



People & Communities

Committee Plan 2024- 2025

Six Month Update



Belfast
City Council

Introduction

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

Its specific functions include:

- Developing and delivering programmes, events, and activities to promote health, safety and wellbeing at a local level
- Developing and delivering programmes, events and activities to promote health, safety and well being at a local level.
- Administering and enforcing the Council's powers and duties under the Public Health Acts and all environmental health and building related legislation and regulations.
- Securing and providing adequate provision for the recycling, treatment and disposal of commercial and domestic waste including bulky waste and the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Exercising the Council's powers for improving local environmental quality in relation to housing legislation, managing controlled waste, emergency planning and community safety and anti-social behaviour, clean neighbourhoods and other environmental or regulatory issues not falling within the remit of any other Committee.
- Managing, maintaining, and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds, and other public spaces as well as community centres and other indoor facilities
- Developing and implementing activities to ensure the delivery of corporate strategies and initiatives in respect of the promotion of health and physical activity, environmental protection, community safety and other such areas under the domain of this Committee.
- Overseeing the delivery of the Council's frontline services and associated community assets including:
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Cleansing
 - Waste Management
 - Parks and Leisure Service (excluding Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle)
 - Neighbourhood and Development Services
 - Community Services,
 - Community Safety
 - Emergency Planning
 - Building Control

Ref: Standing Orders – December 2021

People & Communities Committee Members



Councillor Ruth Brooks (Chairman)
Party: DUP
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Matt Garrett (Deputy Chair)
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Collin



Councillor David Bell
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Titanic



Councillor Christina Black
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Christine Bower
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Nicola Bradley
Party: Sinn FeinParty
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Sarah Bunting
Party: DUP
Ward: Balmoral



Councillor Claire Canavan
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Court



Councillor Fred Cobain
Party: DUP
Ward: Castle



Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Deputy Chair)
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Paul Doherty
Party: SDLP
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Black Mountain



Councillor Nicola Verner
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Anthony Flynn
Party: Green Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor JJ Magee
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Oldpark



Councillor Jenna Maghie
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Gary McKeown
Party: SDLP
Ward: Botanic



Councillor Ian McLaughlin
Party: DUP
Ward: Court



Councillor Hedley Abernethy
Party: Alliance Party
Ward: Ormiston



Councillor Conor Maskey
Party: Sinn Fein
Ward: Castle

Our People and Communities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
G	On Track
B	Target Met / Delivered

Build capacity within our communities.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
1.Implement the recommendations of the review of the Belfast City Council Funded advice services	Ongoing	On Track	In Quarter 2, growth proposals are being developed to increase the revenue funding for Advice Services Belfast City Council. An implementation plan has been developed to take forward the recommendations.
2.Develop and implement a Community Support Plan which outlines Council's agreed approach to Community support and Neighbourhood Integration and Community Planning Priorities	April 25	On Track	Review commenced in Quarter 1 for development of the Community Support Plan. Significant engagement took place through a series of workshops. Decision on next steps and resources to be agreed by CMT.
Addressing vulnerabilities and responding to societal challenges			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
3.Delivery and administration of DFC social supermarkets fund to deliver food/ wrap around support in areas of need.	June 2025	On Track	Letter of offer received from the Department for Communities – an increase in allocation received in July 2024. 21 projects were awarded in total £785k, all funding agreements have been issued and quarterly networking meetings in place.
Increase opportunities for people to be physically active.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			

Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
4. Development of the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and action plan	November 2024	At risk/change required	The final Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy has been drafted and consultation has been completed. Further work required from consultation findings, as a result the timescale to complete this has now moved to March 2025. Officers currently developing action plans.
5. Deliver the Boxing Strategy Action Plan	March 2025	On Track	Work is currently ongoing to be able to deliver the action plan by March 2025. The next progress report to People and Communities Committee is due to in November 2024.
6. Development of Belfast Pitches Strategy and action plan	December 2024	On Track	Draft Belfast Pitches Strategy presented to relevant Directors. Internal review meeting to be agreed to progress to committee. Consultation timeline to be considered and reflected accurately in timeline for delivery of action.
7. Work in partnership and deliver an annual work programme with Irish Football Association and Gaelfast to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.	April 2025	On Track	At the end of Quarter 1, 2024/25 there have been a total of 2,263 participants involved in the programmes delivered by the IFA and Gaelfast. Quarter 2 figures will be available at the end of October.
8. Oversight of the contract with and ongoing management of relationships with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for the effective operation of BCC leisure centres.	Ongoing	On Track	In line with the approved contract management plan, regular operational and strategic meetings are ongoing to ensure oversight of the GLL contract. The last six-monthly contract compliance and performance report, covering Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2023/24, was presented to the People and Communities Committee in May 2024. The next six-monthly report, covering Quarter and Quarter 2 2024/25, will be present to committee in November 2024.
Senior responsible officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
9. Scope a review of all Council managed allotment facilities and report back to People and Communities committee	March 2025	On Track	The Performance and Improvement team are supporting this work, and the scoping of work is on track to be completed by March 2025.

		On Track	
10.Continue to deliver the annual Playground Improvement Programme (PIP) and undertake a review of selection criteria for the capital programme. (Implement the programme of development of playgrounds across the city to further improve accessibility).	Ongoing	On Track	PIP 2023/24 now complete. New play value and accessibility audit adopted by Council Sept 2024. Sites selected under 24/25 are Grampian Avenue, Michelle Baird & Belfour Avenue playgrounds, design work and equipment ordering under way.
Community Safety			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected end date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year progress update
11.Review of anti-social behaviour in Parks	March 2025	At risk/change required	A specification will be developed in Quarter 2 for corporate support to undertake a review of Park Wardens. This is in development and some progress has been made, an outline business case to be presented to and reviewed by director. The RAG status of this action to be reviewed.

Our Place

Progress Status	
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Heritage Tourism			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
12.To explore community arrangement with external providers to assist with ambitions for heritage tourism within the context of the tourism strategy for historical cemeteries and	April 2025	On Track	Expression of interest for an operator issued with closing date 11 th October. Pre-market engagement and tender to be completed. Target of April 2025 to have an operator in place.

city cemetery visitor centre to increase visibility and footfall			
Off-street Car Parking			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
13.Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city	January 2026	On Track	Engagement ongoing with Dfi and BCC Legal Services on progressing OSP Order. Consultation is required on the new Off Street Parking Order which will depend on Dfi removing their order via NI assembly.
Open Spaces			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
14.Continue to work in partnership with Planning to secure/ deliver Section 76 contributions for council maintained open space	Ongoing	On Track	Continuing to work in partnership with planning on Section 76 applications for council maintained open spaces
Reservoir Improvement Programme			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
15.Continued inspection, reporting and improvement on the structural integrity of reservoirs to meet new statutory requirements (Reservoirs Act NI 2015).	Ongoing	At risk/change required	The Reservoir Act 2015 resulted in new statutory duties for the Council regarding inspections/maintenance of five reservoirs. Resourcing pressures remain however finance is in place for consultancy support. Work is still ongoing via Property and Projects to procure consultants to undertake required monthly inspections in addition to their annual and ten-year inspection cycle.

Our Planet

Progress Status	
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Transition to low carbon			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
16.Coordinate the delivery of the Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, in working partnership with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members	June 2026	On Track	The 2024 Update and Screening Assessment Report has been presented to P&C Committee and is due to be sent for assessment by DAERA's Technical Assessors
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
17.Agree council approach to funding for a fleet replacement strategy.	Ongoing	Behind/requires intervention	Will be part of outcome of thematic session – to be raised at WPB. Will form part of a medium-term financial plan. Needs further investment of £3.3m.
18.Explore opportunities to fund the conversion of the fleet to alternative non fossil fuels (electric) in conjunction with the Director of Finance.	Ongoing	Behind/requires intervention	Challenges around infrastructure further provision of electrical charging at Duncrue to be considered as part of the medium-term financial plan.
19.Continue to lead on the Climate Action Programme for four keys projects including City Centre Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland	March 2025	On Track	Work on 3 of the 4 key projects (Neighbourhood Recycling pilot; Carbon retention assessment at Cavehill; Species rich grassland pilot) successfully complete pending submission of close out reports. Funding for further wetlands/grass restoration project agreed in June 2024

pilots; and business case for potential Tree Nursery			
20.Implement and deliver on the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan	October 2033	On Track	Following the sign off the Belfast Tree Strategy and action plan we have achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tree establishment plan for tree planting opportunities (soft and hard landscapes) has been agreed at P&C in June 2024 and due to full Council in July 2024. - In June 2024, we were awarded Tree Cities of the world status and are currently the only Council in Ireland to hold his status. - We have changed our health and condition tree inspection cycle from once seven years to three years this will improve the health and safety of our trees.
21.Undertake a review of the Belfast Tree Strategy after year 1 (Oct 2024) and then every 3 years after	October 2024	On Track	The review is scheduled to take place in October 2024 by the consultants Treeconomics, who supported Belfast Council to develop the Tree Strategy
Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
22.Subject to approval, determine the implementation plan for Household Glass collection services.	March 2027	On Track	Council has approved funding for year 1, DEARA has approved capital funding for 50% with aim to go live in Quarter 4
23.Bring revised options paper on Kerbside Recycling to council governance for consideration and approval.	March 2025	On Track	Ongoing
24.Develop and seek approval for a single use plastics policy for the council.	February 2025	At risk/change required	Proposal to be presented to SDMT and next step to CMT.

25. Consider findings of the report on Paint Re-use scheme and seek approval for full implementation.	December 2024	On Track	Procurement exercise to appoint partner will be carried out in Quarter 2 with an expected go live date for Quarter 3
26. Review of litter bin provision across the City including learning from trial city centre recycling project.	October 2024	On Track	Condition survey for litter bins is currently ongoing. It is planned to take a committee report to P&C and SP&R in the autumn to outline the findings of the survey and recommendations for litter bin provision across for the City.
Climate Resilience			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
27. Scope and develop a Local Biodiversity Action Plan	March 2025	Behind/requires intervention	Funding proposal put forward to Climate Programme Board was unsuccessful. Progression in 24/25 remains subject to additional resources being secured. Funding for an additional biodiversity officer agreed which will help support this work. Timeframe changed from March 2025 to March 2026, due to pending recruitment process for an additional officer.

Compassionate City

Progress Status	
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Belfast Youth Council			
Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update

28.Facilitate, an active and engaged Belfast City Youth Council who work with relevant fora and elected members to ensure that the needs of children and young people are reflected within the Belfast agenda and council priorities.	Ongoing	On Track	Work is ongoing. A residential took place over the summer. Key roles have been nominated and agreed. Meetings happen on a biweekly basis, and partnership work with QUB- Radical rights-based project continues
Good Relations Action Plan Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
29.Delivery of the Good Relations action plan to promote good relations to persons of different religious belief and political opinions or racial group and promote cultural diversity and positive cultural expression for all cultural identities.	Ongoing	On Track	Letter of offer received from Executive Office in Quarter 2 for delivery of the Good Relations action plan 24/25. Plans have been presented to Shared City Partnership and in full delivery mode
Community Safety Senior Responsible Officer: Jim Girvan, Director City & Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
30.Delivery of the Police and Community Safety action plan, to make people feel safer and confidence in Policing.	Ongoing	On Track	Projects pertaining to the annual PCSP action plan are being delivered. Annual action plan will be reviewed for April 2025 with DOJ Policing Board.
31.Facilitation of the multi-agency 5 (D) PCSP meeting to support decision making and discussion on the People and Community Safety Action plan and Policing plan.	Ongoing	On Track	Meetings are scheduled monthly across the five partnerships – reactive meetings held as required. Through Quarter 2 there have been across city events engaging local residents and communities.

Improving Our Services

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
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B	Target Met / Delivered

Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
32.Undertake a review of Bereavement service to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	March 2025	Behind/requires intervention	Review remains on-going, timelines have been impacted by the structural requirements for the Administrative and Cemetery Operations functions, CI are working with Legal and CHR to progress. Key workstreams identified within the business plan are unable to progress until the review is complete, e.g. Memorial safety programme.
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
33.Undertake a service review of Port Health to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	TBC	At risk/change needed	Baselining exercise has started to look at service review. Challenges remain as this work is heavily dependent on the direction from UK Government and in particular a long-term sustainable funding model.
Houses in Multiple Occupancy			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update

34.Undertake a service review of HMO services to ensure responsive, integrated, and flexible service to realise the programme benefits.	June 2024	Behind/requires intervention	The service review of HMO services in ongoing, further work is required by CHR and CI to complete the review and implement the agreed changes. As a result, the timeline has been agreed to change to June 2025.
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Organisational Priorities

Progress Status	
R	Behind / Requires Intervention
A	At Risk / Change required
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Bereavement Services			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
35.CNS to work with Physical Programs and Estates to support the identification, acquisition, and development of new burial land provision for BCC.	TBC	At risk/change required	Further updates brought to the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group in January and February 2024. Shortlisted to three sites as part of the EOI process. Further support is required from Property and Projects to progress. Consideration being given to establishing a project board for this objective to track progress, register risks and ensure effective governance.
36.CNS to work with Physical Programmes on preparing for the new Crematorium development and the repurposing of the existing crematorium building	January 2026	At risk/change required	Lead by Property and Projects via the Capital Program the new Crematorium tender period closed at end of May 24. Work ongoing on review of OBC and FBC with updates to Members due
Port Health			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update

37. Advocate for a long-term sustainable funding model to secure adequate funding and review resources (Including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council’s legal responsibilities at Belfast Port.	March 2025	At risk/change required	Conversations remain active between key partners and stakeholders in advocating for and promoting the development of a long-term funding model. Again, this is influenced and shaped by UK Government direction and discussions with EU.
Digital Development			
Senior Responsible Officer: Siobhan Toland, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
38. Replace the current software system with a single modern and intuitive case management system designed to embed mobile technology and digitally transform how we plan, manage, and monitor our service delivery across the core areas of City & Neighbourhood Services.	August 2025	On Track	The C&NS Case Management Replacement Project are reviewing their timeline at present due to the unprecedented amount of new legislation across the regulatory services and the impact it is having on the Project Team resources
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
39. Development and implementation of the in-cab technology to enhance operational performance and efficiency	August 2025	On Track	Tender issued in July and submissions being evaluated.
Asset Management			
Senior Responsible Officer: Stephen Leonard, Director City and Neighbourhood Services			
Action	Expected End Date	Mid-year RAG status	Mid-year Progress Update
40. Develop a container policy for parks.	March 2025	On Track	Performance and Improvement team support is in place, scoping has commenced and draft policy development underway.

Contact us:

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Belfast
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