



Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2025-2026
Date:	4 th March 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan – Operational Director, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Paddy McGrattan – Leisure Development Manager

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	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on progress on implementation of the 2024/2025 Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 December 2024 (Quarter 3). • To seek committee approval to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and delivery of the related programme for a final year from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026. Future funding arrangements will be determined following adoption of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for Belfast, action plan and funding arrangements.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. To note the progress to date of the strategy annual work plan for the current year 2024/25 (appendix 1). ii. To approve the attached action plan (appendix 2) iii. To extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and funding for delivery of the related work programme from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Council developed a Belfast Boxing Strategy 2012 – 2022 with partners. The January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed 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. Council has continued to offer financial support through People and Communities committee on an annual basis.</p> <p>3.2 The IABA provided SP&R 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.</p> <p>3.3 Pending the development of the Councils Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy this Committee agreed on 12 March 2024 to extend the current strategy and related work programme until 31 March 2025.</p> <p>3.4 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 Up to the end of Quarter 3 is attached (Appendix 1).</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>3.5 Following this decision to extend the Strategy and Work programme , the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has continued to meet quarterly with the next meeting taking place via MS Team on Tuesday 25^h February 2025. The Neighbourhood Services Manager with Council officers in attendance chairs the Steering Group with IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials in attendance</p> <p>3.6 Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan.</p>

3.7	The IABA confirmed that the programme is on schedule to deliver all Key Performance Indicators set for the 2024-2025 programme and that they will do so within budget
3.8	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.
3.9	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
	<u>Strategy and Programme Extension</u>
3.10	Pending the development of the Councils Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy this Committee agreed on 12 March 2024 to extend the current strategy and related work programme until 31 March 2025.
3.11	The IABA are now asking the Council to extend the current strategy and the related level of annual support (£200,000) for a further 12 month period and in support of the request the IABA has developed a new 12 month programme relation to the period 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 (Appendix 2)
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.12	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.
3.13	A total of £200,000 is also available within budget for 2025-2026 to cover the proposed Action Plan.
	<u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.14	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.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1: IABA 2024-2025 Performance Report to end of Quarter 3 Appendix 2: IABA 2025- 2026 work plan and budget for 25-26.