



Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2024-2025 mid-year update
Date:	5 November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann, Lead Officer Community Provision

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period April 2024 – September 2024 (quarters 1 and 2).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked: to note the progress to date of the strategy annual work plan for the current year 2024/25.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> Council agreed, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) for delivery of an agreed annual action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.
3.2	IABA asked Council to consider extending the strategy and related level of funding support. Following submission of an agreed action plan relating to 2024/25 financial year, the March 2024 People and Communities committee agreed to extend the strategy and funding to the end of March 2025, pending completion of Council's Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy.
3.2	The IABA provided Council with a detailed breakdown of programmes to be delivered under six main areas. Salary – Development Officer and Coaches, Pathways, Events, Coach Education, Club Support and Governance.
3.3	Following this decision, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has met quarterly with the next meeting taking place via MS Team on Thursday 7 th November. The Steering Group is chaired by the Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers, IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials attending. Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan and the programme is on schedule to deliver all KPIs within budget.
3.4	<u>Monitoring</u> The Leisure Development Unit works directly with IABA officials to verify reporting on performance, vouching actual spend and provides detailed reports for discussion at the Steering Group.
3.5	<u>Performance</u>

	<p>Council agreed a total of 38 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. IABA have complied with reporting requirements and their performance report for 24/25 Quarters 1 and 2 is at Appendix 1. IABA have provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and have advised that they anticipate that all KPIs will be achieved by the end of 24/25.</p>
3.6	<p><u>24/25 Action Plan</u></p> <p>The IABA have an extensive programme planned for Q3 and Q4, highlights below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Box Cup. 26th - 28th October at Girdwood Community Hub. Sold out 400 spots which will require 3 rings. Competitors from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Italy. • Harry Cunningham Boxing cup. Competitors from Cyprus, Italy and Greece taking part. • Female Development squad. Planned for 40- 50 females, including female coaches. • Fundamentals coaching course. In the City of Belfast Boxing Club in East Belfast. • Antrim 6s. In December, will attract between 300-350 boxers. • Inter County with Galway planned for November. • Try- it day. In Girdwood on 22nd October with 4 schools coming in to participate.
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A total of £200,000 is available within the current financial year to support the current Action Plan. It is likely that the full budget will be expended.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Members agreed that an equality screening be undertaken prior to a decision being made in relation to funding for 19/20. Officers finalised this screening and the findings show that progress has been made in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups and this has been reported separately through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The IABA continue to target underrepresented groups in its delivery of the 24/25 programme with particular focus on the events, club-based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	<p>Appendix 1: IABA 2024-2025 Performance Report to end of Quarters 1 and 2.</p> <p>Appendix 2: IABA 2024-2025 Agreed action plan and budget.</p>