



Subject:	Lower Shankill Park – Bespoke agreement with Denmark Street Community Association to support access and animation.
Date:	08 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources and Fleet and OSS.

**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**

**After Council Decision**

**Sometime in the future**

**Never**

  
  
  

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek approval from Committee for Denmark Street Community Association to enter into a bespoke agreement with Council to provide access to and assist with the animation and programming of the recently developed Lower Shankill Park and Community Garden.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	That Council enters into an agreement with Denmark Community Street Association to enable local operation, key handling and access to Lower Shankill Community Garden and other facilities within the recently developed Lower Shankill Park.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Background/Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	Members will recall a paper which was presented to the People and Communities Committee in October 2023 approving that where management arrangements with local community organisations exist that £15k budget be made available to the agreement holder subject to officer approval. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix 1.
3.2	An annual budget of £15k was allocated to all new parks to support access and promote positive animation at each of newly established or refurbished sites.
3.3	Council Officers have been working with Denmark Street Community Association since the opening of the new park and have developed a key holding agreement which supports access and activity outside normal park operating hours. The group have been providing key holding for the site and facilitating access to activity and programming for the past year.
3.4	The organisation want access to some of the money to support the key holding arrangements, litter picking and community programming.
3.5	The group has also recognised that Council is best placed to purchase certain materials for the community growing space and also to procure safe and reputable vendors to deliver activity at community events and programming, so they want access to only £5k of the overall budget to support their role in programming and making the space accessible for the local community.
3.6	The Community Garden is kept locked when not in use. The organisation also assists with the opening and closing of the MUGA and playpark, duties undertaken normally by Open Spaces and Street Scene operatives. This effective operation facilitates local community access to facilities outside of normal operating hours and encourages positive use of the space when otherwise would be susceptible to antisocial behaviour.
3.7	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b> If approved, the cost of this proposal is included within existing revenue estimates. It commits an amount of £5,000 per annum from an existing £15,000 per annum animation budget to support the proposed keyholder and animation proposal.
3.8	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> There are no equality or Good Relations implications related to this decision.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 – People and Communities Committee report – Páirc an Lonnáin – October 23

