



**December 23rd, 2025**

**Chairperson:** Councillor T Mitchell

**Vice-Chairperson:** Councillor A Givan

**Aldermen:** A McIntyre and S Skillen

**Councillors:** T Beckett, R Carlin, J Craig, K Dickson, J Gallen, B Higginson, C Kemp, S Lowry, G McCleave, G Thompson and The Hon N Trimble

**Ex Officio:**

**The Right Worshipful the Mayor:** Alderman A Grehan

**Deputy Mayor:** Alderman H Legge

**Notice Of Meeting**

A meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee will be held on Tuesday, 6th January 2026 at 6:00 pm for the transaction of the undernoted Agenda.

For those Members attending this meeting remotely, the Zoom link and passcodes are contained within the Outlook invitation that has been issued.

A hot meal shall be available in **Lighters Restaurant** from 5.15 pm.

**David Burns**

**Chief Executive**

# Agenda

## 1.0 APOLOGIES

## 2.0 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- (i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete the Disclosure of Interest form)

📎 *Disclosure of Interests form Sept 24.pdf*

*Page 1*

## 3.0 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

### 3.1 Dundonald International Ice Bowl - Project Update

*For Noting*

📎 *FINAL DIIB Update Report\_16.12.25 LM.pdf*

*Page 3*

### 3.2 Update on Process for Overseeing Bonfires on Council-Owned Sites

*For Decision*

📎 *FINAL Cover Report - Bonfire Process\_16.12.25 LM.pdf*

*Page 6*

📎 *LCCC parks open spaces screening 17.12.25\_SIGNED.pdf*

*Page 9*

## 4.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

### 4.1 Notice of Motion Update - Childcare

*For Noting*

📎 *FINAL Report - NoM Childcare.pdf*

*Page 24*

📎 *FINAL Appendix 1 - Internal Review of Childcare & Holiday Provision.pdf*

*Page 26*

## 5.0 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

### 5.1 Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate - Draft Estimates 2026/2027

*For Decision*

Confidential due to Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

📎 *FINAL Cover report LCW Estimates 2627\_17.12.25.pdf*

*Not included*

## **6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL  
MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

1. **Pecuniary Interests**

The Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors under Section 6 requires you to declare at the relevant meeting any pecuniary interest that you may have in any matter coming before any meeting of your Council.

Pecuniary (or financial) interests are those where the decision to be taken could financially benefit or financially disadvantage either you or a member of your close family. A member of your close family is defined as at least your spouse, live-in partner, parent, child, brother, sister and the spouses of any of these. Members may wish to be more prudent by extending that list to include grandparents, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or even close friends.

This information will be recorded in a Statutory Register. On such matters **you must not speak or vote**. Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, if such a matter is to be discussed by your Council, **you must withdraw from the meeting whilst that matter is being discussed**.

2. **Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests**

In addition you must also declare any significant private or personal non-pecuniary interest in a matter arising at a Council meeting (please see also Sections 5.2 and 5.6 and 5.8 of the Code).

Significant private or personal non-pecuniary (membership) interests are those which do not financially benefit or financially disadvantage you or a member of your close family directly, but nonetheless, so significant that could be considered as being likely to influence your decision.

Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, you must declare this interest as soon as it becomes apparent and **you must withdraw from any Council meeting (including committee or sub-committee meetings) when this matter is being discussed**.

In respect of each of these, please complete the form below as necessary.

**Pecuniary Interests**

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Pecuniary Interest:

**Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

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Date of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

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Nature of Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interest:

Name:

Address:

Signed:

Date:

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*If you have any queries please contact David Burns, Chief Executive,  
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council*

<b>Committee:</b>	Communities and Wellbeing
<b>Date:</b>	06 January 2026
<b>Report from:</b>	Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

<b>Item for:</b>	<b>Noting</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Dundonald International Ice Bowl Project Update

1.0	<b><u>Background and Key Issues</u></b>
1.1	In September 2023 Council agreed to an investment decision that would see the redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl, from a 38-year-old facility to a first-class regionally significant family attraction in the east of the Council area. The redevelopment promotes accessibility, economic activity, increased tourism, reducing the carbon footprint, all whilst enhancing improved health and wellbeing.
1.2	The proposed new facility provides for an Olympic sized ice rink with spectator seating, 24 lane ten pin bowling experience, multi-function studios, restaurant/café, sensory and party rooms. The facility will see the introduction of a state-of-the-art gym with over 100 stations.
2.0	<b><u>Current Progress</u></b>
2.1	Heron Brothers Ltd, the appointed principal contractor, are on site and have completed over a year of active construction. The project remains within the agreed budget and timeframe.
2.2	The construction of the new Phase 1 carpark, and overflow carpark adjacent to the caravan are completed and now in use. Demolition of the 10-lane extension and extensive site enabling works are completed with construction of the retaining walls.
2.3	Construction of the main building is largely 'out of the ground'- final foundation works are underway. The steel frame to the ice is completed with Glulam roof beams in place and the Ice Balcony formed. Lower ground floor frame (bowling) is underway.
2.4	Pre-market engagement, to secure a third-party operator for the food and beverage offerings, has been released in order to influence the offering.
2.5	A total of £16,670,423.63 has been paid to the contractor with full expenditure of the external funding (levelling up Fund), of £12.2 million expended ahead of target. A site visit with LUF took place in October to mark this milestone.
2.6	The current programme forecasts that the new facility will be constructed by March 2027 and staff training will then take place in the new building with full opening envisaged after training has taken place. The current facility will be demolished

September 2027. The final handover of the site to Council is programmed for December 2027, however with a programme of this scope and scale there is likely to be ongoing changes to the programme timeline.

### 3.0 **Communication**

3.1 Officers continue to develop the Communications and Event Plan, along with engaging with the Belfast Giants. Key highlights within the programme include:

- 3.2
- ✓ Website development
  - ✓ Staff engagement and communications
  - ✓ Digital screens for communication
  - ✓ Vitality communication
  - ✓ Customer communication
  - ✓ Local residents engagement
  - ✓ Key milestones communications
  - ✓ Branding.

### 4.0 **Events**

- 4.1
- ✓ Legacy programme
  - ✓ Schools programme
  - ✓ Schools out for summer
  - ✓ 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DIIB
  - ✓ Seasonal Easter, Christmas, Summer
  - ✓ Inclusive events
  - ✓ Ice and bowling themed nights
  - ✓ Ice show exhibition.

4.2 A site visit and workshop will be arranged for Members in the New Year to see physical progress and discuss planned engagements and branding.

4.3 Internal transitional planning includes procurement activities for catering and internal furniture. Staff training and workplans have been drafted to ensure alignment with key capital milestones. All existing contracts and programmes form part of transition to ensure preparedness for the new facility.

### 5.0 **Current Risks**

5.1 With a project of this scope and scale there will always be live risks, and they are continually monitored and managed by the project board and appointed professional team.

5.2 Some of the risks being monitored include business continuity at the existing ice bowl, weather, sub-contractor availability and material delivery. All known risks are captured and monitored by the Design Team, and officers continue to manage the project risk register inline with best practice.

6.0	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>It is recommended that Members agree to:</p> <p>1. Note the contents of the report.</p>	
7.0	<p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>As per the Business Case presented to Members in December 2023.</p>	
8.0	<p><b><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></b></p>	
8.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
8.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b><u>or</u></b> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>Project update only.</p>	
8.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
8.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b><u>or</u></b> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Project update only.</p>	



<b>Committee:</b>	Communities & Wellbeing
<b>Date:</b>	06 January 2026
<b>Report from:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

<b>Item for:</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Update On Process for Overseeing Bonfires on Council Owned Sites

## 1.0 **Background and Key Issues**

1.1 In February 2025, the Communities & Wellbeing Committee was presented with an update on how bonfires are dealt with on Council owned sites, along with agreeing that delegated authority is given to Committee for decisions of an urgent nature beyond operational boundaries regarding bonfires on Council owned land. The approach utilised to oversee bonfires on Council owned sites culminates in a responsible, risk-based process, linking with colleagues across departments.  
<https://lccc.decisiontime.online/meeting/115826#>

## 2.0 **Current Position**

2.1 From March through to August 2025 LCCC officers facilitated an inter – agency forum, consisting of statutory agencies who either had bonfires on their land or have legislative responsibilities in this regard. These meetings provided a structured platform for multi-agency collaboration and continued stakeholder engagement across all identified sites within the council area.

2.2 This year there were 11 identified locations on Council owned land, where a bonfire or beacon took place. Site -specific risk assessments were carried out across these locations to ensure the safety of our patrons. There were no reportable incidents or major health and safety considerations following an internal review.

2.3 The 11 sites are detailed below, in **Table 1** for information. Whilst 9 sites had a traditional bonfire, Drumbo and Moat Park had Beacons.

### 2.4 **Table 1**

No.	Identified Site
1	Hillhall
2	Moneyreagh
3	Crossnacreevy
4	Ryan Park
5	Moat Park
6	Breda Park
7	Drumbo
8	Ballymacash

9	Glenmore
10	Hill Street
11	Coronation Gardens

### 3.0 **Next steps**

- 3.1 Under the DEA Investment Programme, Community Facilities Fund, the below noted groups applied for funding to support the installation of a Beacon in 2025/26. The amount awarded to support the installation of a beacon were:
- 3.2
- Poundbridge & District Community Association (Drumbo) – £3,500
  - Dundonald Purple Vine (Moat Park) – £6320
- 3.3 Both sites, when assessed on a weekly basis required no intervention or additional work. The clean up for both sites was straightforward. Whilst the Beacons worked well, challenges arose with regards to timing of release of grant and securing a beacon, as the third-party provider needed confirmation of booking well in advance of the event. There were also some additional considerations to include transport and ground conditions. It is therefore recommended that Council officers undertake the procurement of any beacon which is on Council land as requested from a third-party organisation. As per any event on Council land normal booking and compliance with terms and conditions will apply.
- 3.4 Subsequently, Council has received additional expressions of interest from community organisations who are considering transitioning from traditional bonfires to beacon structures.
- 3.5 Given the positive outcome and rising interest in the use of beacons, it is recommended that £25,000 is ringfenced for the hiring of beacons, for programmes in 2026/27. This financial provision has been included in the drafting of the estimates.
- 3.6 To ensure that demand is managed within the available budget, third-party organisations will be required to submit an Expression of Interest, which will be reviewed using a prioritisation matrix. This process will help determine how best requests can be supported based on available resources. The approach will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to meet demand effectively and aligns with the budget and resources available. Existing terms and conditions utilised for grant aid will apply, in that any organisation applying must be constituted.
- 3.7 Clean up and restoration was undertaken at all sites by Council staff, the estimated cost of which was £4,969. This includes costs associated with clean-up of sites such as replacement of gravel and topsoil and the disposal of waste materials.

4.0	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To £25,000 being included in the 2026/27 budget estimates to support the hiring of beacons for events on Council owned land.</li> <li>2. That officers procure the hiring of beacons on behalf of community groups for events on Council owned land.</li> </ol>	
5.0	<p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>£25,000 – already in 1<sup>st</sup> draft of estimates.</p>	
6.0	<p><b><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></b></p>	
6.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> <p>Existing document has been reviewed and updated accordingly.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
6.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b>or</b> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>This has been screened in line with our parks and open spaces. Whilst our open spaces aim to create shared spaces for all, there may be times when an event is specific to a particular section of the community. It is at these times; a good neighbour principle should be applied.</p>	
6.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p> <p>Parks and open spaces are screened under RNIA</p>	<p>No</p>
6.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b>or</b> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p>	

<p><b>Appendices:</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Equality Screening Documentation</p>
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## Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

### Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

#### Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened.

This screening relates to an overarching Parks & Amenities Parks and Open Spaces Policy, which sets out the principles for the management, use, and facilitation of activities and events on Council-owned parks and open spaces.

These spaces are used by members of the public, contractors, 3<sup>rd</sup> party event organisers and our own Council staff.

The facilities managed by the Parks and Amenities unit, being screened within this policy include:

- **Parks/open spaces** incorporating Children's play areas, Outdoor gyms, Multi Use Games Areas, Bike and pump tracks, indoor tennis, Caravan pitches, Dog exercise areas.
- **Sports turf** Senior Football, Junior football pitches, Baseball diamond, Gaelic pitch, Cricket Square, Cross country course, Golf course, Outdoor Bowling greens.
- **Facility users**
- **Allotments:** Allotment holders, Disability groups, Horticultural workshops
- **Cemeteries:** Mourners, cemetery visitors
- **Council events** Mayors' parade and Family fun day. Park life, Music /Jazz Twilight night, Christmas lights, Teddy bear picnic, ceremonial events. Colour runs. Biodiversity projects, Woodland and Bat walks.
- **Externally organised events** Car show meets, Royal black chapter. Orange order, Lisburn Feile, food festivals, IFA Disability football, IFA Grassroots football, Dawn church services, corporate days, Park runs, schools' sports days, Football leagues.
- **Equipment and infrastructure** situated on council-owned land, encompassing items such as barriers, inflatables, staging, event beacons, and any additional apparatus necessary to support the designated function of the space.

#### Name of the activity/policy/project

Parks & Amenities parks & open spaces

#### Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This is a new policy.

#### What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

To ensure that the management and use of our parks & open spaces have taken consideration of S.75 equality and good relations. Many of our open spaces are utilised by 3<sup>rd</sup> party event organisers and therefore consideration must be given to this process.

#### Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

Council owned/managed open spaces and amenities are intended for everyone to enjoy. This includes residents and visitors to the district. Our aim is to provide amenities and facilities that will be attractive and accessible to all ages and categories, including the Section 75 categories. Open spaces provide opportunities to all for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or scoot within parks and open space or exercise along paths, bridleways and riverbanks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits. There is evidence that the use of open green spaces can provide physical and mental health benefits to users across a range of Section 75 groups. The Council recognise that facilities must be promoted so that everyone will wish to use them, so that they know about provision and accessibility to open space areas.

Open spaces within the Council area will particularly benefit certain groups whose needs have been taken into account, in terms of accessibility. Many parks, trails and greenways have been designed with particular groups in mind, for example they are suitable for those with mobility issues, including those who look after or care for children using buggies/pushchairs, those who have disabilities and older people who are using rollator walking aids or walking sticks. The council are keen to continue this in the future, taking consideration of certain Section 75 group needs, in the design and construction of new open spaces.

In local equipped areas for play, any new play equipment will be introduced for children with disabilities, so that they have the ability to use the same equipment as those without disabilities e.g. accessible ground level trampolines.

The Council wish to make green open spaces as accessible for as many section 75 groups as possible. At a number of sites, where it is appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs will be installed. This means that many more sites will be accessible for those who are blind and partially sighted.

Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play will be installed in local communities, so that residents can access these areas in their own community. This may have a positive effect on people from different political, racial and religious backgrounds. These sections of the community can access open spaces which are convenient to them, without having to travel into another community where they may not feel comfortable to play or carry out physical activity.

The Council recognises the need for creating accessible places for everyone to experience the great outdoors. Where opportunities arise the Council will explore new ways to access the countryside. If this is through obtaining formal planning permissions or permissive path agreements, with local land owners, the Council will pursue all avenues, to create new trails which are accessible to all.

**Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?**

Community & Wellbeing management team

**Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns the activity.

Parks & Amenities Service Unit within Communities & Wellbeing Directorate will implement the activity.

**Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?**

Yes

**If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.**

Limited budget, unsuccessful funding bids, government policy including planning restrictions. Dependency on partners in some areas, for example Lagan Valley Regional Park.

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the schedule will impact upon? Delete if not applicable.**

**External Customers –**

**Other public sector organisations –**

**Voluntary/community/trade unions –**

**Other**

Staff	Yes.
Service Users	Yes. Particularly those with access issues.
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	Yes. Belfast City Council who are partners in the management of Lagan Valley Regional Park. Athletics NI, Belfast hills, Lough Neagh partnership
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Yes. The voluntary and community sector who wish to use open spaces and 3 <sup>rd</sup> party event organisers.
Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members, delivery partners and contractors during construction works.

**Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project**

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Community Planning Partners
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Corporate Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Regional Development Strategy	NI Executive
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Connect, Invest, Transform investment Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Local Development Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
LCCC Open space strategy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Health & Safety Policies	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
LCCC local Biodiversity Action Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Pitch strategy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

### Available evidence

**What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.**

The Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, active and accessible environment connecting places and people. We also recognise that as part of this, biodiversity, conservation and adapting to climate change are key. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a huge upsurge in people exercising outdoors. This, coupled with a desire from Council for more local DEA projects, has increased the opportunities for the development of open spaces for recreation throughout the Council area.

We have engaged with partners such as RNIB to identify areas for improvement in our Parks and then sought to avail of grant opportunities through the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme to install tactile maps and braille signs.

The Council's Customer Care interface provides a regular source of useful user feedback, which we consider, when making changes to open space areas. Feedback from users across all Section 75 categories informs decisions on improvements to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.

Requests for booking council open spaces by third parties continues to be received and considered. As part of the many requests, event infrastructure support may be considered as appropriate. Given the level of requests, we have also considered this when undertaking this screening process, ensuring that all events align with accessibility, equality, and good relations principles.

### Most up to date NISRA population data from Census 2021 (published 22/09/22) [Lisburn and Castlereagh Census Data](#)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information												
Religious Belief	2021 Census data indicates that 27% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 73% were brought up in the Protestant & Other Christian religion												
Political Opinion	<p>The Local Government Election in May 2023 demonstrated the following weighting in the Borough's political opinion. Note: only 52% of those eligible submitted a vote.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DUP (%)</th> <th>Alliance (%)</th> <th>UUP (%)</th> <th>SF (%)</th> <th>SDLP (%)</th> <th>Ind (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>32.5</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DUP (%)	Alliance (%)	UUP (%)	SF (%)	SDLP (%)	Ind (%)	35	32.5	15	10	5	2.5
DUP (%)	Alliance (%)	UUP (%)	SF (%)	SDLP (%)	Ind (%)								
35	32.5	15	10	5	2.5								
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 4% of the population were from an ethnic minority group												

Age	The population in 2021 totalled 149,106: 28,331 (0-14 years) 44,731 (15-39 years) 49,205 (40-64 years) 26,839 (65+ years)
Marital Status	For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships: 33% single 52% married or civil partnership 3% separated. 6% Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership. 6% Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
Sexual Orientation	The Census 2021 data indicates that 91% identified as Straight or heterosexual, 2% of the household population in identified as Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation, while 7% Prefer not to say or not stated.
Men & Women Generally	The LCCC population (2021) was 51% female and 49% male. This reflects the overall NI position
Disability	Using the same census data as above indicates that 32% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability. Several studies have shown a positive association between access to natural environments and increased rates of physical activity for all ages. Physical activity can help reduce obesity, improve mental health and overall health and well-being. Stakeholder engagement has highlighted key areas for improvement in accessibility, including the introduction of tactile maps and braille signs. This action aligns with the Council's commitment to ensuring inclusivity for those with sensory impairments
People with and without Dependants	In 2021, of the 60,143 households in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City council area 14.4% (8,661) had dependent children.  10.98% of the population on average provide unpaid care, with 3.4% providing more than 50 hours per week.

### Needs, experiences and priorities.

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
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Religious Belief	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe and welcome, regardless of religious beliefs. It is important that people from different religious backgrounds can enjoy these spaces without fear of exclusion or discrimination.
Political Opinion	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe. The Council acknowledges the diversity of political opinion within the community and the importance of ensuring that open spaces remain accessible for all, irrespective of political views. The Council also recognises the diverse community celebrations and cultural traditions within Northern Ireland. For all events, Council takes a positive action approach, working with communities, agencies, and individuals to address any potential environmental or social impacts of planned events as appropriate and to ensure community cohesion. All community celebrations/events will be considered and assessed in line with event booking process. Any requests for provision of event infrastructure or equipment will be considered as part of the governance arrangements agreed within council procedures.
Racial Group	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe and included. Some ethnic minorities, who are new to the area, may need access to translation of information, and their knowledge of open spaces may be limited.
Age	Older people may be less mobile than others and will need safe level surfaces in order to use open spaces. They may also need rest areas (seating or shelter) and well-lit areas, where they will feel safe. Accessible toilets and adequate signage will also be required for some older people.
Marital Status	No particular needs identified for people of different marital status. All individuals should have equal access to parks and open spaces, irrespective of their marital status or personal relationships.
Sexual Orientation	No particular needs identified for people of different sexual orientation. All individuals should have equal access to parks and open spaces, irrespective of sexual orientation.
Men & Women Generally	Both men and women require safe, well-lit spaces, particularly at night. The Council recognises that safety concerns can affect different groups differently, and ensuring well-lit, accessible spaces helps meet the needs of all users.
Disability	Paths, trails and greenways need to be accessible for wheelchair users and those with other mobility

	<p>conditions. Signage and information should be available in accessible formats, including for those with visual or hearing impairments. Accessible toilet facilities are essential. Other disabled people (for example neurodivergent people, those with mental health conditions) may also benefit from the provision of more quality open spaces that are convenient to where they live.</p>
<p>People with and without Dependants</p>	<p>Carers of children/older people/disabled people need accessibility for buggies/wheelchairs/walking aids so that they can enjoy open spaces as a family group. This includes the need for smooth, wide pathways and appropriate seating areas.</p>

**Needs**

The primary need is for accessibility for all, including those with disabilities, older adults, those with dependents, and individuals with mental health conditions. People in these groups may face additional challenges in accessing parks or the countryside, particularly if paths include obstacles such as steps, steep gradients, gates, or narrow entrances. It has been recognised that there is a great need for inclusive play equipment, to ensure children with disabilities can enjoy the same play opportunities as able-bodied children.

There is also a need for some communities to access open spaces in their local area. If those with particular religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups find it difficult to go into areas where people have different beliefs, opinions or are a different race, then the council has endeavoured to introduce Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play. These play areas are usually convenient to residential areas. The council will ensure that the strategy provides equitable open space provision across all communities and supports community cohesion towards celebrations in line with normal event booking practices for third party events. As such, any requests for infrastructure or equipment support will be considered in line with standard support requests to ensure that negative impacts can be reduced or avoided. Open spaces convenient to residential areas, also provides space for children and young people to play, who may not have access to transport.

It became apparent throughout the Covid 19 lockdown period that there is a need for additional suitable walking trails within the Council area. Some of the current paths are not suitable for those with limited mobility. The Council realise that appropriate path provision is necessary, so that people with disabilities, those with dependents and older people, also have access to the countryside and a place to exercise. Due care has been taken by the Council to consider these groups and many new open spaces have been designed with these groups in mind. There has also been a focus on opening local walking paths and trails. This has enabled those living in cities and towns to walk to the open space that they wish to use for exercise. This also has a positive effect on climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of individual

households. Where appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs have been installed in parks to provide improved access for those who are visually impaired.

The Council also recognises a need on occasions to support some event organisers that use our open spaces with certain infrastructure, such as barriers, toilets and Gazebos.

### Experiences

The experience of those with disabilities, buggies/pushchairs or rollators is that at many open space areas, they may not have full access to a site due to poorly planned walkways or barriers to using them. The Council wants to avoid this, and so all greenways, paths and parks have been carefully pre-planned to take all end users into account. Tactile maps and braille signs have also been installed at a number of sites to enable access for those who are partially sighted. Children with disabilities have experienced a lack of play equipment that is suitable for their use, in traditional playparks.

### Priorities

The priorities of the groups that could be affected by access (as stated in the table above), will be full accessibility to open spaces within the council area, so that they can achieve the same benefits as those who are not in these groups.

## Part 2. Screening questions

### 1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Political Opinion	Positive – people of all political opinions can access safe open spaces convenient to where they live, promoting inclusivity and community cohesion.	Minor
Racial Group	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Age	Positive – more older people, particularly those with mobility issues, will be able to safely access and use open space	Minor

	<p>areas, due to enhanced accessibility measures.</p> <p>Children will have access to open spaces which are convenient to where they live, encouraging participation in physical activity.</p> <p>Teenagers will be able to access open spaces designed with their needs in mind – pump parks, skate parks.</p>	
Marital Status	No differential impact identified. Open spaces are designed to be inclusive for all individuals, regardless of marital status.	None
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact identified. Open spaces are designed to be inclusive for all, irrespective of sexual orientation.	None
Men & Women Generally	No differential impact identified. Open spaces are designed to be inclusive for all, irrespective of gender.	None
Disability	<p>Positive - People with certain disabilities, including those who are wheelchair users, use mobility aids, and who are visually impaired will find open spaces more accessible.</p> <p>Those who are visually impaired, can use tactile maps and braille signage.</p> <p>Those who have mental health disabilities can access safe open spaces where they can relax and feel close to nature.</p>	Minor
People with and without Dependants	Positive - People with dependants, including those who use buggies or wheelchairs, will find open spaces easier to use. Open spaces will have improved facilities which will make open spaces more inclusive for families, promoting social	Minor

	interaction and community cohesion.	
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\* See Appendix 1 for details.

**2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?**

<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>IF Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide details</b>
Religious Belief		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Political Opinion		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Racial Group		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Age		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Marital Status		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Sexual Orientation		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Men & Women Generally		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Disability		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
People with and without Dependents		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.

No further opportunities identified at this time. However, the design and provision of LCCC-owned open spaces are continually assessed to accommodate all S.75 groups. These spaces are intended to be inclusive and shared, rather than tailored to any one specific group. The Council remains committed to addressing the evolving needs of different groups as they arise, ensuring that all individuals have equitable access to open spaces. If any issues or opportunities for improvement emerge, they will be addressed as part of ongoing evaluation and monitoring.

**Equality Action Plan 2021-2025**

**Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? Yes/No If yes, specify which action.**

Yes, 1.4 Some children may not be able to access relevant play facilities that they may require (Inclusive Fixed Play Equipment Provision).

The policy aims to enhance accessibility and promote inclusivity in line with the values of the Equality Action Plan.

**2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)**

**Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:**

**1. to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?**

Open spaces will allow improved access so that more people with disabilities will be able to use the Council's parks and greenways. Through this, there will be more interaction between disabled people and non-disabled people, and so this may work towards promoting more positive attitudes towards disabled people. There is also the potential for use of images of disabled people in promotional material for council facilities and spaces, which will also raise awareness and promote positive attitudes.

**2. to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?**

LCCC open spaces encourage the participation of disabled people in public life, by providing opportunities for those with disabilities to enjoy outdoor spaces, by giving them access to these spaces. When planning new sites and refurbishing existing sites, the views of those with disabilities will be sought, to ensure improved accessibility.

**3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor
Political Opinion	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor
Racial Group	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor

**4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Good Relations Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		

Political Opinion	Encouraging delivery of programme to promote inclusivity across all categories, to create opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding through community events in open spaces, celebrating the diversity of religious beliefs, political opinion and racial groups in the area.	
Racial Group		

### Multiple identity

**Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

The Council recognises that individuals hold multiple identities and these may overlap in unique ways. For example, older people with disabilities, younger people with disabilities, and those who have dependent children or dependants who are disabled will particularly benefit from the improved accessibility of open spaces. While the design of these spaces is focused on accessibility for disabled individuals, older people, and those with dependents, they are open to everyone in the community. It is important to recognise that individuals with disabilities may also belong to other groups, such as different ages, genders, or religious backgrounds, and that their needs may intersect.

### Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a **full equality impact assessment** on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

1. **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no relevance to equality, no negative impacts identified or only very minor positive impacts for all groups. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
2. **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor potential impacts or opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified, so mitigations appropriate.
3. **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant and/or potentially negative impact identified for one or more groups, so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [See Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

**Choose only one of these** and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1	

<p><b>Screen out</b> – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]</p>	
<p>Option 2  <b>Screen out with mitigation</b> – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation or some opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified [complete mitigation section below]</p>	<p>This policy will be screened out with mitigation. We have concluded that the impacts should generally be positive for all groups, and mitigations will ensure the continued focus on accessibility and inclusivity. In developing plans for open spaces, due consideration will be given to some issues identified, including accessibility, inclusion and consideration of third party booking requests.</p> <p>The Council's approach of addressing specific needs during the development of open spaces will benefit the following section 75 groups in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people, who will find open spaces more accessible due to design considerations such as level surfaces and rest areas.</li> <li>• People with disabilities, including those with mobility issues, will benefit from wheelchair-accessible paths and facilities.</li> <li>• People with dependents, such as those with young children or those caring for individuals with disabilities, will experience improved accessibility to parks and recreational areas.</li> </ul>
<p>Option 3  <b>Screen in</b> for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)                  [If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]</p>	

**Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)**

**Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended, or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**

**Geographical considerations:** The geography of the council area will be carefully studied to ensure equitable access to open spaces. Design plans will take into account path width, incline, seating, and rest points throughout parks and greenways.

**Accessibility:** Entrances to parks and greenways will be designed to be fully accessible for wheelchair users and people pushing buggies. Additionally, new and refurbished playparks will include accessible play equipment suitable for disabled children.

The allotment site will feature accessible raised beds and potting benches to accommodate individuals with disabilities, alongside accessible toilets to ensure inclusivity. These provisions will help mitigate any barriers for those with mobility issues.

**Involvement of relevant groups:** The screening has identified some needs and potential positive impacts on the following three groups – those with dependents, those with disabilities and those in the older age category. The impacts on these groups are taken into consideration during construction works and the redevelopment of open spaces, and those impacts are minor or none. All measures have been taken to mitigate any potentially negative impacts on these groups. We will continue to consider the needs of older people, people with disabilities, and those with dependents during the construction and redevelopment of open spaces.

**Third-party events:** The screening identified the need for careful consideration of third-party event requests. As these events can potentially impact different groups, the Council will continue its proactive approach in ensuring that event infrastructure, such as barriers and toilets, is inclusive and accessible. This will be aligned with the Council's event booking process and aims to promote equality and avoid potential exclusion.

#### **Timetabling and prioritising for full EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)**

If the activity/policy has been '**screened in**' for full equality impact assessment, give details of any factors to be considered and the next steps for progressing the EQIA, including a proposed timetable.

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

**N/A**

#### **Part 4. Monitoring**

##### **Two elements to monitoring:**

##### **1. Monitoring the activity generally as part of normal review and evaluation or service improvement**

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

Effective monitoring will help a public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the activity/policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and activity/policy development.

##### **2. What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done? Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? Please give details:**

Where possible 'Access Counters' will be fitted to monitor footfall and use of the open spaces.

Periodic spot surveys will also take place to gather qualitative feedback from users and to gather comments for further improvement. This can take place at Council organised events etc.

The Council's Customer Care policy is advertised on all Park signage to encourage feedback – good or bad. All communication is responded to.

Play equipment for those with disabilities will be monitored and kept in working order. Weekly and quarterly inspections by Assets unit followed up full independent annual inspection with report.

Accessibility to facilities will be constantly reviewed and improved when identified. Equality considerations will be embedded into the monitoring process to ensure ongoing improvement in accessibility and inclusion.

### Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by: William Torrens	P&A Manger	17/12/2025
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	Equality Officer	17/12/2025
<b>Approved by: Victoria Jackson</b>	HoS Communities	17/12/2025

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- Approved and 'signed off' by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy.
- Included with Committee reports, as appropriate.
- Sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees, internal reporting, and publishing on the LCCC website.
- Shared with relevant colleagues.
- Made available to the public on request.

Evidence and documents referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

### Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

\*Major impact (none)

Minor impact (none)

No impact (none)

Updated Template @ Oct 2022

<b>Committee:</b>	Communities & Wellbeing
<b>Date:</b>	06 January 2026
<b>Report from:</b>	Head of Communities

<b>Item for:</b>	<b>Noting</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion Update – Childcare

1.0	<b><u>Background and Key Issues</u></b>
1.1	The undernoted Notice of Motion was considered by this Committee in December 2023 moved by the then Alderman M Guy and seconded by Councillor G Thompson with an agreement that officers would continue to work on providing safe, affordable and enjoyable opportunities for children and young people in an effort to support a number of key elements as noted in the Notice of Motion below
1.2	<b><u>The Notice of Motion</u></b>
1.3	‘That the Council recognises childcare as a vital social and economic infrastructure, a crucial form of early intervention, early education, an anti-poverty tool and a means by which to improve productivity and gender equality in the labour market across Lisburn and Castlereagh; and commits to reviewing how the council and community planning partners can support childcare provision in the area including reviewing whether holiday/wider schemes supported by council can be expanded’.
1.4	<b><u>Current Position</u></b>
1.5	This report details the continued support this Council offers to children and young people across the Council area through the provision of child -related services such as
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Holiday schemes</li> <li>✓ Council-wide community events</li> <li>✓ Community centre programming</li> <li>✓ Use of facilities for the external provision of childcare</li> <li>✓ Financial support to community-led holiday schemes</li> <li>✓ Financial support to the Youth Council</li> <li>✓ Financial support to Help Kids Talk</li> <li>✓ Childminder Employability Academy through the council’s Labour Market Partnership</li> </ul>
1.7	Details of the services and schemes offered by Council are outlined in <b>Appendix 1</b> .
1.8	A review of Council’s holiday scheme programmes highlights that majority of schemes are operating at full capacity. Programme delivery is subject to ongoing monitoring, including analysis of registration uptake, user feedback, and satisfaction levels.
1.9	As part of a commitment to continuous improvement, officers regularly review the provision to ensure it remains responsive to community needs and adaptable to changing circumstances. Officers will continue collaboration with key stakeholders to support and enable community-led holiday schemes and programmes, where feasible.

1.10	The Community Planning Partnership is currently reviewing their Action Plan and supporting our young people are an integral theme to this plan. The Action Plan will be presented to this Committee in due course.	
2.0	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. note the contents of this report in relation to supporting childcare provision within the council area.</li> </ol>	
3.0	<p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All programmes delivered as part of approved departmental revenue expenditure</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></b></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	N/A
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b><u>or</u></b> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>N/A information for noting only.</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	N/A
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <b><u>or</u></b> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>N/A information for noting only</p>	

<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Internal Review of Childcare & Holiday Provision
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**Council provision of child friendly activities****Community Services**

<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b><u>Centre</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Capacity</u></b>
<b><u>Community Services</u></b>	Ballyoran Community Centre	Summer Scheme (facilitated by LCCC)	1 week programme – July-August £30 per person	40
	Enler Community Centre	Ballybeen Women's Centre Nursery Group	Monday – Friday 8.30am – 1.30pm	12
		Clear Days afterschool provision	Monday – Friday 2pm-6pm	30
	Moneyreagh Community Centre	Moneyreagh Community Church – Parents & Tots	Monday 10am – 11.15am (£1.50)	40
		Moneyreagh Community Church Kids Club	Friday 6.30pm-7.30pm	30
		Moneyreagh Primary School - afterschool activities	Ad-hoc	40
		Summer Scheme (facilitated by LCCC)	1 week programme – July-August £30 per person	40
<b><u>Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum</u></b>	Drop-in workshop space	Drop-in sessions during Museum opening hours Free of charge	Drop-in	
	Group workshops – for groups of 5 from under 5 – 16 years of age	Museum opening hours Free of charge	Minimum of 5	

		Seasonal Flaxie Workshops – aimed at nursery to P7 age range	Seasonal during Museum opening hours Free of charge	
		Flaxie Trails - Seasonal trails to guide children through the galleries at peak school closure times	Seasonal during Museum opening hours Free of charge	
<b><u>ISLAND Arts Centre</u></b>		ISLAND Youth Theatre	ISLAND Youth Theatre £36-£45 per block	
		Children's Arts Festival – summer scheme	July-August £90 per week	

### **Sports Services**

Summer In the City				
<b><u>Venue</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Days</u></b>	<b><u>Capacity</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>
LVL P	9am – 4pm	5 per week (6 weeks)	660	£75.00
Lough Moss	9am – 3pm	5 per week (4 weeks)	360	£56.00
Ice Bowl	9am – 4pm	5 per week (4 weeks)	200	£75.00
Glenmore	10am – 3pm	5 per week (3 weeks)	90	£49.00
AGC Golf	10am – 12noon	5 per week (1 week)	12	£55.00
CHGC Golf	10am – 12noon	5 per week (1 week)	12	£55.00

Ice Skating	Various	30 mins over 5 lessons	40	£65.00
Ballybeen	10am – 12:30pm	5 per week (1 week)	30	£20.00
Gaelic Kirkwoods	10am - 1pm	5 per week (1 week)	40	£40.00
Gaelic Lough Moss	10am – 1pm	5 per week (1 week)	40	£40.00
Goalkeeping Kirkwoods	10am – 1pm	5 per week (1 week)	30	£40.00
Goalkeeping Lough Moss	2pm – 5pm	5 per week (1 week)	30	£40.00
Jag Tag – LM	1:30pm – 4:30pm	5 per week (1 week)	30	£25.00
Jag Tag - LVLP	1:30pm – 4:40pm	5 per week (1 week)	30	£25.00

<b>Other Holiday Programmes</b>				
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
LVLP – February Mid-Term	9am – 4pm	5 days (1 week)	65	£75.00
LVLP – Halloween	9am – 4pm	5 days (1 week)	65	£75.00