

The Belfast Agenda

Action plans

2024 - 2028

These action plans are for the delivery period 2024 - 2028 and will remain live documents and subject to review with city partners through community planning governance arrangements



Contents

Theme 1 : Our people and communities	3
Health inequalities	4
Community and neighbourhood regeneration	7
Theme 2 : Our economy	9
Educational inequalities	10
Jobs and skills	12
Sustainable and inclusive economic growth	13
Theme 3 : Our place	15
Housing-led regeneration	16
Connectivity, active and sustainable travel	19
Future city centre and wider regeneration and investment	23
Theme 4 : Our planet	27
Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change	28
Creating a sustainable circular economy.....	30
Innovating to net zero	33
Theme 5 : Compassionate city	37
Inclusive growth and anti-poverty	38
Good relations and shared future	41
Older people	42
Children and young people.....	44



Theme 1

Our people and communities

Making life better for all our residents





Health inequalities

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.

Over the next four years, we will focus on narrowing the inequality gap and target our resources to deliver collaborative people-centred solutions, to protect the most vulnerable citizens in our city. To address some of Belfast’s most pressing health challenges we will target specific audiences and will implement behavioral interventions to promote healthy actions and choices across the city and at community level. We will ensure better access to information and services for everyone, specifically targeting those most at risk from poor health.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Address chronic homelessness by focusing on vulnerability and supporting the physical, mental, and social needs of those impacted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and embed the Belfast Complex Lives model – a multi-agency approach to providing timely and appropriate support and interventions to Belfast’s most vulnerable citizens – specifically those identified as being impacted by chronic homelessness. Strengthen relations across established systems and processes (particularly case management orientated approaches) to develop a ‘One Belfast Vulnerability Model’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support 50 people per year, who are impacted by, or at risk of, chronic homelessness into more secure and stable living arrangements and assisting with their physical, mental, and social health needs. Reduce the total number of individuals identified within the chronic homelessness cohort in Belfast, by 5% per year (baseline to be established) System Improvements – How partners feel the impact of the work, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater collaboration, amount and success of joint funding, commissioning, practices, etc. Cohort improvements – How people with complex lives benefit and their circumstances change, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stability, positive lifestyles, prevention for at risk people, physical, mental health and wider well-being benefits. 	<p>Convening lead: Belfast City Council (BCC)</p> <p>Strategic support: Senior leadership Group (SLG) – BCC, Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team (BDACT), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT), Depaul, Departmental for Communities (DfC), Department of Justice (DoJ), NIPs, EA, Extern, Homeless Connect, NIAS, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Public Health Agency (PHA), Probation Board for NI (PBNI), PSNI, SEHSCT, Simon Community, The Welcome Organisation, Translink</p> <p>Operational support: BHSCT, NIHE, PBNI, PSNI, Depaul, Extern, Simon Community and The Welcome Organisation</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Promote and improve positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of the supports and services available and actions that can be taken at an individual and community level to improve or maintain good mental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joined-up, citywide approach that looks at key factors that influence mental health and emotional wellbeing (a “whole-systems” approach). • Improve awareness of and access to mental health and emotional wellbeing services. • Refresh and expand the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing initiative focusing on communities, schools and workplaces. • Develop and deliver a positive mental health and wellbeing charter and create opportunities to champion and support wellbeing across our communities. Support the development and implementation of a new Integrated Care System and local delivery structures within the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the percentage of people with a high score in the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) indicating a possible mental health issues from 24% to 20%. • Contribute to streamlining referral pathways and enhanced accessibility to available services through use of new technologies. 	<p>Convening leads: BHSCT</p> <p>Strategic support: Health Inequalities Strategic Reference Group (HISRG): BCC, BHC, BHSCT, NIHE, PHA, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG).</p> <p>Task group: Membership from the Belfast Mental Health Community of Interest and Protect Life Implementation Groups</p>
<p>3. Improve health by focusing on narrowing the inequality gap, increase levels of physical activity and reduce the numbers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design and deliver the Active Belfast Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot programme to involve residents in deciding how money is invested to enable people to ‘move more and eat well – to feel better’. • Review the Active Belfast PB pilot to inform future models of engagement and funding approaches which might 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023-24 the ABP will allocate £64K of joint funding for groups to deliver a range of Active Belfast PB pilot programmes across four areas of the city. • During 2024-25 to 2026-27, the ABP will implement a range of actions and initiatives (with a test and learn focus) in support of the new whole system approach being developed. 	<p>Convening lead: PHA</p> <p>Strategic support: HISRG: BCC, Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), BHSCT, NIHE, PHA, SPPG</p> <p>Operational support: Active Belfast Partnership</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>of people with unhealthy weight.</p>	<p>be applied to support positive behavioural change under the health inequalities and other Belfast Agenda themes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2023-24 the Active Belfast Partnership (ABP) will develop a 3-year action plan to support the development and implementation of a whole system approach to improving physical activity and nutrition levels amongst residents in Belfast. • Develop a shared understanding of the challenges associated with unhealthy weight, eating habits and being active and develop a joined-up, whole-system approach and a collective action plan to address associated issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce levels of overweight and obesity by increasing physical activity levels (in line with targets set in the New Obesity Prevention Strategy (to be published by the Department of Health)). 	



Community and neighbourhood regeneration

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all.

Over the next four years, we will develop a joined-up approach towards neighbourhood regeneration by developing place-based interventions that maximise the potential of our services, assets and investments to make a real difference to people’s lives. In taking this forward we will develop ways to strengthen community participation and citizen involvement in local decision making and will develop targeted interventions to support those most affected by poverty and the cost-of-living crisis.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Develop a joined-up approach towards neighbourhood regeneration, connecting our people, places, and services at a local level through partnership, planning and delivery supported by strong and empowered communities and citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to design place-based community plans that maximise the potential of services, assets, and investments to make a difference in people’s lives. • Align with regional strategies and programmes to maximise benefits for communities. • Develop local interventions where there are opportunities to collaborate, improve outcomes and provide solutions to systematic local challenges. • Develop ways to build skills, knowledge and resources across all key organisations and sectors and apply learning across the city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design with community and statutory partners a framework to engage with communities to identify needs and priorities. • Develop ways to strengthen civic voice and citizen participation. • Deliver innovative funding models that enhance community participation and involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive down poverty within our neighbourhoods including those most deprived. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase community participation and citizen involvement in local decision making Increase the amount of people who feel they can influence decisions that affect the local area from 44% to 50%. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: PHA, SPPG, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Central Government Partners, Belfast Area Partnership Boards, Voluntary and Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector</p> <p>Convening Lead(s): BCC</p> <p>Support: PHA, SPPG, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Central Government Partners, Belfast Area Partnership Boards, VCSE Sector</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic approach towards the development and management of neighbourhood assets and facilities, including opportunities for community wealth building and asset transfers. • Work with partners to maximise the potential of the PeacePlus programme to enhance existing and provide new community assets. • Take a joined-up approach towards physical investment so that assets are more accessible and benefit local people. • Enhance local tourism infrastructure and offering across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise community benefits associated with neighbourhood assets, services, and investments. • Deliver at least 3 community asset transfer projects. • Invest more than £5million PeacePlus capital investment in local assets and facilities. • Increase the amount of people who feel they live in an area where people work together to improve things from 80% to 85%. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: PHA, SPPG, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Central Government Partners, Belfast Area Partnership Boards, Neighbourhood Partnerships, VCSE Sector</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop targeted and joined up approaches to address poverty and its impact on low-income households. • Support voluntary and community organisations to tackle poverty in local areas. • Develop a cost-of-living support and awareness campaign, identifying and signposting to available support services and advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of programmes supporting residents, especially the most vulnerable, with cost-of-living pressures. • Increase the percentage of residents accessing online cost-of-living support and advice. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: PHA, SPPG, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Central Government Partners, Belfast Area Partnership Boards, VCSE Sector</p>

Theme 2

Our economy

Creating inclusive,
innovative and
sustainable growth,
learning and opportunity





Educational inequalities

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone fulfils their potential.

Over the next four years, we will focus on narrowing the inequality gaps and promoting a whole community approach towards education, with the aim of supporting every child and young person in their wellbeing and learning so they have the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential and progress into positive destinations such as employment or further and higher education.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Every child and young person is supported in their wellbeing and learning so that they develop the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential and progress into a positive destination (such as employment or further and higher education).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a ‘whole community approach’ towards the development of children and young people through collaborative school, family and community place-based partnerships across the city. • Work with existing school clusters across the city and create new clusters to provide opportunities for citywide and community collaboration, to develop a ‘whole community approach’. • Develop interventions that align with the Department of Education’s Reducing Educational Disadvantage Programme. • Implement a range of mechanisms to enable boys to maximise educational outcomes (in keeping with the Department of Education’s A Fair Start Report). • Provide young people at risk of underachieving at level 2 (GCSE level) with support to remove barriers to learning. • Support young people leaving education or training to progress to a positive destination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ‘whole community approaches’ reflected in strategic planning, to support the development of children and young people. • Number of children supported, including those with special education needs (SEN). • Number of schools and other partners, including communities involved in delivery. • Increase the percentage of school leavers progressing into positive destinations (such as employment or further and higher education) from a baseline of 95% in 2021-2022 including those with SEN. • Reduce the gap between girls’ and boys’ attainment of 5+ GCSEs (A*-C) including equivalents including English and Maths from 4.1 ppts (2018-2019). • Reduce the gap between FSME and non-FSME pupils’ attainment of 5+ GCSEs (A*-C) including equivalents including English and maths from a baseline of 35% ppts (2018-2019). 	<p>Convening lead: Education Authority (EA)</p> <p>Support: CCMS, Belfast Area Partnership Boards and locality-based community providers.</p> <p>Convening lead: EA</p> <p>Support: Belfast Area Partnership Boards, Further and Higher Education partners.</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support children and young people who need additional support at key transition points in their educational journey, and ensure lessons learned are shared between and across schools and other partners including community providers. Support children and young people impacted by the pandemic through a combination of emotional health and wellbeing support and additional resources at home. Co-design and deliver a digital inclusion pilot project that supports children and young people to overcome digital exclusion challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children and young people supported at key transition points. Number of children and young people supported. Number of children and young people supported. 	<p>Convening lead: Belfast Area Partnership Boards, Neighbourhood Partnerships</p> <p>Support: EA</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address severe-to-chronic pupil absence through a range of measures including engagement, wraparound and family-support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the proportion of pupils with less than 85% attendance from a baseline of 22% in 2021-2022. 	<p>Convening lead: EA</p> <p>Support: Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)</p>



Jobs and skills

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome:

By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone fulfils their potential and benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy.

Over the next four years, we will work in partnership to respond to jobs and skills challenges and economic shocks by connecting residents with employers and creating new and better jobs that are sustainable, fulfilling, provide a career path and are financially rewarding. We will create inclusive, non-traditional pathways to jobs within growth sectors such as the green, digital and tech sectors.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
1. Create Inclusive pathways to good employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sector-specific employment and upskilling interventions to connect residents with new or better employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut the proportion of working-age population with no qualifications from 14% to 12%. 	<p>Convening lead: Belfast Labour Market Partnership</p>
2. Improve the alignment of skills demand and supply to support sustainable business growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure inclusive, non-traditional pathways to jobs within growth sectors such as the green, digital and tech sectors. • Develop skills provision to address economic competitiveness and productivity challenges, aligning investment to meet key sectoral priorities and support new investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the working-age economic inactivity rate (excluding students) within the city from 23% to 18%. • Increase the employment rate for people with a disability from 37% to 42%. • Ensure the supply of those with vocationally relevant level 6+ (degree and higher) qualifications to meet requirements in the labour market. 	<p>Support: Belfast City Council, Delivery Partners, Further and Higher Education Sector, local training organisations and skills providers, Shared Prosperity Fund delivery agents, Disability Support Partners</p>
3. Drive enhanced productivity and create better jobs through investment in innovation and skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver innovation centres of excellence in Advanced Manufacturing, Virtual Production, Clinical and Connected Health, Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics. • Complete and implement skills assessments for first phase of BRCD projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of more than £200million of government and partner investment to drive innovation in key growth sectors within the City. 	<p>Convening lead: Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)</p> <p>Support: BRCD Partners, Invest NI and Department for the Economy (DfE)</p>



Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy.

Over the next four years, we will build more inclusion, resilience, and sustainability into our economy, leveraging our collective powers to support our economic ambitions. We will renew our efforts to mobilise all our partners activities to achieve our desired goals and work closely with business and other employers, acknowledging their importance as vital contributors and stakeholders to our economy and wider society.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Help grow local business by improving innovation, growth and survival rates, particularly in sectors aligned with the NI Executives vision for a 10 x Economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a dynamic, responsive support system for entrepreneurs, social enterprises and small businesses to help them create jobs and improve turnover, with core service delivery through the NI Enterprise Support Service. • Support key growth sectors to attract further investment and create high value-added jobs. • Develop and deliver a targeted action plan to support the social economy sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of new business start-ups from 1,435 per year to 1,800 by 2027. • Improve survival rates (i.e., businesses surviving 3 years) of existing businesses from 61% to 70% by 2027. • Support 75% of Belfast’s social enterprises to earn more than 75% of their income from trading revenues by 2030. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Invest NI, Social Enterprise NI, Further and Higher Education partners</p>
<p>2. Work together to support innovative businesses to grow and become more competitive through a relentless focus on innovation and external sales aligned with the vision for a 10x Economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership, particularly through Innovate NI, to provide support to encourage businesses to innovate and embed an innovation focussed approach to business growth. • Work together to promote Invest NI’s range of export led interventions to identify, target and develop external opportunities for businesses in Belfast. • Work with FCA regulated Fund Managers to ensure the provision of a comprehensive suite of equity and debt finance solutions to support growth and accelerate business investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage “first time innovation” through supporting 350 Belfast companies to complete the Innovation Recognition Assessment. • Introduce 160 new Belfast-based businesses to export support services with the ambition of increasing the value of external sales in key markets. • Secure £20m in Investment in Belfast through Invest NI’s loan and equity funds and Proof of Concept grant fund. 	<p>Convening lead: Invest NI</p> <p>Support: BCC, BRCD Partners, Further and Higher Education partners, Catalyst, InterTradeIreland, Service Delivery Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>3. Support digital transformation within the local economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the first phase of Belfast Region City Deal Innovation Challenge Funding. • Develop a Digital Transformation Flexible Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of £30 million of new innovation challenge funds across the Belfast Region to help tackle key economic, environmental and social challenges. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: BRCD Partners, Invest NI (Investment Decision Maker – Innovation and Digital) and Project Sponsors, DfE.</p>
<p>4. Improve socio-economic inclusion by supporting businesses to adopt more inclusive practices, providing fair work and decent pay and supporting local growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Belfast Business Promise and engage anchor institutions and the private sector to sign up to embed its practices. • Adopt a social value procurement approach to supply chains. • Encourage Living Wage accreditation across community planning partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 organisations signed up as members to the Belfast Business Promise in its first year. • Reduce the number of jobs paying below the real living wage from 14.7% to 10% or less. • Increase the number of organisations within the city accredited as ‘Real Living Wage’ employers by 10%. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Belfast Business Promise Network, Community Planning Partners</p>

Theme 3

Our place

Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city





Housing-led regeneration

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing.

Over the next four years, we will focus on meeting housing need, working in partnership to ensure everyone has access to a high-quality, affordable and sustainable home.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Work together to increase housing supply across all tenures in the city council area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and assess a pipeline of housing and mixed-use development sites. Identify and support the use of land, including land in public ownership to meet housing needs through the LDP. Maximise potential housing supply, including affordable housing provision, through appropriate land use zonings with key site requirements within the emerging LDP Local Policies Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase homes by 6,000 units across all tenures with a minimum of 20% of residential developments to include affordable housing provision (social and intermediate) in line with new LDP Plan Strategy policy. Draft Local Planning Policies progressing in accordance with the published LDP timetable. 	<p>Convening lead: NI Housing Executive (NIHE)</p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council, Department for Communities, Land and Property Service (LPS)</p> <p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: NIHE</p>
<p>2. Work together to increase the provision of social housing (including accessible properties) across the city council area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Social Housing Development Programme. Identify and assess a pipeline of housing development sites, prioritising areas of acute housing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start to build at least 400 social homes per year across council area (subject to NIHE budget and confirmation of housing need from NIHE). 	<p>Convening lead: NIHE</p> <p>Support: Department for Communities, Belfast City Council, Land and Property Service</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>3. Increase the city centre residential population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify models to enable and deliver housing-led regeneration. • Engage with communities to support sustainable neighbourhoods. • Work with public and private developers to ensure that relevant visions and strategies (i.e., LDP, Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy) are aligned and embedded in the design of schemes. • Work with statutory partners to create a city which welcomes and encourages shared spaces for all. • Work with partners to ensure there is adequate social infrastructure (such as shops, creches, GP surgeries) available for new and existing residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of four city centre residential developments. 	<p>Convening leads: Department for Communities (DfC), NIHE</p> <p>Support: BCC</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>4. Adopt a placemaking approach to develop thriving and sustainable communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish agreed principles to identify and deliver placemaking projects across the city council area, harnessing the policy approach set out in the LDP. • Map and identify potential placemaking projects with regeneration benefits that can enable and facilitate delivery of agreed outcomes of the Belfast Agenda (e.g., addressing dereliction, embedding connectivity). • Promote and develop partnership working across the public, private and community and voluntary sector to support access to local businesses, communities and relevant statutory agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and review two placemaking pilot projects. 	<p>Convening leads: NIHE</p> <p>Support: BCC, DfC, LPS</p>
<p>5. Deliver a strategic shift towards the prevention of homelessness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the NIHE's Ending Homelessness Together – Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per annual progress report outlining delivery against actions. 	<p>Convening lead: NIHE</p> <p>Support: Relevant Community Planning partners (Statutory and VCSE Sectors)</p>
<p>6. Improve energy efficiency in social housing through retrofit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit homes across Belfast through a jointly funded NIHE-ERDF programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 745 retrofit homes from a baseline of 606 completions by 2028. 	<p>Convening lead: NIHE</p> <p>Support: Community Planning partners</p>



Connectivity, active and sustainable travel

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome:

By 2035, Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable. Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and well-being.

Over the next four years, we will work in partnership to improve connectivity and active and sustainable travel options, including public transport.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Deliver the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments, supporting the integration of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of ETP and progression of implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETP completed by 2027 with Belfast iteration completed by 2025. 	<p>Convening lead: Department for Infrastructure (DfI)</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
<p>2. Deliver the second stage of the Belfast local Development Plan 2035 which supports an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035; the plan will encourage the expansion of green infrastructure networks for walking and cycling to encourage active travel and improve air quality and promote increased use of public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Monitoring Indicators (Appendix F of LDP) https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/getmedia/bba4bd89-157d-4209-8d5e-8a6eb58dd760/PS001-Plan-Strategy-Final-Web-May2023.pdf 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>3. Support projects that encourage people to use forms of sustainable travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport journey times and reliability through a prioritised public transport network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attain 35M passenger journeys on the Metro and Glider in Belfast by 2030. • Attain 70 public transport journeys per person per year by 2030. • Undertake quality improvements on Zero Emission and sustainable transport (ZEST) Corridors by 2027. 	<p>Convening lead: Translink</p> <p>Support: DfI</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the detailed designs and business case requirements to support the delivery of Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2. 	<p>Convening lead: DfI</p> <p>Support: Translink, BRCD Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the integrated, multi-modal Transport Hub (Weaver’s Cross). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion in 2025. 	<p>Convening lead: DfI</p> <p>Support: Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of the Belfast-Dublin Transport Corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have hourly frequency of rail services and <two-hour journey time between Belfast and Dublin. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of night-time services secured. 	<p>Convening lead: Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver enhanced cycling infrastructure across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the targets set out for Belfast in the ETP. 	<p>Convening lead: DfI</p> <p>Support: BCC, Sustrans</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the delivery of greenways in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop greenway feasibility and identify potential routes. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives to help alleviate transport poverty by encouraging active and sustainable travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a scoping study that identifies affordable and flexible cycle hire. • Better promotion of inclusive sustainable and active transport options. • Deliver a minimum of 600 additional ‘Belfast Bikes’ throughout the city. • Extend the cycle docking station network (baseline 60 stations) across the city. • Encourage car-sharing programmes. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, VCSE Panel</p> <p>Support: Sustrans, Translink, private sector</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codesign place-based active travel initiatives to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement two exemplar place-based initiatives in line with the ETP. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Sustrans, VCSE Panel, Queen’s University Belfast (QUB), PHA</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for the delivery of Active Travel Hubs across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured and hubs activated. 	<p>Convening lead: Sustrans</p> <p>Support: BCC</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support health and well-being outcomes for active travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of updated Public Health Agency active travel programme. Delivery of schools' education programme on safe, cycling, walking and wheeling. Increase the number of public cycling workshops. 	<p>Convening lead: PHA</p> <p>Support: VCSE Panel, Sustrans, BHC, EA, BCC</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote walking as a healthy, non-polluting, cost-effective mode of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of walking bus initiatives. 	<p>Convening lead: BHC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>



Future city centre and wider regeneration and investment

Belfast Agenda long-term outcomes: *By 2035, Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable.
Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.
Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and well-being.
Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy.*

Over the next four years, we will continue to work in partnership to build a globally competitive future city centre, recognised as a central hub for commerce, employment and investment and as a culturally vibrant place where people want to live, work, visit and invest. We will work in partnership to strengthen and build on our sense of place by accelerating major regeneration schemes, addressing dereliction in our neighbourhoods and ensuring the inclusive economic, social and environmental benefits of these are realised. We will also continue to build excellence in the city’s digital and innovation sectors.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Transform the city centre into a people-focused, accessible, and vibrant destination, whilst sustaining its current distinctive offering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Belfast Local Development Plan will support opportunities to promote the continued regeneration of the city centre to attract inward investment and encourage a more diverse economy that will contribute to an enhancement in liveability and quality of space. Deliver key interventions identified within the Action Plan associated with A Bolder Vision (ABV) Strategy to contribute towards realising the four Key Moves: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Civic Spine. Reimagine the Inner Ring Road and end car dominance. Promote City Centre Living. Embrace the River Lagan and Waterfront. Bring forward meanwhile and animation projects under the bridges and along the waterfront in conjunction with 2024 year of culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Monitoring Indicators (Appendix F of LDP). https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/getmedia/bba4bd89-157d-4209-8d5e-8a6eb58dd760/PS001-Plan-Strategy-Final-Web-May2023.pdf. Agreed delivery mechanism and commitment for the delivery of up to £50m of ABV projects subject to availability of funding. Delivery of projects 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p> <p>Convening leads: DfI, DfC, BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p> <p>Convening lead: Maritime Belfast Trust</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote the Sailortown Queen’s Island active travel bridge and seek funding opportunities to further develop. Continue to develop the “Under the Bridges” project and seek funding opportunities to deliver. Deliver meanwhile activation of Thompson’s Dock in line with 2024 year of culture and develop longer term proposal to Business Case Level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case development complete Develop to business case. Completion of business case 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Convening leads: BCC and Belfast Harbour Commission</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring forward a programme of interventions aimed at addressing vacancy, urban decay, the Night-time Economy, open and green spaces, together with a cross-sector approach to the promotion and branding of the city centre as a unique destination to live, work and visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase footfall by 20% within the Primary Retail Core. Reduce the number of vacant units within the city centre by 5% (from a baseline of 23.41% in 2021). 90% of residents feel the city centre is vibrant and attractive, with lots going on (baseline 76% in 2023). 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Belfast Improvement Districts, Belfast Harbour Commission</p> <p>Support: Visit Belfast, Tourism NI, DfC, DfI, Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring forward a programme of interventions aimed at facilitating a clean, green, inclusive and safe city centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase levels of those who feel safe in the city centre during the day to 90% (baseline 86% in 2023). <p><i>*additional or alternative measures currently being considered through Multi Agency Group.</i></p>	<p>Convening lead: Multi Agency Group</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Support the delivery of a placemaking approach to the physical and cultural regeneration of the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Belfast LDP will help to shape the regeneration of the city, helping to develop a vibrant, attractive, connected and sustainable city, build investor confidence and attract new investment. • Develop a proposal for an investment fund to support the positive development of the city. • Identify barriers to the delivery of major physical regeneration schemes and put in mitigations to overcome. • Continue developing a balanced approach to student housing to ensure development is located in suitable locations and associated benefits are maximised. • Develop a way to measure the regeneration potential of large physical and cultural projects including their economic, social and environmental impact. • Develop a targeted approach to vacancy and dereliction across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 physical developments completed and under construction (including 2 major city centre schemes). • The development of 550,000 sq. metres of employment land by 2035. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Belfast 2024 cultural programme. • Deliver Belfast’s cultural strategy “A City Imagining” www.belfastcity.gov.uk/culturestrategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver over 20 commissions of new work with approximate reach of over 400,000 attendees/engagements. • Invest £14million in the cultural sector by 2028. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC</p> <p>Support: Cultural Sector</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest £100m in the Belfast Stories flagship visitor attraction in the city centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction to have commenced. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>3. Attract more visitors who stay longer and spend more in local economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Belfast’s tourism strategy, “Make Yourself at Home”. (www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/make-yourself-at-home-planning-for-the-future-of-t) 	<p>Work in line with the DfE 10-year tourism strategy which will see a 50-75% increase against 2019 baselines by 2034”</p>	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Visit Belfast, Tourism NI</p>
<p>4. Promote and position the city to compete globally to attract inclusive and sustainable investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a joint public–private sector partnership to attract inclusive investment. • Fully adopt the LDP to guide future investment and development decisions to enable the sustainable spatial growth of the city up to 2035. • Promote the city’s regeneration investment opportunities. • Establish Belfast as a destination for innovation. • Develop a major innovation district, SMART district and SMART port. • Deliver a city-centre world-class Smart District and Testbed programme to include investment in a range of innovation programmes. • Deliver a citizen capacity-building programme to support involvement in innovation programmes. • Deliver city data architecture to support collaborative innovation on a worldwide scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract a long-term investment commitment to realise £290m GDV. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Invest NI, Universities, Development Community</p>

Theme 4

Our planet

Creating a sustainable,
nature-positive city





Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable.

Over the next four years, we will support and shape a city that is learning and building on its existing strengths to become a green, transformed, and healthy city, resilient to the effects of climate change, attractive for green investment and provides a high quality of urban life for its citizens. We will value our natural ecosystems and nurture and expand these further in areas most needed such as our inner city, to protect and support urban communities to thrive. By working together, we will evolve into a city that is inspired by, and supported by its surrounding nature, simultaneously providing environmental, social and economic benefits across Belfast. We will continue to deliver the One Million Trees programme, build knowledge and stewardship for urban greening that will reduce climate risk such as flooding and the urban heat island effect and improve biodiversity.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Increase the number of trees across the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Phase 1 of the Belfast One Million Trees project. • Secure additional funding to continue Phase 2 of the Belfast One Million Trees project. • Improve maintenance of existing woodland, urban tree and street trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions by 66% (on 2000 levels) by 2025. • Secure funding for Phase 2. • Plant 150,000 trees by 2028. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC coordinating</p> <p>Support: Multi-sectoral partnership – the Belfast One Million Trees Steering Group/ Voluntary and Community Sector</p>
<p>2. Protect and enhance our local environment and natural eco-systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a demonstrator site in Botanic Gardens to test nature-based solutions through the UPSURGE project to strengthen climate resilience. • Develop, test and measure a range of nature-based solutions on site. • Install sensor-based technologies to measure environmental parameters. • Deliver city-wide knowledge exchange and learning programmes with satellite sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate learning on how adaptive practices and management of green spaces in the city can support pollution alleviation, citizen health and climate resilience. 	<p>Convening lead: Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partnership</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and test new approaches to community gardening on the site. • Deliver a codesigned research, learning and climate hub at Botanic Gardens focused on nature-based solutions to address issues affecting Belfast such as heat, air quality and soil health up to 2025. 		
<p>3. Promote the uptake of nature-based solutions across the city to support climate resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate climate adaptation actions into strategic plans and urban agendas. • Build adaptive capacity to deliver nature-based solutions including green roofs, wetlands, sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience, air and water quality and reduce flooding. • Undertake scoping work for a city-wide regeneration programme to replace impermeable surfaces with urban green and blue spaces, contributing to climate resilience, biodiversity and civic amenity. • Identify and target funding opportunities to scale up nature-based solutions across the city, targeting areas most in need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect an additional 1,770 homes and businesses from flood risk. • Develop a green regeneration programme. • Facilitate people and communities across different sectors, locations and demographics to contribute and build capacity. • Increase resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change, through improved access to green and blue spaces in parks, gardens, greenways, streets and other green and blue spaces. • Secure funding and develop capacity for establishing and maintaining nature-based solutions. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board, Belfast Climate Commission, partners in government and in local institutions and communities</p>



Creating a sustainable circular economy

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable.

Over the next four years, we will transform our throwaway economy into one where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated, and nature is regenerated. We will work with City partners to deliver the Belfast Local Area Energy Plan and develop a portfolio of net zero projects to achieve the city's emission reduction targets and support an inclusive transition to net zero. Leaving no one behind, we will maximise the social opportunities of the transition and reduce the risks so that everyone benefits. We will deliver local solutions to sustainable, healthy, and affordable food for our citizens. bring together the right people to tackle the barriers that are preventing the uptake of energy efficiency measures in buildings across the city and develop a heat network project for the city centre to create jobs and prosperity.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Shared Island funded Circular Economy Feasibility and Business Case in partnership with Dublin City Council. • Deliver the Horizon Europe funded UP2030 project which aims to embed net zero in urban planning. • Continue to promote Sustainable Waste Management and green energy sources in the Sustainable District (LQ Bid). • Reduce the carbon and environmental impact of municipal waste. • Measure the carbon footprint of Belfast's tourism industry to establish evidence-based targets and a roadmap to decarbonise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete feasibility study and business case. • Produce a net zero plan focused on net zero for the Linen quarter BID, Sandy Row, Market, Donegall Pass and Barrack Street areas. • Reduce textile, food, glass and plastic waste. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Belfast Climate Commission, Horizon Europe, UP 2030 Project Steering Group led by BCC, Eastside Greenways, DfI, DfC, Visit Belfast</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Promote a Just Transition to Net Zero in Belfast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate, assess and address the social risks of the transition (e.g., employment shifts, impact on supply chains etc.). • Identify and enable the social opportunities and co-benefits of the transition (e.g., community and cooperative energy options, good relations impacts, reducing energy poverty, improved air quality etc.). • Ensure meaningful dialogue, co-creation and participation in net zero planning through community planning structures and involvement of key community, business and other statutory partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate just transition factors into the goals, ambitions and foundations of all our net zero transition plans. • Assess social implications (costs, risks, benefits and opportunities) of net zero plans and tailor just transition responses to sector and geographical priorities. • Recognise the Climate Crisis, develop awareness and change cultural behaviours throughout Belfast. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Belfast Climate Commission, local anchor institutions, civil society organisations and communities</p>
<p>3. Increase the use of Electric Vehicles in Belfast and improve access to charge points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and adopt the Belfast EV Strategy and its targets for the period to 2027 and beyond. • Establish a Belfast EV Group which oversees implementation of the EV Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Belfast EV Strategy and implementation plan. • Support the installation of at least 800 electric vehicle charging devices for public use by 2027. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p>
<p>4. Reduce energy consumption (and bills) of housing and public and commercial buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate the retrofit of buildings including commercial and public buildings, and domestic housing through the Belfast Retrofit Hub. • Develop funding model and commence delivery the Belfast Retrofit Programme. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement the Belfast Retrofit Programme including at least two neighbourhood pathfinder projects through the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub. • Deliver energy savings of at least 15% from participating buildings. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC coordinating via the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Belfast Climate Commission, a multi sectoral partnership through Belfast Retrofit Hub</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>5. Embed sustainable food practices and partnership working in Belfast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership. • Seek Silver reaccreditation as a Sustainable Food Plac • Support community-based approaches to sustainable food in Belfast • Develop a city-wide Sustainable Food Strategy, with associated delivery and monitoring arrangements. • Develop a Community Growing Forum as part of the SFP, including community growers, funders, support organisations, BCC, NIHE, other major landowners and central government representatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a diverse, robust, and sustainable cross-sector food partnership with a long-term food strategy. • Develop a range of local policies and food access initiatives to effectively promote access to sustainable and healthy food for all. • Secure Bronze reaccreditation as a Sustainable Food Place by 2026 and seek Silver by 2028. • Promote a diverse and connected circular food economy with sustainable food enterprises, backed by local catering and procurement practices. • Work towards achieving the standard of 1250sqm community growing space per 1,000 households by 2035. • Develop systemic responses to address the negative climate and nature impacts of the local food system including reducing meat and dairy consumption and tackling food waste. <p>Develop a Community Growing Forum as part of the SFP, including community growers, funders, support organisations, BCC, NIHE, other major landowners and central government representatives.</p>	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Multi-sectoral Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>6. Decarbonise the heat supply to buildings in the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake market engagement for a Heat Network for Belfast City Centre. <p>Provide energy sector expertise to community-based organisations which are developing local energy projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Heat Network under development. Complete a building-level energy audit of 4 high energy users within city. 	<p>Convening Lead(s): BCC via the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Belfast Climate Commission</p>



Innovating to net zero

Belfast Agenda Long-term Outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable.

Over the next four years, we will deliver on our ambition and roadmap to become a ‘Carbon-Neutral City’ through the development and implementation of city-wide testbeds for innovative solutions to decarbonisation. This will include the development of a Net Zero Park as a stand-out global hub and testbed for innovating and investing in advanced green solutions for energy, transport and manufacturing. We will lever existing and planned assets and investment through place-based interventions to become an exemplar of a low carbon economy creating opportunities for training, employment and green growth. The aim is to expand existing clusters of net zero technology companies which exist in the city to create a burgeoning GreenTech sector which drives growth across NI and helps realise the objectives of the Green Growth Strategy. Investment in the physical and digital infrastructure to develop a GreenTech ecosystem will encourage innovation and collaboration amongst existing companies and start-ups to draw in more investment and to unlock new high-growth technology for domestic use and export.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Enable the city to decarbonise at scale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Belfast Local Area Energy Plan. • Develop a pipeline of investable local energy projects arising from the Local Area Energy Plan. • Accelerate project development, including concept development, feasibility studies and business cases. • Identify and respond to emerging funding opportunities and secure funding for projects. • Develop appropriate governance and delivery structures for projects as they emerge. • Engage with investors and financial institutions to explore new financial models. • Continue to collate climate data for annual disclosure to the Carbon Disclosure Project and Net Zero Scorecards • Create an accessible platform that can be used to house and communicate climate data for the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pipeline of net zero projects. • At least 2 projects arising from Belfast Local Area Energy Plan in implementation phase. • Adopt new financial models to scale decarbonisation investments. • Retain an ‘A Status’ accreditation as part of the Carbon Disclosure Project for demonstrating excellence and strong leadership on environmental action. 	<p>Convening leads: BCC, Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partnership</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Support local energy projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope, benchmark, aggregate and upscale feasible local energy projects as part of a project pipeline across the city. • Create an online tool that looks at the potential of Solar PV in the City (UP2030 area). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop at least two local energy projects (compliant with all current and future energy and carbon regulatory obligations and aligned with international best practice). <p>Complete at least 5 demonstrator pilots of Solar PV on buildings/properties of scale.</p>	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council coordinating via the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</p> <p>Support: Belfast Climate Commission</p>
<p>3. Create an exemplar net zeroTech Park in the Harbour Estate to develop, test and commercialise green technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared vision and a compelling place-based narrative to attract investors. • Leverage on anchor institutions (private and public) to create a dynamic partnership ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure resources and funding to create the Net Zero Park by 2025. • 	<p>Convening leads: Belfast Harbour, BCC</p> <p>Support: QUB, University of Ulster (UU), Belfast Met, InvestNI</p>
<p>4. Develop a stable supply of green energy to the Net Zero Park and surrounding lands to support the industrial cluster.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop affordable sustainable energy supply. • Create a testbed for multiple green fuels. • Establish a local hydrogen demonstration plant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access strategic growth capital via BCC and industry consortium bids for green projects and infrastructure. • Implement one green energy project in the City. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: QUB, UU, Belfast Met, InvestNI with industrial cluster on harbour estate</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>5. Accelerate the transition to low carbon manufacturing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support industries to measure and manage their carbon footprints. Use smart design and digital twin assets to accelerate innovation, test new business models and enhance supply chain resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of carbon accounting experts in scope 3 GHG emissions. Establish collaborative industry and academic consortium. delivering green design and accounting of new products. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: QUB, UU, Belfast Met, Digital Catapult, NIACE with industrial cluster to include supply chain</p>
<p>6. Support Green Multi-Modal Mobility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a living lab across Harbour estate to test new low carbon transport solutions. Support low carbon innovation in advanced air, maritime and road transport. Establish partnerships with maritime districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful delivery of Project Harlander. Operation of commuter e-ferry with associated infrastructure. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: QUB, UU, Belfast Met with industrial cluster on harbour estate</p>

Theme 5

Compassionate city

Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city - Leaving no one behind





Inclusive growth and anti-poverty

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone fulfils their potential.

Over the next four years, we will renew our focus on inclusive growth and anti-poverty. Achieving inclusive economic growth is complex and not just about jobs and employment levels. It is also about tackling poverty and addressing inequalities in the city, in key areas such as health, housing, education, digital technology and infrastructure. It's about creating vibrant communities where people have the aspirations and opportunities to succeed, including those most disadvantaged who may face multiple barriers to participation, such as those with disabilities, minority ethnic communities or those with caring responsibilities. As a UNESCO Learning City, it's also about building learning into everyday lives to help everyone meet their potential. We want to integrate good practices into the design of each of the priorities and explore techniques such as community wealth building, to strengthen communities and the local economy, leaving no one behind.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Embed more inclusive practices across the city, supporting organisations to use their powers as employers, procurers, investors and community members to enable those at risk of economic exclusion to participate in the city's social and economic opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver an inclusive growth toolkit to support organisations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ adopt more inclusive practices, such as the Belfast Business Promise, social value procurement, etc, and ▶ remove barriers, where possible, to enable those most at risk of economic exclusion to access opportunities. • Adopt the Local Development Plan to provide a planning policy framework to address social inequality throughout the city and build community cohesion and resilience through collaborative effort to ensure inclusive growth for all. • Develop an inclusive growth index as a tool to understand, measure and track our progress as a city. • Develop Belfast as a JAM (Just a Minute) friendly city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of people who agree that everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous city from 50% to 70+%. • Community Planning Partners adopt the Inclusive Growth Toolkit and practices. <p><i>NB. Currently under development through the Inclusive Growth Index ..</i></p>	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners (TBC)</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Develop strategic and co-ordinated approaches to address the adverse impacts of poverty and support those most in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with central government to accelerate the NI Anti-Poverty Strategy. • Explore the establishment of a Belfast Poverty Commission to understand the lived experience and tackle the stigma of poverty. • Develop and deliver a largescale programme to alleviate the impact of food poverty in city. • Support those most in need and identified as vulnerable to living in cold homes by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continuing to support the delivery and scaling up of the Belfast Warm and Well initiative; and ▶ Developing and delivering a largescale ‘Warm Homes’ programme to reduce the impact of fuel poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty from 18% (before housing costs). • Reduce the number of children (under 16 years) growing up in poverty by at least 3,000 (from 22.4% to 18%). 	<p>Convening lead: Community Planning Partners</p>
<p>3. Expand our efforts to build community wealth, which seeks to redirect and retain wealth back into local communities and the local economy, and place greater control and benefits with local people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with key organisations and employers to explore how we can grow community and local wealth, for example, through our procurement and commissioning activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalised Belfast Anchors Network established. • Increase the percentage of ‘anchor institutions’ procurement spends in the local Belfast economy (Baseline to be set). 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>4. Develop Belfast’s status as a learning city through fostering a culture of lifelong learning which allows everyone to fulfil their potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Irish Network of Learning Cities. • Deliver an annual Festival of Learning in Belfast. • Work collaboratively with key learning institutions to attract and retain talent in Belfast. • Explore the potential to work with Belfast UNESCO City of Music to consolidate linkages between learning and music. • Align with the Community and Neighbourhood Regeneration priority to ensure that actions to create strong communities and tackle poverty and hardship have a learning focus. • Work with key partners and schools to explore options to develop a Belfast ‘model’ to support digital inclusion and innovation. • Support digital literacy and empower people to embrace self-directed learning for life through the use of technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NB. Currently under development</i> • Increase the proportion of Belfast citizens who agree that everyone fulfils their potential from 54% to 62%. • 10 schools participating in a pilot programme for the Net-Zero Tech Park. • Increase the percentage of residents who feel comfortable using digital services, for example to access services or online banking (baseline: Belfast resident survey 2023). 	<p>Convening lead: Community Planning Partners</p>



Good relations and shared future

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all.

Over the next four years, we will continue to look for innovative approaches to build peaceful and thriving communities which are central to achieving our vision for Belfast. The population of Belfast has changed substantially, as we've welcomed new people from other countries who have made Belfast their home. We'll focus on creating an inclusive city by understanding what life is like in Belfast for people from ethnic minority communities and helping to address the challenges they face. And we'll deliver the PeacePlus programme to help communities continue to build peace and reconciliation.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Understand and address inequalities and support the inclusion and integration of all communities including minority ethnic communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an inclusive Belfast Intervention Plan to support the inclusion and integration of all communities including minority ethnic communities, some examples include the development and delivery of the Good Relations action plan, a racial equality, shared education and cultural inclusion programme and activities. • Continue to deliver the Belfast City Council's language strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of people who agree that Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all from 81% to 83%. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Shared City Partnership</p> <p>Convening lead: BCC</p>
<p>2. Enhance good relations across the city and deliver joined-up and innovative approaches to the new Peace Plus programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design and implement the Local Community PeacePlus Action Plan across the theme of building peaceful and thriving communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of people who agree that, in their local area, people from different backgrounds (religious and political) get on well together from 61% to 70%+. • Increase the proportion of people who report that, in their local areas, people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together from 62% to 70%+. 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Shared City Partnership</p>



Older people

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone can live life to the full and experience good health and wellbeing.

Over the next four years, we will continue to ensure an Age Friendly Belfast and we will work with the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) to deliver the Age Friendly action plan (2022 – 26). We'll build on this partnership approach by tackling the things that older people have told us are important to them. We'll focus on supporting at risk and isolated older people who are more vulnerable to losing social connections or whose physical activity levels are below what is recommended for good health and wellbeing and who face additional changes in keeping strong and active.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Ensure Belfast is an Age Friendly City by meeting the needs of older people and maximising the benefits from their lived experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and deliver the Age Friendly Belfast Plan (2023 – 27). Some key deliverables include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop age friendly design principles to help inform new infrastructure developments. ▶ Review and improve access to seating provision, by delivering ‘take a seat’ pilots in the city. ▶ Improve social connections by developing local and city centre connection hubs. ▶ Develop dementia carers cafes in all four dementia friendly neighbourhoods. ▶ Re-engage and recruit new older people volunteers. ▶ Celebrate our volunteers through an annual older volunteer awards programme. ▶ Provide access to employment support and employment for those aged 50+. ▶ Support the wider policy level work on food and fuel poverty e.g., food waste cookery sessions, fuel stamps, foodbanks and social supermarkets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the % of older people who feel lonely from 26.8% to 25%. 	<p>Convening leads: Chair of the HASP</p> <p>Support: HASP Group (Age NI, The Alzheimer’s Society, BCC, BHSC, BHC, Dementia NI, DfC, DfI, Engage with Age, Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum, NIHE, PHA, Volunteer Now)</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>2. Support our older people to live healthy and socially connected lives with a focus on those most in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather data and develop an evidence base to agree actions for older people most in need. • Develop and deliver targeted interventions for older people who are most in need to improve their physical activity levels and connectivity. • Promote key messages and connect programmes for older people to increase their strength and mobility, including the prevention of falls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 600 – 800 older people (who are most in need) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improve their activity levels. ▶ Feel more connected and less lonely. ▶ Improve mobility levels and reduce functional limitations*. • Percentage of older people satisfied with their mental or emotional wellbeing to be increased from 79% to 82%, <p><i>*NB. Performance measures to be further developed.</i></p>	<p>Convening lead: BHSCT</p> <p>Support: BCC, BHSCT, PHA, UU, VCSE Panel</p>



Children and young people

Belfast Agenda long-term outcome: By 2035, Belfast will be a city where everyone fulfils their potential.

Over the next four years, we will work together to ensure we see the whole picture of a child’s development in their early years (aged 8 and under), so that they have the continual support they need to realise their full potential to develop and thrive. We will ensure children and young people have their say and feel valued so that they can confidently participate in civic life and grow to become future leaders.

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
<p>1. Ensure every child is seamlessly supported through their early years (children aged 8 and under) to realise their potential to develop and thrive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a seamless developmental pathway for children and create a joint resourced delivery model. • Design and deliver demonstrator actions (based on evidence, need and locality) to test and support the adoption and roll out of the pathway concept and joint service delivery model. • Establish a Children’s City Champion group (at senior leadership level) to ensure that cross-cutting initiatives e.g., anti-poverty and educational disadvantage, are child centred and aligned to the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear, seamless and resourced pathway for children in their early years (aged 8 and under). 	<p>Convening leads: BHSCT</p> <p>Support: Belfast Area Outcomes Group (BAOG)</p>
<p>2. Increase the participation, empowerment and resilience of children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify better ways for children and young people to have their say and involve them in future plans and decisions. • Enable the voice of CYP to be heard and involved through forums, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase opportunities for CYP fora to work together on issues of common interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the no. of opportunities for enhanced collaboration and coordination amongst youth engagement fora to inform and influence community planning in Belfast. • Increase the % of young people who agree they are able to have a say on how services are run, what the 	<p>Convening lead: BCC</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

STRATEGIC INTENT (What will we do?)	ACTIONS (How will we do it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2028?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop and test new models of engaging with CYP about issues of concern or relevance to them. ▶ Explore potential to create and support development pathways for those CYP who want to continue being advocates and future leaders. ▶ Increase opportunities for intergenerational engagement and involvement. ▶ Ensure the needs of CYP are considered and reflected in relevant themes and actions within the Belfast Agenda. 	<p>priorities are or where investment is needed from 32.6% to 40%.</p>	
<p>3. Maximise access, opportunities and choices for children with special educational needs and disabilities, both at school and within their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure buy-in and commitment from partners to help facilitate the partnership and engagement approach. • Organise and facilitate planning workshops. • Develop and test the special educational needs model across specialist schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include two special schools i.e., Clarawood and Glenveagh in the first year, review and build to 13 by 2028. 	<p>Convening lead: Dept of Education (DoE) and Dept of Health (DoH)</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>

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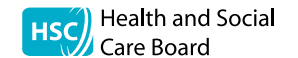
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