorted batteries and accumulators containing these batteries
20 01 35*	discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20 01 21 and 20 01 23 containing hazardous components [Note B]
20 01 37*	wood containing dangerous substances

## **Notes**

Note A For the purposes of this list of wastes, PCBs will be defined as in Directive 96/59/EC

Note B Hazardous components from electrical and electronic equipment may include accumulators and batteries mentioned in 16 06 and marked as hazardous; mercury switches, glass from cathode ray tubes and other activated glass, and other similar items.





<b>Subject:</b>	Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 6 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services 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	<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  No

1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received several requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2024. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach – Dixon Playing Fields</li> <li>• Festival of Fools – Cathedral Gardens</li> <li>• Belfast 24 Hour Run – Victoria Park</li> <li>• Belfast Photo Festival – Botanic Gardens</li> <li>• St Patricks Day Festival – Cathedral Gardens</li> <li>• Lear – Victoria Park</li> <li>• Afro-Fest Belfast – Crescent Park Belfast</li> <li>• Annual 12<sup>th</sup> July Demonstration – Barnetts Demesne</li> </ul>
2.0	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:</p> <p>Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.</p> <p>Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around ‘set up’ &amp; take down’ periods, and booking amendments, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction.</li> <li>- The promoter carrying out appropriate resident &amp; community engagement</li> <li>- The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park’s Entertainment Licence</li> </ul>
2.2	<p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for ‘Events’, which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><b><u>Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach - Dixon Playing fields</u></b></p>
3.2	<p>The church has a small congregation with around 50 members who meet in Bloomfield Gospel Hall, Woodcot Avenue. As part of their community work, they have held a number of gospel outreach events in Dixon Park in recent years. This has involved the erection of a portable hall for a number of weeks. In 2023 the council granted permission for drive-in services on Sunday evenings throughout the Spring and Summer months.</p>
3.3	<p>In addition, the church also hosted their outreach programme Monday to Friday throughout the month of June. The organiser has informed Council that this was very well received by the local community with a number of non-members attending the services.</p>
3.4	<p>The organiser would like to repeat the success of the last 2 years in 2024. During the Sunday evening services a small curtain-sided van will be used as a platform for the event</p>



	<p>guest speaker with low volume battery powered portable loudspeakers being used to enable the persons speaking to be heard within the carpark. The group have also requested to carry out a Summer Bible Time outreach event that would include children from the local area along with Polish, Slovakian &amp; Romanian children.</p>
3.5	<p>The organisers have a good working relationship with the Scirocco Football Club who use the playing fields. The football club help to advertise the services on their website and on the few occasions that football training occurs during the services, there is ample room for both groups to co-exist.</p>
3.6	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday Evening Services</b></li> <li>• Sunday 7 April 2024 to Sunday 29 September 2024 – 7pm to 7.30pm</li> <li>• <b>Summer Bible Time</b></li> <li>• Monday 5 August to Thursday 8 August 2024 – 4pm to 5pm &amp; 7pm to 8pm</li> <li>• Friday 9 August 2024 – 4pm to 8pm</li> </ul> <p><b><u>24 Hour Run – Victoria Park</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>The event organiser has requested the use of Victoria Park to host the 24-hour championship race. The race is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year having moved to Victoria Park in 2016.</p>
3.8	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Set Up</li> <li>• Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Official Race begins at 12pm</li> <li>• Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Official Race ends at 1pm</li> <li>• Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>– De-rig &amp; off site for 3pm</li> </ul>
3.9	<p>It is estimated that around 250 runners will take part. This event takes place throughout the night and in previous years there have been a number of noise disturbances so Council officers will work closely with the event organiser this year to ensure these disturbances are mitigated. The event is to raise money to help send the Northern Ireland Ultra team to events along with a charity yet to be selected. The event will host the 24-Hour Championship along with the 100k &amp; 50k championship. The event organiser also hopes that it will include the Irish 24-Hour championship.</p>
3.10	<p>As Victoria Park has 24-hour access due to forming part of the Connswater Community Greenway there are no additional operational considerations that need addressed as part of this request.</p> <p><b><u>Festival of Fools – Cathedral Gardens</u></b></p>
3.11	<p>Festival of Fools Ltd have requested the use of Cathedral Gardens to host their Festival of Fools event 2024.</p>
3.12	<p>Festival of Fools is a free to attend family friendly festival that will incorporate circus and outdoor arts shows. The show will incorporate international acts that will provide both circus and street entertainment.</p>
3.13	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 4 May – Set up from 10am</li> <li>• <b>Saturday 4 May – Main Show 12pm to 7pm</b></li> </ul>

- **Sunday 5 May – Main Show 12pm to 7pm**
- **Monday 6 May- Main show 12pm to 7pm**
- Monday 6 May – De Rig & Off Site

**Belfast Photo Festival – Botanic Gardens**

3.14 Belfast Photo Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that presents one of the leading international festivals of photography in the United Kingdom and the Visual Arts Festival of Northern Ireland. Launched in 2011, this now annual photographic event has been described as one of the “best photography festivals in the world” (Capture Magazine) and attracts upwards of 100 thousand visitors a year, celebrating some of the finest National and International contemporary photography across 30 museums, galleries and public spaces. Capturing wide appeal through popular culture, accessible themes and unexpected encounters with photography, the festival aims to instil and inspire public enjoyment and participation by utilising the most accessible artistic medium and bringing it to new audience in cool and unusual ways. The festival consists of exhibitions, talks, symposiums, workshops, screening, masterclasses, portfolio reviews and tours.

3.15 The primary location of the Belfast Photo Festival over the past years has been Botanic Gardens, where large audiences engage with our outdoor photographic displays each year. This is a free event, accessible to the public. It runs over the month of June and consists of a series of exhibitions mounted throughout the park. There are no registrations to any of the exhibitions mounted throughout the park. There are no registrations to any of the exhibitions in the park and charity collections made.

3.16 The key dates for the request are:

- Set Up – 20 May to 2 June 2024
- Event Run Time – 1 June to 30 June 2024
- De Rig – 1 July to 8 July 2024

**St Patricks Day Festival – Cathedral Gardens**

3.17 Belfast TradFest are delivering the St. Patrick’s Day Weekend Musical Showcase programme on behalf of Belfast City Council from 15th – 17th March 2024. The main focus of activity will be the creation of a St. Patrick’s Day village around the Cathedral Quarter between 2pm – 5pm on Sunday 17th March.

3.18 The festival village will include a live outdoor music stage, family fun activities and a food village in Cathedral Gardens, an open-air acoustic music and dance stage in Saint Anne’s Square and an ongoing afternoon Céilí in The Mac.

3.19 The key dates for the request are:

- Set Up – Saturday 16 March 2024 – 9am
- Main Event – Sunday 17 March 2024 – 2pm to 5pm
- De-Rig – Sunday 17 March 2024 – 9pm

**Lear – Victoria Park**

3.20 Green Room Productions NI have requested the use of Victoria Park for both rehearsals and performances of their King Lear production. Green Room Productions NI are an Outdoor Theatre Company who create Theatre, responsive to spaces, accessible to all. The event space being requested is the covered structure in Victoria Park

3.21	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsals – Thursday 18, Friday 19, Monday 22 &amp; Tuesday 23 April 2024 – 9am - 7pm</li> <li>• Performances – Wednesday 24, Thursday 25 &amp; Friday 26 April 2024 – 9am - 7pm</li> <li>• Exit Site – Friday 26 April 2024 at 7pm</li> </ul>
3.22	<p>The group plan on having 4 days of rehearsals starting on Thursday 18 April &amp; Finishing on Tuesday 23 April. They then wish to have three days of performances starting with two performances on Wednesday 24 followed by 4 performances on both Thursday 25 &amp; Friday 26 April 2024. The event will be a free ticketed event with it being based on a modern adaptation of the King Lear and is aimed at the local schools surrounding Victoria Park along with the neighbouring residential areas.</p> <p><b><u>Afro-Fest Belfast – Crescent Park</u></b></p>
3.23	<p>Belfast City Council have received a request from Urbanmag for the use of Crescent Park for their Afro-Fest cultural event. The purpose of this event is to showcase the musical talent of people with Afro Caribbean descent in Northern Ireland and to bring together different cultures to help educate and explore the beauty of the arts and culture through Music.</p>
3.24	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Set Up – Saturday 25 May – 8am</li> <li>• Main Event – Saturday 25 May 12pm to 7pm</li> <li>• De-Rig – Saturday 25 May 9pm</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Annual 12<sup>th</sup> July Demonstration – Barnetts Demesne</u></b></p>
3.25	<p>Belfast City Council have received a request from the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast for the use of Barnetts Demesne for their Annual 12<sup>th</sup> July Demonstration. The purpose of this event is to facilitate a greater understanding of orange cultural traditions and the promotion of Orangefest events as inclusive and family friendly.</p>
3.26	<p>The key dates for the request are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up – Thursday 11 July 2024 – 6pm to 10pm</li> <li>• Main Event – Friday 12 July 2024 – 1pm to 5pm</li> <li>• De-Rig – Saturday 13 July 2024 – 8am to 12pm</li> </ul>
3.27	<p>The organiser wishes to use the event to promote Belfast in a positive light and encourage visitors to experience Orange culture throughout the year and to help improve community relations.</p>
3.28	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Where appropriate the Director of Neighbourhood Services will negotiate an appropriate fee for each event, which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the City economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager. If required the Director of Neighbourhood Services will also authorise the relevant level of the necessary bond of intent and reinstatement bond.</p>
3.29	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



Subject:	Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot – update and proposed new MOU
Date:	6th February 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officers:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on the outcome of the now complete Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot and seek Members agreement to a new 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the outcome of the Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot</li> <li>- Agree to a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountain Bikers Club, to be settled by Legal Services.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Background</u></b>
3.1	At People and Communities Committee Members on 5th December 2023, Members agreed to a 2-month extension to an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountain Bikers Club (see Appendix 1). This MOU had originally been put in place on the agreement of P& C Committee in November 2021 to facilitate a Mountain Biking Pilot Project in Cavehill Country Park. The Pilot focused on a partnership approach to the maintenance, management, and inspection of the 'The Middle' - the first official mountain bike trail in Cave Hill Country Park which was formally opened for public use in October 2023 after construction by hand to temper environmental impacts.
3.2	The purpose of the recent 2-month MOU extension was to enable existing management arrangements with the Club to remain in place until the Pilot's evaluation was complete. This report outlines the key findings of that evaluation and officer's recommendation to put in place a new 3-year MOU with CMC to be settled by Legal Services.
3.3	Officers have now evaluated the pilot project using its agreed evaluation framework (see Appendix 2) and the findings are set out below.
	<b>Evaluation Findings</b>
3.4	The definition of success for the pilot project was pre-defined in an evaluation framework which set out a number of outcomes relating to partnership, operations, visitor safety and visitor satisfaction.
3.5	The evaluation exercise has confirmed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both BCC and CMC are content with the partnership working arrangements put in place to support the project.</li> <li>- The MOU had been adhered to in full.</li> <li>- The Middle's Trail Management Plan had been operationally delivered through the Pilot period.</li> <li>- Health and Safety records held by the Council have shown that there has been no increase in reported incidences or near miss collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians within Cave Hill Country Park (no incidences/near miss collisions at all recorded during 2-year Pilot period).</li> <li>- According to a consultation exercise on the pilot project carried out via the Council's Your Say Belfast platform visitor satisfaction was not adversely impacted by the opening of the Middle Trail. A total of 78% of respondents to the survey during the first month of the trail's official opening, agreed that their visitor experience within the Cave Hill Country Park had 'improved' since its introduction. This increased to 90.1% of respondents when the survey was repeated during the Pilot's last month.</li> </ul>
3.6	Finally, there has also been anecdotal evidence that there has been more use of the new Middle Trail by mountain bikers at the expense of the other existing informal trails in the Country Park.
	<b>Next Steps</b>
3.7	Officers are in the process of updating the project Oversight Board (CMC; Belfast Hills Partnership; Cavehill Conservation Trust and BCC) regarding the evaluation findings and the new MOU.

3.8	The new MOU will also permit the Council to explore the viability of including further established trails at Cave Hill Country Park with CMC through similar partnership arrangements. Note that the formalisation of any further established trails will be brought back to Committee for consideration.
3.9	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1</b> – 5th December 2023 P&C Report – ‘Cavehill Mountain Biking Pilot update’ <b>Appendix 2</b> – Project Evaluation Framework Template

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Subject:	Cave Hill Mountain Biking Pilot Update
Date:	5th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officers:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Eimear McCullough, Lead Officer - OSS, CNS

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>				
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?					
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek Members agreement to a short-term extension of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the City Council and Cavehill Mountainbikers club.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree to a two-month extension of existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Background</u></b>
3.1	On the 9 <sup>th</sup> of November 2021 People and Communities Committee agreed the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club which has underpinned a Mountain Biking Pilot Project in Cavehill Country Park focusing on a partnership approach to the Club's management of the 'The Middle' trail (see Appendix 1).
3.2	The MOU agreement, which commenced on 20/12/21 for a two-year duration, states that longer-term extension of the agreement with the Club is "subject to successful conclusion (in the opinion of the Council) of the pilot focusing on 'The Middle' trail, "satisfactory review and evaluation and internal Council committee approval".
3.3	A project Oversight Board has met regularly throughout the pilot period comprising of representatives from BCC; Cavehill Mountainbikers Club; Belfast Hills Partnership; and Cavehill Conservation Trust. In line with the MOU, now that the December 2023 end date is approaching officers intend to evaluate the pilot project using the agreed evaluation framework and bring a final report to Committee.
3.4	Members are asked to agree to a two-month extension of the existing MOU between BCC and Cavehill Mountain bikers Club (Attachment 2). This extension to the MOU will enable that existing management arrangements with the Club to remain in place until the report detailing the findings of the evaluation and recommendations are brought to Committee in early 2024.
3.5	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1</b> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 P&C Report - 'MOU BCC and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club' <b>Appendix 2</b> – BCC & CMB signed MOU 2021

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## **Cave Hill MTB Pilot - Evaluation Framework**

### **Introduction**

Belfast City Council (BCC) and Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) have entered into a formal agreement (legally binding memorandum of understanding) to test a pilot approach to the management of natural trails. The pilot will focus on the 'The Middle' trail and will identify and test an approach for the mechanism for the management, inspection and maintenance of such mountain bike trails.

The pilot will commence on **TBC** and conclude on **TBC**.

An evaluation framework has been established to measure the success of the pilot. The development of the evaluation framework has been cognizant of the limited resource to undertake the exercise. The findings of the resultant evaluation will help inform decision making regarding:

- the extension of the formal agreement (beyond its current term) between BCC and CMC regarding the management, inspection and maintenance of 'The Middle Trail'
- the adoption of a similar approach to additional trails within Cave Hill Country Park

### **What is Success?**

It is essential to identify outcomes which will define the success of the pilot. Each outcome will have indicators of success and methods to measure these. These are outlined in the table below:

Outcome	Indicator	Method of measurement	Measurement Lead
<b>Partnership</b>			
Both CMC and BCC continue to operate within a working partnership of mutual respect	Both parties are content with working relationship and are willing to engage in future projects	<del>Interview / Focus Group</del> <u>Year end (or 6-monthly) POG review meeting</u>	BCC
CMC has adhered to all clauses within MOU	No clauses within the MOU have been breached	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	BCC
BCC has adhered to all clauses within MOU	No clauses within the MOU have been breached	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	CMC
<b>Operational<sup>1</sup></b>			
The Trail Management Plan has been successfully delivered by BCC	BCC has successfully delivered all relevant tasks within Trail Management Plan	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	CMC
The Trail Management Plan has been successfully delivered by CMC	CMC has successfully delivered all relevant tasks within Trail Management Plan	Quarterly Contract Group Meetings – minutes taken	BCC
<b>Visitor Safety</b>			
Recorded collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians within Cave Hill Country Park have not significantly increased <sup>2</sup>	The number of recorded collisions has not increased significantly when compared to same period in the previous year	BCC Corporate Health and Safety Records  Establish baseline for defined period. Measure and compare each quarter	BCC

**Commented [KG1]:** Role of Project Oversight Group and Contract Group – one and the same – does one morph into the other now we are at implementation phase or should we have a smaller contract group and then a bi-annual wider Project Oversight Group meeting? Need to take account of what has been referenced in MOU – focused on POG and original TORs/membership.

**Commented [KG2]:** Combine – is there a need to have separate?

<sup>1</sup> Please note these do not replace the requirement of the clauses within the MOU or specific actions within the Trail Management Plan

<sup>2</sup> Please note – there have been no reported instances of collisions between mountain bikers and pedestrians between 19/09/2019 – 02/08/2021



## Survey Intro Text

### Introduction

Belfast City Council has entered into a formal agreement (legally binding memorandum of understanding) with Cavehill Mountainbikers Club (CMC) to test a pilot approach to the management of natural mountain bike trails within Cave Hill Country Park. This pilot will focus on 'The Middle' trail only and will identify and test an approach for the management, inspection and maintenance of such mountain bike trails. **Insert map of 'The Middle'**

The MOU came into effect on on 20/12/21 and will run for 2 years. 'The Middle' Trail opened for use, formally under this new arrangement, on **XX/XX/XX**.

### Overview of Roles

The roles within the pilot have been set out within a detailed Memorandum of Understanding which is supported by a detailed Trail Management Plan (to be adhered to by BCC and CMC). The approach to the project has been informed by similar best practice approaches in both Wales and Scotland.

In summary:

The aim of the joint partnership is to develop mutual respect for the rights and responsibilities of mountain bikers, all other park users and the landowner (BCC).

Belfast City Council will:

- Lead the evaluation process to assess the outcome of the pilot
- Provide additional resource to implement any physical interventions on-site modifications and signage required to address health and safety concerns
- Make park users and stakeholders aware of the existence of the pilot
- Investigate accidents / incidents **(including trail sabotage)**

**Commented [KG5]:** As noted in framework – do we need to record

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- Continue to manage its responsibility under the Occupier’s Liability (NI) Act 1957 whereby it has a duty of care to all users of the Country Park.

Cavehill Mountainbikers Club will:

- Undertake the ‘permitted activities’ of management, inspection and maintenance of ‘The Middle’ in line with the Trail Management Plan
- Provide adequate insurance cover is in place with regard to the carrying out of the ‘permitted activities’
- Ensure its members will comply to BCC Byelaws
- Ensure that at all times appropriate warnings and signage are in place so as to warn other park users that CMC are using ‘The Middle’ Trail for mountain biking
- Develop a communication plan including up to date route information, complaints / issues recording and handling and feedback. This will include proactive engagement with mountain bikers to encourage participation on the pilot Middle Trail and to cease unauthorised trail building in other parts of Cave Hill Country Park. CMC will work with BCC and use its best endeavours to try to involve other mountain bikers, who use other trails in Cave Hill Country Park, and CMC and will encourage them to join CMC and comply with CMC Code of Conduct.

**Commented [KG6]:** Is this in addition to the signage being installed or should this be more focused on the additional signage needed when CMC are undertaking any works to the trail?

**The purpose of this survey:**

Belfast City Council has developed an evaluation framework which will measure the success of the pilot and subsequently inform future decision making.

This survey has been established to provide the opportunity for all visitors to Cave Hill Country Park to contribute to the project evaluation. It is intended to ~~this survey will be ‘live’ undertake this survey for~~ the first two months following commencement of ‘The Middle’ trail pilot opening in order to establish a benchmark. Subsequent surveys to track progress will be undertaken as follows:

- the 1-year anniversary of the ‘The Middle Trail’ opening for its intended use
- the final two months of the pilot i.e. Nov/ Dec 2023

This survey relates to this project only and is not designed as a mechanism to provide wider feedback on Cave Hill Country Park. This can be provided via existing methods i.e. XXXXXXXXXXXX

This initial survey commenced on XX/XX/XX and will remain open until XX/XX/XX.

**Commented [KG7]:** Jacqui – we need to discuss – flag with comms – we may want something open at the same time or something wider that follows to tie in with Spring City Matters article

By completing this survey, you are consenting to your responses being used anonymously to inform this evaluation. Your responses will be treated anonymously. The statistics and trends which your responses contribute to will be held on file for a retention schedule of 5 years. [Link to BCC privacy policy.](#)

See supporting Excel doc.



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposal for dual language street signs</b>
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control,
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																																						
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for eight existing streets within the city.																																						
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																																						
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Cranmore Gardens, Stewartstown Mews, Mountainview Parade, Mountainview Gardens, Bingnian Drive, Mizen Gardens, Dermott Hill Road and Marcus Ward Street.																																						
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																																						
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>																																						
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																						
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																																						

3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received. Detail as to the received responses are set out below.
3.6	<p><b>Cranmore Gardens, BT9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 occupiers (28.23%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 35 occupiers (28.23%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 4 occupiers (3.23%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b>Stewartstown Mews, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 occupiers (62.50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p><b>Mountainview Parade, BT4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 occupiers (19.74%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (2.63%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p><b>Mountainview Gardens, BT14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 6 occupiers (4.17%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (1.39%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p><b>Bingnian Drive, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 (35.43%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.11	<p><b>Mizen Gardens, BT11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 occupiers (30.30%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 2 occupiers (6.06%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.12	<p><b>Dermott Hill Road, BT12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65 occupiers (30.95%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> </ul>
3.13	<p><b>Marcus Ward Street, BT7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 occupiers (27.5%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupier (2.5%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.</li> <li>• 1 occupiers (2.5%) had no preference either way.</li> </ul>
3.14	As part of the new policy, the Council have agreed that applications for dual language street signage in the city centre will be subject to wider public consultation.
3.15	An application was received to erect dual language signs in Irish at Marcus Ward Street. This street is located within the city centre boundary agreed by SP&R Committee on 17 <sup>th</sup> February

3.16	<p>2023 and ratified by Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. A survey of occupiers of the street indicated that 27.5% of occupiers are in favour of the proposal to erect second nameplates in Irish.</p> <p>Following the survey Belfast City Council sought the views from the community of users including those who live, work, study or visit the city on the proposal to erect dual language street signs in Marcus Ward Street. In line with the Council decision of 1 March 2023, adverts were placed in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and Newsletter. Submissions could be made from 23rd November to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. No responses were received during the consultation period.</p>
3.17	<p><b><u>Assessment against policy</u></b></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration. All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
3.18	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £3,500 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
3.19	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
3.20	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the eight applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	<u>Alleygates Update</u>
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Nora Largey, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager Gavin Bell Car Park Manager Conor Bayne, Solicitor

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	This report provides an update on the Alleygate Phase V Programme and the DFC Funded Alleygate programme for the Holyland.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Notice of Intention for those streets meeting the threshold will be advertised for the period of 30 days on 7 <sup>th</sup> February, for representations and objections. Following this a paper will be brought to Committee seeking enactment of the legislation.
3.2	The terms and conditions for a local inquiry have been agreed should there be substantive objections received to the Notice of Intention. Should this occur it is proposed that those streets objecting to the installation of Alleygates will be removed from the proposed gating order whilst the inquiry is being held, to enable the progression of those locations where no objections have been received.
3.3	The canvassers are being recruited for the consultation exercise and Members will be informed when letters are posted to the streets being consulted. Several community sessions will be held at centres close to or within the consultation areas. This will enable residents to have any questions clarified or receive help in completing the consultation form. Members will be informed of these as well.
3.4	Once the consultation is completed and there are no substantive objections it is proposed that these locations move to public notification.
3.5	Members will be aware that Department for Communities have funded a further Alleygating scheme within the Holylands to complement the existing gates. During the consultation a high number of objections were received to the proposal (108 returns to the Holylands consultation, 27% of the properties surveyed. Of these returns there were 61 objections to the gates). Most of these objections came from Landlords and Letting Agents, concerned with the use of the alleyways post gating.
3.6	Officers met with a delegation representing the objectors. The objectors are not objecting to the installation of gates but rather to any potential alleyway transformation schemes following gating. Citing 'Wildflower Alley' they raised safety issues and access problems that would occur should transformation schemes go ahead.
3.7	Members will be aware that Cleaner neighbourhood legislation sets out the process Council's must follow when implementing an alleygating scheme. There is no legislation that regulates Alleyway Transformation schemes and that such a scheme can take place without an alleygate being in place Members will also be aware that there are many examples of this across the city and that Belfast City Council have also introduced criteria that must be met for any Council funded schemes to proceed.
3.8	In response to the issues raised officers agreed to review the wording of future key holder agreements to include a number to call should gated alleyways become obstructed and to remind of the need to get the support of residents for any potential transformation scheme. Any future alleyway transformation schemes funded by Belfast City Council will require the consensus of those living in and/or owning properties that frontage the proposed area.



3.9	<p>The objectors have requested the opportunity to make a representation to the People and Communities Committee to highlight their concerns. Members should note that this paper is for noting and no decision is required and that officers have already met with the objectors. Members should also note that should a substantive objection be received then a local inquiry will be set up.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All associated costs are covered within existing budget estimates.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>No Good Relations or Equality issues.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>

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