



The Belfast Agenda

Strategic plan

2024 - 2028

The Belfast Agenda

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Community planning partners | 4 |
| Continuing the Belfast Conversation | 5 |
| Our vision for Belfast in 2035 | 6 |
| Our outcomes – the five things people want for 2035 | 6 |
| Our ambitions | 7 |
| Enabling change | 8 |
| The Local Development Plan | 9 |
| Call to action | 10 |
| Belfast in Numbers | 12 |
| Our focus for the next four years | 14 |
| Theme 1: Our people and communities | 16 |
| Health inequalities | 18 |
| Community and neighbourhood regeneration | 19 |
| Theme 2: Our economy | 20 |
| Educational inequalities | 22 |
| Jobs and skills | 23 |
| Sustainable and inclusive economic growth | 24 |
| Theme 3: Our place | 26 |
| Housing-led regeneration | 28 |
| Connectivity, active and sustainable travel | 29 |
| Future city centre and wider city regeneration and investment | 30 |
| Theme 4: Our planet | 32 |
| Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change | 34 |
| Creating a sustainable circular economy | 35 |
| Innovating to net zero | 36 |
| Theme 5: Compassionate city | 38 |
| Inclusive growth and anti-poverty | 40 |
| Good relations and shared future | 41 |
| Older people | 42 |
| Children and young people | 43 |
| Our shared values | 44 |
| Making it happen | 45 |
| Our population indicators | 46 |



Foreword

No one could have predicted how much the world would have changed since the publication of our first strategic plan, the Belfast Agenda, in 2017. From a global pandemic to the on-going climate emergency and war in Ukraine, to the Primark fire which closed part of our city centre and the continuing cost of living crisis, we've been through a lot together.

Throughout these difficult times, the strength of Community Planning partners has been central to helping us act quickly and effectively in a crisis, creating a sense of challenge and opportunity for both individual organisations and innovating how we work as a collective. The call to action created by these circumstances has forged new approaches and galvanised whole systems change in a number of areas, such as Complex Lives, where a multi-agency group was established to coordinate support for vulnerable people affected by homelessness, addiction or poor mental or physical health. It simplifies the way we work and creates a model where everyone's experience, skills and energy can be used in a more impactful way.

The power of our networks and our people, particularly partnership working between the statutory agencies and our community and voluntary sector, was never more apparent than during the pandemic. It speaks to the energy and drive of our citizens that in addition to ensuring the safe delivery of critical services, we managed to work together to achieve aspirations such as securing the only UNESCO City of Music designation on the island of Ireland, as well as a UNESCO Learning City Award in 2021 for outstanding progress in providing learning opportunities for residents in Belfast.

Starting from this strong base, we know that whatever the next four years will bring, together we have both the will and the determination to find a way to bring the ambition that we all share for Belfast in 2035 a tangible step closer.

Together we are committed to achieving 'inclusive growth' on a scale that we haven't before, creating new and better jobs, promoting training and employment opportunities, reducing inequalities and helping alleviate the impact of poverty on those most vulnerable across the city. We are still on a journey, but together we will create the city we know Belfast can be.

Community planning partners



Belfast
City Council



Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust



Public Health
Agency



CCMS
Council for Catholic
Maintained Schools



Housing
Executive



Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service



Education
Authority



visit
Belfast



Advisory Panel and
Citywide Network



WEST BELFAST
PARTNERSHIP
PÁIRTÍOCHT
FEIRSTE THÍAR



Health and Social
Care Board

How we developed the Belfast Agenda

Our first formal review of Belfast's community plan, required under legislation, has found us in challenging circumstances. However, strengthened by the partnership working which came to the fore during the pandemic and in the spirit of turning crisis into opportunity, the time has proven right to build back better, drive recovery and look at ways to lever change.

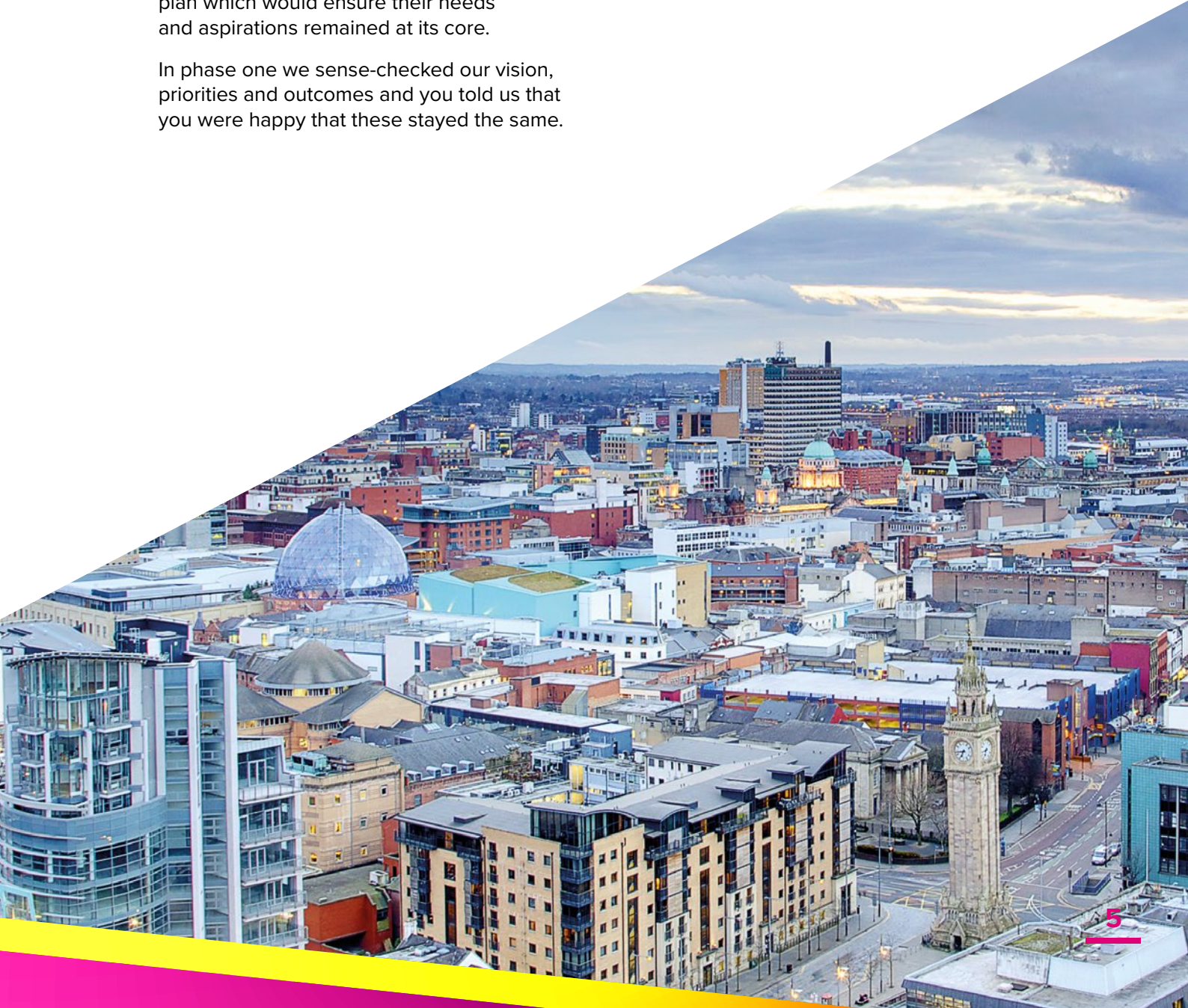
To complete the review, a "Continuing the Conversation" consultation and engagement programme was rolled out citywide in three phases. The purpose of this was to reengage residents, city partners, stakeholders and organisations in a conversation on the community plan which would ensure their needs and aspirations remained at its core.

In phase one we sense-checked our vision, priorities and outcomes and you told us that you were happy that these stayed the same.

In phase two we looked at our strategic intents, the stretch goals we should use to measure success and the actions we should undertake to get us there.

In phase three we carried out a public consultation. The rich and diverse feedback we received has been shaped into this revitalised strategy and its accompanying action plans.

The Community Planning Partnership would like to thank every person who attended one of our workshops, contributed to the conversation online or submitted a survey. Your insight has been invaluable in shaping the refreshed Belfast Agenda.



Our vision for Belfast in 2035

**Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent.
A great place to live and work for everyone.**

Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict.

A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone.

A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region.

A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world.

A city people dream to visit.

Our outcomes - the five things people want for 2035

Belfast will be a city...



Our ambitions

There are many things that we will need to do to make our vision a reality. Our ambition is to drive inclusive, sustainable growth, so that we reduce socio-economic inequalities and create a more environmentally sustainable city.

Success will be measured against the following five targets and will require hard work, ingenuity and collaborative commitment by the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, working with the people who have a stake in our city's future.

By 2035...

Our city is home to an additional **66,000** people



Our economy supports **46,000** additional jobs



There will be a **33%** reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods



Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential



Our carbon emissions will be reduced by **80%**



Enabling change

The next four years will be critical to achieving our 2035 ambitions. To grow our population and create more and better jobs, we must grow our innovation led economy, attract significant infrastructural investment, improve the offer of the city and make it more attractive.

We must also make the city more active, reducing the dependency on cars, invest in low carbon infrastructure and

change our local economic model to synchronise the education and learning pipelines with the jobs that we need.

Belfast has a strong enabling environment which will drive forward change and be a catalyst for achieving much of our ambitions for the city. Collectively, we will build upon the environment and drive forward the opportunities presented to achieve our vision for Belfast in 2035:



The Local Development Plan

The Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035 outlines a clear vision for how the council area should look in the future by deciding what type and scale of development should be encouraged and where it should be located.

It will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and other regional planning policies and will guide development decisions within Belfast up to 2035. The LDP will be vital to the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda.



In summary, the Belfast LDP 2035:

- Provides a 15-year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the city, in line
- with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development;
- Facilitates growth by coordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community;
- Allocates sufficient land to meet the needs of the city;
- Provides an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within the local area should take place;
- Provides a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- Delivers the spatial aspects of The Belfast Agenda, the city's community plan.

Having the right policies in place through the LDP therefore ensures that the determination of individual planning applications and enforcement of planning rules continues to deliver on the Belfast Agenda priorities throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Call to action

As well as what we aim to deliver through the Belfast Agenda, we look forward to continuing to work together with local, regional and national partners to create momentum and focus on the following key enablers for the city.

Our call to action and request from partners is to provide collective leadership and bring focus to delivery.

Devolution of further place -

shaping powers such as regeneration to councils.



Anti-Poverty Strategy -

tackling the impact of poverty including child poverty, and addressing the inequalities that affect the most vulnerable.



A Bolder Vision -

create a more attractive, accessible, safe, vibrant, and reimagined city centre.



Childcare Strategy -

deliver extended, affordable and high-quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged three to four.



Climate Change Act framework -

for tackling climate change and roadmap to net zero emissions.



Belfast Region City Deal –

unlocking £1 billion co-investment to deliver more than 20 transformative projects and programmes, create up to 20,000 new and better jobs and help make the region a global investment destination.



High speed rail -

investing in a high-speed rail network and service between Belfast and Dublin.



Mental Health Strategy –

reform of services, together with the promotion of positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience across society.



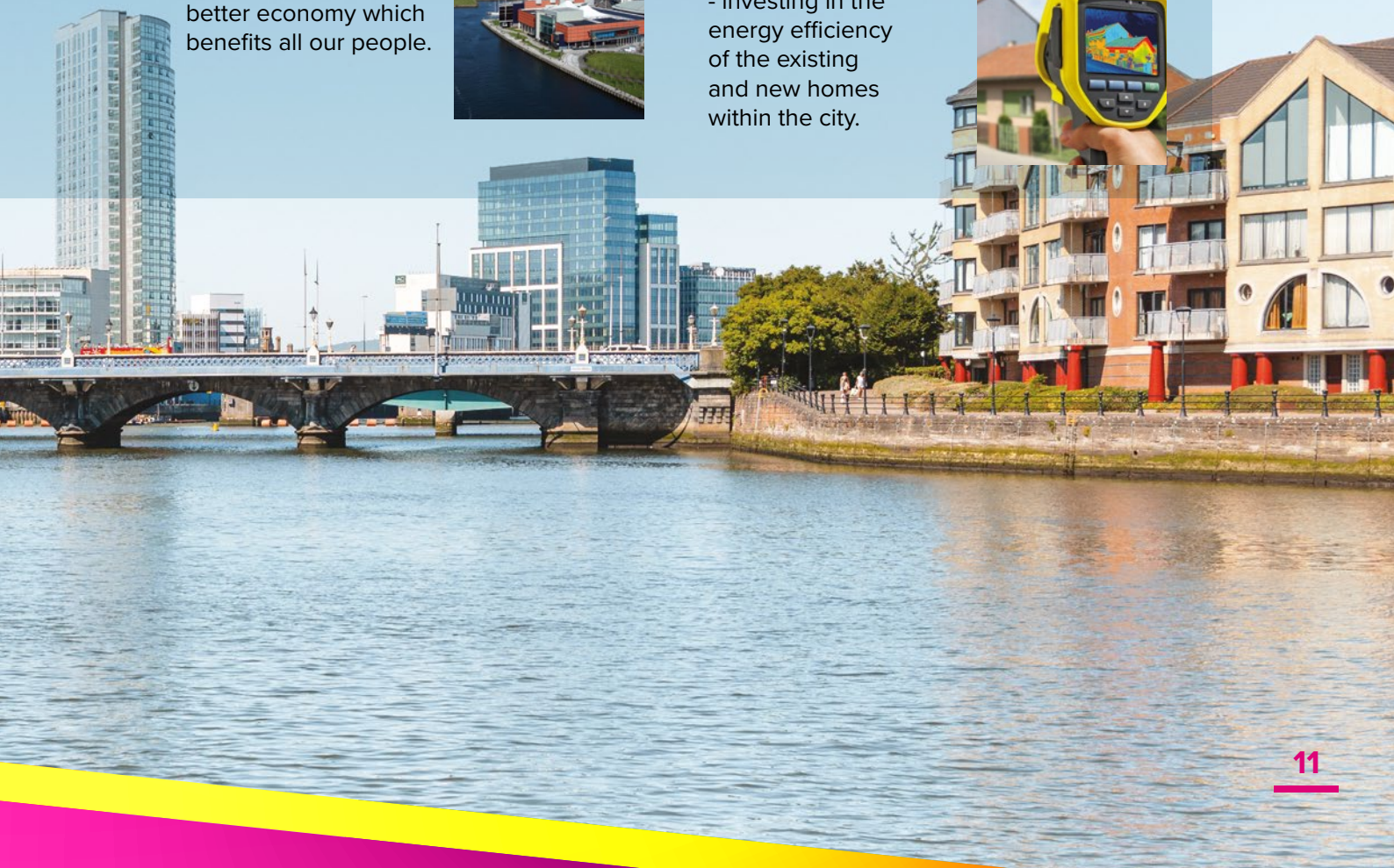
10X Economy –

embraces innovation to deliver a ten times better economy which benefits all our people.



Housing retrofit

- investing in the energy efficiency of the existing and new homes within the city.



Belfast in numbers

Our people and communities



Capital of NI
with a population of
345,418

Over 1.12 million people in the wider Belfast region



86%

of residents are
satisfied with
living in Belfast



1/4

A quarter of all
NI **voluntary,
community
and social
enterprises**
are in Belfast

79%



of people believe
there is a **strong
sense of community**
in their local area



**Average life
expectancy**

75.6 years for men and **80.5
years** for women. This is **lower
than the NI average.**

Health inequalities



Average life expectancy is
8.2 years lower for women
and **11.4 years lower** for men
between the most deprived and least
deprived areas in the city

Our economy

236,476

jobs in the city



1/3

ICT businesses

have grown by more than a
third in the last three years

31%

of the region's **GVA**
is generated in Belfast



Fastest
growing

**Creative
industries**

sector in the UK

1,600+

Companies

20,000

People employed



**BELFAST
REGION
CITY DEAL**

£1 billion

of investment delivered
across the Belfast City
Region over 10 years

£55,567

GVA per job filled in 2021

A 34% increase over 10 years
(The UK average is 22%)



71%

of school leavers achieved 5 GCSEs
A*- C including English and Maths



58%

of school leavers achieved
2+ A-Levels (grade A*-E)

Our place

Local Development Plan growth strategy

↑ 31,600 31,600 new homes needed by 2035
8,000 including 8,000 units in the city centre

£100m

invested in city centre 2022-2023

70,000+

students in further and higher education, training and apprentice schemes



47.2%

of people travel to work by car or van, 8.9% by public transport and 2% by bike

234miles

of cycle routes including 86 miles of traffic free routes and 37 miles of shared use pathways

28.8%

of commuters travelled sustainably in 2021 (source NISRA Census 2021)

72% **hotel occupancy**

This is back to pre-pandemic levels when tourism was worth **£417 million (2019)**

£417m

Our planet

33,000 properties in Belfast at risk from surface water flooding

£16m The predicted economic cost of flooding per annum

39% of greenhouse gases are emitted from houses. This is set to increase to **50%** by 2050.

800,000 trees in the city, with plans to plant **one million additional trees** by 2035

Over **211 tonnes** of pollutants from the atmosphere and **8,893 tonnes of carbon** are removed by trees

£1.5bn of investment is required to **retrofit 100,000 homes** in the city

2nd Belfast has the second-best air quality of all UK cities

Compassionate city

6/10
Six of the 10 most **deprived** electoral wards in Northern Ireland are in Belfast

15% of people are **65 years+**. This is set to grow to nearly 20% by 2035.

22% of children are growing up in **low-income households**

42% of the population is **30 years or younger**

£805 gap in average weekly earnings between highest 10% and lowest 10% of earners

97 physical barriers or **peace walls remain**

7.1% of the population is **non-white**

Our focus for the next four years

Our vision, outcomes and big ambitions are intended to improve the lives of everyone in Belfast in the long-term.

To achieve them, we have identified a number of strategic themes and priorities for the next four years which partners will act on right away.

The next section of this document highlights some immediate priorities under each of the themes.

For each of our themes and our priorities, we have set out our strategic intentions, which describe what we want to achieve over the next four years, along with some stretch goals, which we hope will create real progress towards achieving our vision for 2035.





DIAGRAM KEY

Theme 1: Our people and communities

Making life better for all our residents

Theme 2: Our economy

Creating inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 3: Our place

Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 4: Our planet

Creating a sustainable, nature-positive city

Theme 5: Compassionate city

Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city – leaving no one behind

Theme 1

Our people and communities

Making life better for all our residents

Everyone in Belfast deserves to enjoy a good quality of life, regardless of who they are, or where they live. Work under this theme places health and wellbeing at the heart of our city strategy, with our communities as the lifeblood, both in terms of decision-making and helping to ensure that support gets to the people and places most in need. Our focus will be on helping everyone, but especially those who are most vulnerable, to lead healthier, happier, and more fulfilling lives.

Partners will harness their collective energy to reinvigorate public service provision locally and deliver impactful neighbourhood improvements with residents, to make a real difference to people's lives.

A Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) panel and network has been established to enhance participation and ensure that all delivery remains focused and inclusive.

Two priority areas have been identified:

- 1. Health inequalities**
- 2. Community and neighbourhood regeneration**



Foundations for success

We will support, maintain focus and help build momentum behind the following foundational objectives which will enhance our people and communities

and significantly contribute to the long-term success of the Belfast Agenda's vision, outcomes and ambitions.

Investing in **community assets and facilities**



Maximising **funding opportunities**



Responding to **Cost-of-living crisis**



Enhancing our **built heritage**

Collective action to support **vulnerable people**



Improving **mental health and wellbeing**



Health inequalities

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

A focus on addressing health inequalities means improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all people in the city. We are committed to addressing health inequalities through collaborative action around physical and mental health, social cohesion, isolation and community vulnerability. Feedback from the co-design and engagement process, has shown that mental health and emotional wellbeing are very important issues across all age groups and sectors of life.

Recent health data shows that life expectancy overall has stopped increasing, inequalities have widened, and for the poorest people life expectancy has declined. Health data also shows the growing need to tackle obesity and increase the levels of physical activity across Belfast, with the need to focus on narrowing the widening inequality gap. Partners will work together to empower people to take control of their personal wellbeing and make better life choices. We will work in partnership to make it easier for people to access support services and develop better working relationships and information-sharing processes so that people aren't overlooked or fall through the gaps.

Together we will:

- Help the most vulnerable people, who are impacted by chronic homelessness, to secure and sustain a stable home by addressing and supporting their wider support needs in a joined-up way, by continuing to develop and embed the Belfast Complex Lives approach.
- Promote and improve positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of the supports and services available locally and developing actions to address existing inequalities in how we experience mental and emotional health (for example through expanding

delivery of the Take 5 steps to wellbeing initiative, developing a positive mental health and wellbeing charter and creating opportunities to champion and support wellbeing across our communities).

- Explore and test the use of participatory budgeting as a way of empowering and involving residents in deciding how money is invested – for example in enabling people to 'move more and eat well to feel better.'
- Develop a shared understanding of the challenges associated with unhealthy weight, eating habits and being active and develop a whole-system approach supported by collective actions to address these issues.
- Continue to support and develop initiatives via the Active Belfast Partnership, aimed at increasing levels of physical activity alongside raising awareness and providing opportunities regarding the benefits of eating well.

Measures of success:

- 50 people per year, who are impacted by, or at risk of, chronic homelessness will be supported into more secure and stable living arrangements and assisted with their physical, mental and social health needs.
- The total number of individuals identified within a cohort of people affected by chronic homelessness in Belfast will be reduced by 5% per year.
- Reduce the percentage of people with a high score in the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 indicating a possible mental health issue from 24% to 20%.
- Reduce the number of people who are overweight or obese and increase physical activity levels.

Community and neighbourhood regeneration

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Welcoming, vibrant neighbourhoods attract people to live, work, visit and invest in the city. There is a strong sense of community across Belfast, and many of those living in our neighbourhoods have aspirations to improve the areas where they live. To help our people and places achieve their full potential, we must fully understand the needs of each area of the city. To do this, we will engage with and work alongside our citizens and other key partners within the voluntary, community and social enterprise, statutory and private sectors to develop place-based community plans that will benefit citizens in neighbourhoods across the city. Through this process, we hope to develop a joined-up approach to neighbourhood regeneration, connecting our people, places and services at a local level through partnership, planning and delivery, supported by strong and empowered citizens.

Together we will:

- Develop a joined-up approach to neighbourhood regeneration by working together to maximise the potential of our services, assets and investments to make a difference in people's lives.
- Develop and implement Place-Based Community Plans which will deliver the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda, reducing inequality, and improving the health and wellbeing of all our citizens.
- Develop ways to strengthen civic voice and community participation.

- Take a strategic approach towards the development and management of neighbourhood assets and facilities, exploring opportunities for community wealth building and asset transfers.
- Develop targeted interventions to support those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Measures of success:

- Community benefits associated with neighbourhood assets, services or investments to be maximised.
- The amount of people who feel they can influence decisions that affect their local area to be increased from 44% to 50% by 2028.
- Drive down poverty within our neighbourhoods including those most deprived.
- The amount of people who feel they live in an area where people work together to improve things to be increased from 80% to 85%.
- At least three community asset transfer projects to be delivered.
- Increased support to residents, especially the most vulnerable, to respond to the cost-of-living crisis.



Theme 2

Our economy

Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

A thriving, prosperous economy is our city's engine for change and critical to turning the outcomes curve in a positive direction. The region's capital and major population centre, Belfast, is the hub for business and employment in Northern Ireland and critical to the economic future of the place we call home.

Creating more and better jobs that are sustainable, provide a career path and are financially rewarding has consistently been raised as a priority by residents and other stakeholders. Through our collaborative efforts, we want to encourage more new businesses to start and to make it easier for existing businesses to grow. That means creating positive role models, helping businesses to develop new products, markets and services and supporting innovation at all levels. The Belfast Region City Deal investments will deliver more than £400 million of investment in the region's innovation and digital capabilities, helping to build on recent

successes in creating the high value, well-paid jobs that we all want to be available here and now for our next generation.

We will continue to create the right conditions to accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity for all our residents. We will focus efforts on the key priority technologies that will drive the economy of the future, such as digital, ICT and creative industries, financial services and FinTech; life and health sciences and MedTech; and advanced manufacturing and engineering. We will retain a strong focus on developments in the labour market and emerging technologies so that we are able to support future jobs and adapt to changing trends.

Three priority areas have been identified:

- 1. Educational inequalities**
- 2. Jobs and skills**
- 3. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth**



Foundations for success

We will support, maintain focus and help build momentum behind the following foundational objectives which will enhance

our economy and significantly contribute to the long-term success of the Belfast Agenda's vision, outcomes and ambitions.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Investing in skills and employability</p> |  | <p>Stimulating innovation and growth</p> | <p>Investing in high-speed rail infrastructure</p> |
|  | <p>Investing in economic infrastructure</p> | <p>Supporting key growth sectors</p> |  |
| <p>Creating jobs and opportunity</p> |  | <p>Enhancing educational attainment levels</p> |  |

Educational inequalities

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Educational attainment has a strong impact on individual wellbeing and life opportunities. Every child and young person should be supported in their wellbeing and learning so that they develop the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential and are supported to make positive future choices.

We want to develop a 'whole community' approach towards education, which is recognised in the Department of Education Expert Panel's 'A Fair Start' report as a key area for addressing educational underachievement. We recognise that educational inequalities persist and need to be prioritised.

Good school attendance affects educational attainment and subsequent life chances. Improved pupil attendance can be achieved by targeting those pupils with attendance less than 85% (defined as chronic absence). We will work in partnership with schools and the third sector to improve attendance levels.

We will support children who have been impacted by the pandemic, live in disadvantaged areas or have special educational needs so that they are able to develop the skills and capabilities they need to fulfil their potential.

Together we will:

- Develop collaborative school, family, and community place-based partnerships across the city.
- Implement the most appropriate mechanisms to enable children to maximise educational outcomes, with a particular focus on raising attainment of boys.
- Provide young people at risk of underachieving at Level 2 (GCSE level) with support to remove barriers to learning.
- Address severe-to-chronic pupil absence through a range of measures including engagement, wraparound and family-support.
- Support children who have been impacted by the pandemic, live in disadvantaged areas or have special educational needs, so that they are able to develop the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential.

Measures of success:

- The percentage of school leavers progressing into positive destinations (such as employment or further and higher education) to be increased from a baseline of 95% in 2021-22.
- The gap between girls' and boys' attainment of 5+ GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Maths to be reduced from 4.1 percentage points in 2018-19.
- The gap between those entitled to free school meals and those who aren't to be reduced from a baseline of 35 percentage points in 2018-19 (attainment of 5+ GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Maths).
- The proportion of pupils with less than 85% attendance to be reduced from a baseline of 22% in 2021-22.

Jobs and skills

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

As a result of a range of both global and local issues, the labour market in Belfast is complex and dynamic. While skills remain a key part of the investment attraction proposition, the city has a disproportionately high number of residents with low skills. The employment rate in Belfast is amongst the lowest in Northern Ireland, as is economic activity. There is also a substantial variation in employment rates and incomes across Belfast, and this can impact negatively on social cohesion. Increasing employment participation amongst disabled people is an essential component of bridging the gap in the supply of labour.

The projected growth in key sectors – driven by sustained investment in innovation, including critical investments such as those supported through the Belfast Region City Deal – will create new employment opportunities for Belfast residents, while the commitment for Northern Ireland to be net zero by 2050 will generate skills development demand and employment opportunities in new areas. Ongoing advances in new technologies will mean that the future of work will change substantially in the coming years. We need to focus our efforts to developing flexible skills solutions – including an increased priority on lifelong learning.

Together we will:

- Deliver sector-specific employment and upskilling pathways to connect residents with new or better employment opportunities.
- Develop inclusive, non-traditional pathways to jobs within growth sectors such as the green, digital and tech sectors.
- Develop targeted support for disadvantaged groups and places to ensure inclusivity and address existing imbalance.
- Deliver innovation centres of excellence in advanced manufacturing, virtual production, clinical and connected health, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

Measures of success:

- The proportion of working-age population with no qualifications to be cut from 14% to 12% by 2028.
- The working-age economic inactivity rate (excluding students) within the city to be reduced from 23% to 18%.
- The employment rate for people living with a disability to be increased from 37% to 42%.
- Investment of more than £200 million to drive innovation in key growth sectors.



Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Belfast faces a number of economic challenges which affect our ability to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Challenges include lagging productivity, low levels of business start-up, innovation and export. Economic inactivity and high rates of unemployment also persist. These are deep rooted structural issues which have been further exacerbated through COVID-19.

The challenging public finance position also means that we need to focus our collective investment on those things that give us the best chance of tackling these problems and delivering on our ambition. It's likely that in this context, difficult decisions about where we put our resources will have to be made. Together, we will work to enable local communities and people to own, have a stake in, access and benefit from the wealth generated through our local economy. We will work with businesses to maximise their positive social impact and support local growth, encouraging inclusive practices that provide fair work and decent pay. We will support the creation of more local employment across a larger and more diverse business base that benefits local people. We will also embrace the opportunities created through new technologies and will support businesses to become more sustainable and meet carbon reduction targets.

Together we will:

- Develop a dynamic, responsive support system for entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and small businesses to help them create jobs and improve turnover.
- Support local and international businesses to grow and become more competitive through a relentless focus on innovation and external sales aligned with the vision for a 10x Economy.
- Deliver the first phase of Belfast Region City Deal Innovation Challenge funding.
- Establish the Belfast Business Promise and engage anchor institutions and the private sector to sign up and embed its practices.
- Encourage Living Wage accreditation across community planning partners.
- Support and stimulate the creation of social value to build community wealth.

Measures of success:

- The number of new business start-ups to be increased from 1,435 per year to 1,800 by 2027.
- Improve survival rates of existing businesses from 61% to 70% by 2027 (businesses surviving three years).
- Support 75% of Belfast's social enterprises to earn more than 75% of their income from trading revenues by 2030.
- 'First time innovation' encouraged through supporting 350 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 investment in Belfast through Invest NI's loan and equity funds Proof of Concept grant fund.
- Investment of £30m of new Innovation Challenge Funds across the Belfast region to help tackle key economic, environmental and social challenges.
- 50 organisations to be signed up to the Belfast Business Promise in its first year.
- The number of jobs paid below the real living wage reduced from 14.7% to 10% or less, by 2028.



Theme 3

Our place

Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Shaped by challenge and change, Belfast has come a long way. It's a 'right-size' city: big enough for a buzzing city vibe; small enough to feel you belong. It's a city with loads to do on the doorstep and where you're never far from nature. Whether it's the city's waterfront, rivers and lough, or its parks and green hills, Belfast offers a welcoming gateway into the giant adventures that the region has to offer. Perfectly positioned, with both Dublin and London in easy reach, we have done well in recent decades to create an economically dynamic and attractive place to live, work and visit. We're proud of our investment record, our tech strength, our world-class universities and we're excited about our inclusive, resilient low-carbon future but there's still much work to be done.

We have an ambition to attract a further 66,000 residents to the city by 2035 and a commitment to working in partnership to ensure that all residents have access to the high-quality, sustainable homes they deserve.

Three priority areas have been identified:





- 1. Housing-led regeneration**
- 2. Connectivity, active and sustainable travel**
- 3. Future city centre and wider city regeneration and investment**



Foundations for success

We will support, maintain focus and help build momentum behind the foundational objectives below which will enhance our

economy and significantly contribute to the long-term success of the Belfast Agenda's vision, outcomes and ambitions.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Investing in infrastructure and transport</p> |  | <p>City regeneration</p> |  |
|  | <p>Increasing city centre living</p> |  | <p>Investing in tourism infrastructure</p> |
| <p>Enhancing our built Heritage</p> |  <p>Belfast Region City Deal</p> | <p>Investing in innovation and smart districts</p> |  |

Housing-led regeneration

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Through the engagement process it was highlighted that addressing housing need and driving housing-led regeneration are key to enhancing quality of life. We are committed to creating a more vibrant, more inclusive and more liveable city. Investment in quality homes, placemaking, connectivity and social infrastructure lies at the heart of that vision.

While public sector investment in social housing has been sustained in recent years, the rate of output of residential development has not kept pace with demand. As it stands, Belfast and the wider region are recording increasing numbers of households living in housing stress. We have committed to working in partnership to address this urgent issue and ensure that everyone will have access to a high-quality, affordable and sustainable homes.

Unlike many other cities of a similar size, the residential population of Belfast city centre is low. The relocation of Ulster University to the north of the city centre and growth in purpose-built student accommodation is helping to address this. To achieve real vibrancy, it will be important to facilitate a sustainable mix of people living in the city centre, including families, elderly people and young professionals.

While our housing targets primarily focus on new builds, it is critical that we strike the right balance between investment in new stock and maintenance of our existing h

omes, including a need to ensure that homes are energy efficient and resilient to the effects of climate change. It is also important that housing-led regeneration takes into account the need to respect the historic and natural heritage of Belfast, as bestowed in its listed buildings, conservation areas, green spaces and waterside location.

Together we will:

- Increase housing supply across all tenures. This will include private homes (both home ownership and private rental), social homes and intermediate homes for rent and sale (such as shared ownership and other intermediate rental arrangements) as they are developed across the council area.
- Reduce social housing projections by increasing the provision of social homes through the Social Housing Development Programme.
- Increase the number of people living in the city centre across all tenures.

Measures of success:

- Number of homes to be increased by 6,000 units across all tenures by 2028.
- At least 20% of residential housing developed to be affordable housing (to include social, intermediate for sale and intermediate for rent properties).
- Start developing 400 social homes per year across the council area.
- Support the delivery of four city centre residential developments.
- Two place-shaping projects of scale to be completed and reviewed as pilot projects.
- Deliver 745 retrofit homes.

Connectivity, active and sustainable travel

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

To thrive, cities must have transportation systems which allow the maximum volume of people to travel, whilst doing the least possible harm to the environment and bringing health benefits for all.

In 2020, the Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast highlighted that transport was responsible for 21% of the city's carbon emissions. As the regional capital and central hub of most journeys into and out of Northern Ireland (by land, sea or air), Belfast has a central role to play as an exemplar of active and sustainable transport.

For residents who need to commute for employment, social, educational and leisure reasons, and with a growing student population of almost 50,000, sustainable connectivity across Belfast has a significant bearing on the enjoyment of living, working, and learning here. Likewise, ease of access and sustainable modes of transport are an essential support to our growing visitor economy. Our ambition to attract a further 66,000 more residents to the city will require the development of new housing, which must be heavily influenced by the need to connect people to places in active, accessible, and sustainable ways in the long-term.

Together we will:

- Deliver the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments and support the implementation of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes.
- Extend the Belfast Cycle Network (docking stations) and number of Belfast Bikes available across the city.
- Extend the options available and actively promote, encourage and enable people to transition to sustainable and active travel choices for everyday journeys.

Measures of success:

- The percentage of people who cycle once a week or more to be increased from 17% to 30% by 2028.
- The percentage of people who walk or wheel up to five days a week to be increased from 54% to 70% by 2028.
- Deliver a minimum of 600 additional Belfast Bikes across the city.
- 70 public transport journeys per person per year attained by 2030.
- 35 million passenger journeys on the Metro and Glider attained in Belfast by 2030.
- The proportion of residents who feel welcome and comfortable walking, wheeling, or spending time on the street in their neighbourhood to be increased from 68% to 80%.



Future city centre and wider city regeneration and investment

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

The Belfast region is compact, with strong relationships between government, universities, colleges and businesses. At the core of delivering growth for the region and for the city, is the need to ensure the success of a culturally vibrant city centre in Belfast. As well as playing an important role as a central hub for commerce, employment and investment, the city centre must be a thriving and inclusive destination for residents and visitors alike, one where everyone feels welcome and where everyone feels like they belong.

Already a magnet for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) we know that there has been significant progress in Belfast but there is more work to do. We need to make the case for a dedicated investment fund to attract new and better sustainable investment in order to support the positive development of the city. We also need to nurture our existing talent and maximise the visitor opportunity to develop wider inclusive economic growth.

Over the next four years we will continue to strengthen and build on our sense of place by accelerating major regeneration schemes. These will seek to deliver inclusive economic, social and environmental benefits, whilst protecting and enhancing access to our built and natural heritage. We will address dereliction in our neighbourhoods, invest in our digital and innovation infrastructure, and position Belfast as a thriving global city with a strong, people-centred city core.

Together we will:

- Adopt the second part of the Local Development Plan (LDP), Local Policies Plan, which will guide future investment and development decisions, which will enable the sustainable growth of the city up to 2035. The LDP is guided by an overall vision, which provides the overarching context for ensuring that economic, social and environmental issues are holistically considered to deliver sustainable developments.
- Implement the A Bolder Vision (ABV) strategy for the advancement of a shared approach to the creation of a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city.
- Transform the city centre into a dynamic, vibrant and experiential destination, whilst sustaining its current distinctive offering.
- Attract more visitors who stay longer and spend more in the local economy.
- Bring forward a programme of interventions aimed at facilitating a clean, green, inclusive and safe city centre.
- Promote and position the city to compete globally to attract inclusive and sustainable investment.

Measures of success:

- 30 physical developments, including two major city centre schemes to be completed.
- The Belfast Stories visitor attraction to be progressed on a key regeneration site in the city centre.
- The number of vacant units within the city centre to be reduced by 5% by 2028 from a current baseline of 23.41%.
- Delivery mechanisms and commitment for the delivery of up to £50 million of ABV projects, subject to availability of funding will be agreed.
- Work in line with the DfE 10-year tourism strategy which will see a 50-75% increase against 2019 baselines by 2034.



Theme 4

Our planet

Creating a sustainable, nature-positive city

We are committed to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss head on. This is a global challenge requiring urgent and localised action, if we are to mitigate against the immediate risks as well as take collective responsibility for future generations. Belfast can be a place where people and nature thrive together, a place where we can reduce waste and single-use plastics, harness green energy and plant more trees.

The transition to a sustainable city is not just a priority for our citizens but also for our industries. International and indigenous companies need help to reduce their footprint and compete on a global basis. Belfast has a great opportunity to lead the way in providing global green solutions by leveraging our unique market access and international networks to become a hub for low carbon design and manufacture.

We believe that Belfast will thrive on all the opportunities in the green economy whilst creating a much cleaner environment.

This theme focuses on three priorities:

- 1. Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change**
- 2. Creating a sustainable circular economy**
- 3. Innovating to net zero**



Foundations for success

Our focus will be on restoring, protecting and more sustainably managing our urban ecosystems for the benefit of everyone living, working and visiting Belfast. We'll put in the foundations for the city to decarbonise in the most cost-effective way and support a pipeline of net zero projects

that creates new skills, jobs and prosperity across the region. We'll assist our green tech sector so that we become a stand-out global hub and testbed for innovating and investing in advanced green solutions for energy, transport and manufacturing.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p>Re-naturing the city</p> | | <p>Leaving no-one behind</p> |
| | <p>Building city resilience</p> | |
| <p>Greening the Economy</p> | | <p>Sustainable Urbanisation</p> |

Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

As a coastal city, Belfast is highly vulnerable to the impacts of rising sea levels and flooding. We need to make sure that our urban spaces are prepared for the effects of climate change such as higher average temperatures, increased flooding, and more extreme weather.

Our natural environment is one of our most important assets and contributes to our prosperity and wellbeing in many ways. It provides our food and protects our communities from flooding and extreme weather, helping us adapt to the changing climate; and supports our health and quality of life, providing open spaces for exercise, social engagement and improving our wellbeing. By restoring, protecting and sustainably managing urban ecosystems, Belfast can become a regenerative city where nature is abundant and accessible to everyone.

Together we will:

- Increase the number of trees across the city, while building knowledge and stewardship for urban greening that

will reduce climate risk such as flooding and the urban heat island effect.

- Protect and enhance our local environment and natural eco-systems. We will nurture and expand our local biodiversity in areas most needed such as in our inner city, in order to protect and allow urban communities to thrive.
- Support and shape a city that is learning and building on its existing strengths to become a green, transformed and healthy city - a city that is resilient to the effects of climate change, attractive for green investment and which provides a high quality of urban life for its citizens.

Measures of success:

- An additional 1,770 homes and businesses to be protected from flood risk by 2028.
- 150,000 trees planted by 2028 as part of the one million trees programme.
- Access increased for all communities to nearby nature in parks, gardens, greenways and other green spaces.



Creating a sustainable circular economy

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Cities are major contributors to climate change, consuming 78% of the world's energy and producing more than 60% of greenhouse gas emissions. Belfast is heavily reliant on imported fossil fuels for its energy needs (with 71% of homes using gas and 20% using oil) and on petrol and diesel for virtually all our transport needs. The Belfast Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap highlights buildings and transport as the highest emitting sectors.

Our ambition is to support, encourage and enable a Just Transition to net zero reducing emissions by 66% by 2025 and 80% by 2030 while also creating new jobs, reducing poverty and providing opportunities for the most vulnerable in our society.

There is a real opportunity for Belfast to become a leading-edge city in driving forward a sustainable circular economy that minimises waste and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources. This offers a potential route to reducing waste, reversing environmental harm and increasing the sustainability of products and supply chains.

Communities play a vital role in driving sustainable change. By addressing the challenges and leveraging the power of the circular economy, communities can be catalysts to drive positive environmental, social, and economic impact. We will empower communities to become active participants in the transition towards a more sustainable and equitable future and in developing a community-based response. This will focus on reducing, reusing and recycling materials.

Together we will:

- Actively promote sustainable circular economy approaches to transform our throwaway economy into one where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated, and nature is restored.
- Promote and enable a Just Transition to net zero in Belfast which maximises social opportunities and supports a move to a more sustainable and inclusive economy.
- Increase access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the city.
- Improve the energy efficiency of our homes as well as our commercial and public buildings.
- Decarbonise the heat supply to buildings in the city.
- Enhance and embed sustainable food practices and partnership working across Belfast and provide local solutions for the delivery of sustainable, healthy and affordable food for our citizens

Measures of success:

- Reduce the carbon and environmental impact of municipal waste.
- At least 800 electric vehicle charging devices installed across the city for public use by 2028.
- At least two community energy schemes to be supported to implementation stage.
- Energy savings of at least 15% to be achieved from participating buildings.
- Create a sustainable cross-sector food partnership and a long-term food strategy created.
- A heat network project for Belfast city centre will get underway.

Innovating to net zero

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

The scale of the challenge to reach net zero ambitions is vast for all cities and will require new ways of working and new technology to achieve. However, Belfast benefits from a deep industrial and engineering capability, world class universities and substantial investments through the Belfast Region City Deal.

We also possess the natural assets and resources to achieve our goals. Developing and mobilising green tech solutions will enable us to progress our own ambitions at pace whilst also creating a global testbed in advanced green solutions. As our track record of delivery demonstrates, Belfast is a city where innovation thrives..

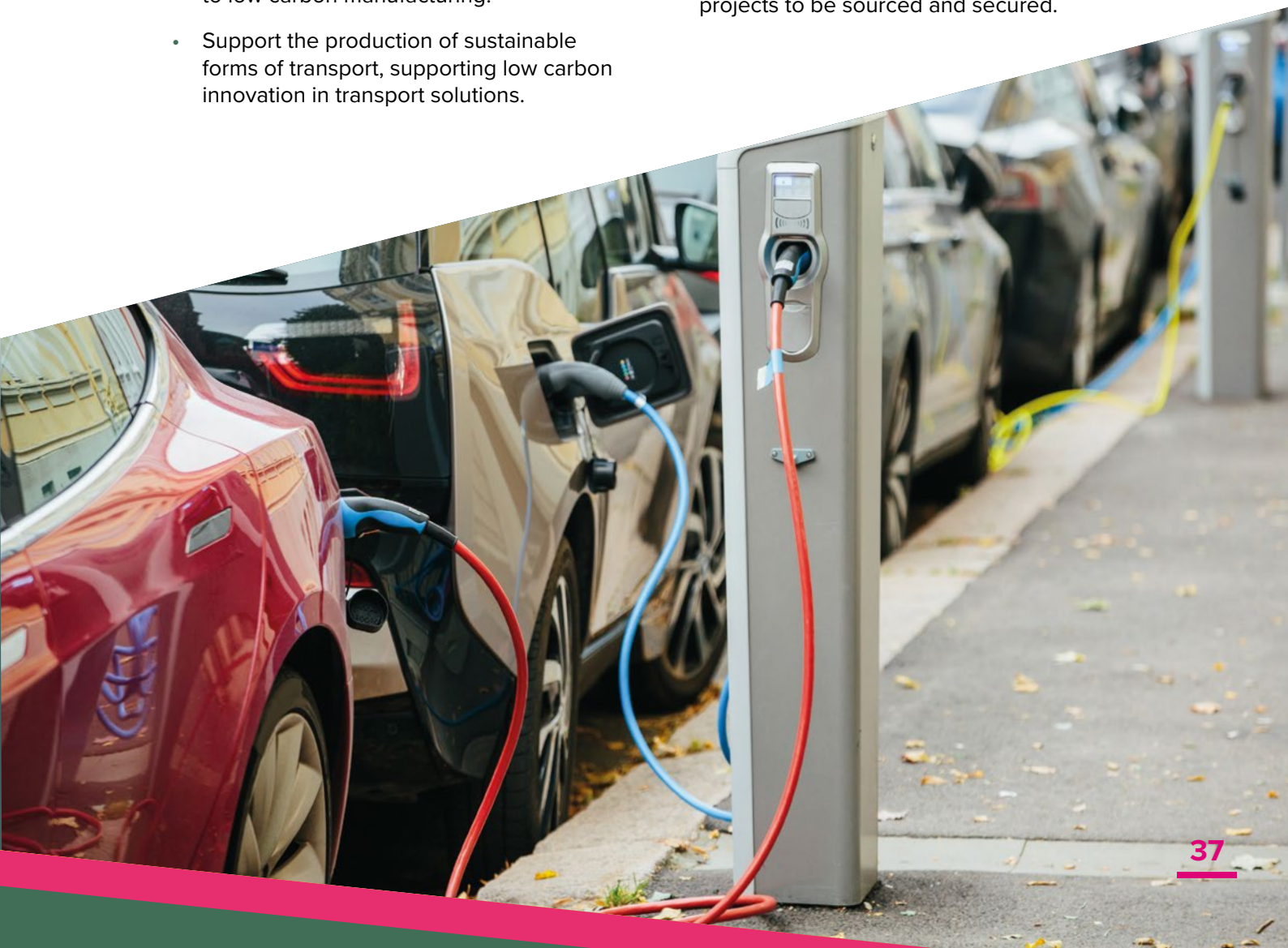


Together we will:

- Enable the city to decarbonise at scale by developing a Belfast local area energy plan and use it to shape and drive investment in decarbonisation measures (for example heat pumps, insulation and solar panels) across the city.
- Create a net zero park to design and demonstrate green technology to act as an exemplar for the rest of the city and region.
- Develop a stable supply of green energy to the net zero park and surrounding lands to support the industrial cluster.
- Grow and participate in the green economy creating new and better jobs by accelerating the transition to low carbon manufacturing.
- Support the production of sustainable forms of transport, supporting low carbon innovation in transport solutions.

Measures of success:

- Retain an 'A Status' accreditation as part of the Carbon Disclosure Project for demonstrating excellence and strong leadership on environmental action.
- Carbon emissions reduced by 66% by 2025.
- A pipeline of net zero projects developed across the city.
- Provision of affordable green energy utilising our assets and natural resources.
- Develop and implement green innovative technology to advance net zero ambitions working across government, academia and industry.
- Funding to mobilise and scale net zero projects to be sourced and secured.



Theme 5

Compassionate city

Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city – leaving no one behind

As a compassionate city, we recognise the complexity and diversity of our people, and we are determined to make things better for everyone. We acknowledge that there are structural inequalities such as gender, race, age and disability which we need to address. We also acknowledge that there are long-standing issues of multiple deprivation and access to services that shape our lives, experience and opportunities. On top of this, how we live and work has changed in the last few years, particularly with regard to new technology and digital skills. While technology has helped us connect and create new opportunities, it has also highlighted a digital divide where many feel excluded, often due to lack of access to equipment, skill, or confidence.

Our cross-cutting priorities will help to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our society have a genuine sense of belonging and an equal opportunity to realise the full potential that Belfast's economic, cultural and social prospects have to offer. This includes understanding and respecting the diverse cultures, languages and identities of all our people. As a compassionate city, we will build on the

creativity, expertise and assets which already exist within our communities and we will continue to develop pathways connecting and engaging everyone, particularly those harder to reach population cohorts. Working collaboratively, through specific actions and through our overall approach to programmes and projects we are committed to ensuring that no one is left behind.

All our priorities and actions have been created through the lens of positively addressing existing inequalities such as gender, race, age and disability and they are included throughout our action plans where appropriate. Amongst these, there are four areas of particular collective focus over the next four years. These four priorities are:

- 1. Inclusive growth and anti-poverty**
- 2. Good relations and shared future**
- 3. Older people**
- 4. Younger people**



Foundations for success

Our focus will be on helping everyone, but especially those who are most vulnerable, to lead healthier, happier, and more fulfilling lives. We will support, maintain focus and help build momentum behind

the following foundational objectives, which will enhance our city and our people and significantly contribute to the long-term success of the Belfast Agenda's vision, outcomes and ambitions.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Creating a city for everyone</p> | | <p>Celebrating our cultural diversity</p> | <p>Belfast City of Learning</p> |
| | <p>Creating a welcoming city</p> | | |
| <p>Age-Friendly Belfast</p> | | <p>Creating a socially connected city</p> | <p>Improving wellbeing of our children and young people</p> |

Inclusive growth and anti-poverty

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

We know that Belfast's economic growth has not been felt by everyone, with some people and communities experiencing high levels of deprivation, unemployment, economic inactivity, and exclusion. Recent global impacts, including COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis, have exacerbated the city's social and economic disparities, with some groups and communities more likely to be affected such as those with disabilities, ethnic minorities, lone parents or those with caring responsibilities. To realise the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda requires a renewed focus on inclusive growth and addressing poverty.

We recognise that achieving inclusive economic growth is complex. It's not just about good jobs and employment levels. It's also about tackling poverty and addressing inequalities in the city in key areas such as health, housing, education, digital technology and infrastructure; creating vibrant communities where people have the opportunity and aspiration to succeed. It involves creating a culture of lifelong learning, including digital literacy, which will enable people to fulfil their potential and encourage access and participation. With a focus on improving life chances and access to opportunities, we will continue to harness the city-wide collaborative effort to build more inclusion, resilience and sustainability into how our city works. We will also leverage our employment, procurement and investment powers to support our economic and social ambitions.

Together we will:

- Develop and deliver an inclusive growth toolkit to encourage organisations to embed more inclusive practices across the city, using tools such as the Belfast Business Promise and social value procurement.
- Work with central government to accelerate the NI anti-poverty strategy.
- Develop strategic and coordinated approaches to address the adverse impacts of poverty, including food insecurity, fuel poverty and the digital divide.
- Expand our efforts to build community wealth, to redirect and retain wealth into local communities and the local economy, and place greater control and benefits with local people.
- Develop Belfast's status as a learning city, fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

Measures of success:

- The proportion of people who agree that everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous city to increase from 50% to 70+% by 2028.
- Apply inclusive growth practices and encourage city stakeholders to adopt inclusive growth tools, such as the Belfast Business Promise.
- The proportion of people living in relative poverty to be reduced from 18% (before housing costs).
- The proportion of children (0-15 years) growing up in poverty to be reduced from 22% to 18% (at least 3,000 children).
- A Belfast Anchors Network established, with an initial focus on increasing the percentage of 'anchor institutions' procurement spend in the local Belfast economy.

Good relations and shared future

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

Becoming a more inclusive and respectful city is a foundation for building a better Belfast.

Addressing the legacy of the conflict and division remains critical to improving economic and social wellbeing in the city, and as Belfast continues to grow, 'shared and inclusive' is much broader than the two 'traditional' communities – nationalist and unionist. How we welcome and support new and minority ethnic communities will determine whether Belfast is a diverse and vibrant city where all people can live in peace, as equals.

Over the past five years, the number of displaced people has increased globally, and whilst not large, the asylum seeking and refugee population is growing in Northern Ireland, with the majority accommodated in the greater Belfast area. Refugees and asylum seekers represent some of the most vulnerable people in our society and they often find themselves settling in areas with the highest levels of multiple deprivation, causing further stress to communities who themselves are still recovering from division and conflict.

Together we will:

- Develop an inclusive Belfast Intervention Plan to address inequalities and support the inclusion and integration of all communities including ethnic minorities. Some examples include the development and delivery of racial equality, shared education and cultural inclusion programmes and activities.
- Co-design and implement the Local Community Peace Plus Action Plan across the theme of building peaceful and thriving communities.

Measures of success:

- The proportion of people who agree that Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all to be increased from 81% to 83% by 2028.
- The proportion of people who agree that, in their local area, people from different backgrounds (religious and political) get on well together to be increased from 61% to 70%+.
- The proportion of people who report that, in their local area, people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together to be increased from 62% to 70%+.



Older people

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

We want Belfast to be a great place to grow older. To do this, we need to plan for an increasing aging population in a way that ensures our older people can continue to live happier, healthier and more connected lives.

Belfast is a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities, which commits us to continually improving to meet the diverse needs of our older adults. We want to ensure the needs of older people are considered and that older peoples' voices and lived experiences are understood across all our priorities, and where necessary, that steps are taken to improve their quality of life.

Over the next four years we will continue to enhance and support the delivery of the Age Friendly action plan. We will focus on supporting those specific groups of 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 challenges in keeping strong and active.

Together we will:

- Ensure Belfast is an Age Friendly City and work with the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) to deliver the Age Friendly Belfast Plan (2023-2027).
- Develop and deliver targeted interventions for older people (who are most in need) to help them live more active and socially connected lives.

Measures of success:

- The percentage of older people who feel lonely to be reduced from 26.8% to 25% by 2028.
- 600 to 800 older people (most in need) to be supported through the delivery of targeted interventions to improve their activity levels, help them feel more connected and less lonely and reduce their functional limitations.
- Percentage of older people satisfied with their mental or emotional wellbeing to be increased from 79% to 82%.



Children and young people

Why is this a priority for Belfast?

We want all our children and young people to have the best start in life. Research has shown that early intervention and early years support provide the crucial building blocks towards enabling positive outcomes at an individual, societal and economic level. Research has also shown that there is much work still to be done for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Looking at the Belfast Agenda through the lens of children and young people will help us to future proof the development and success of our city. Empowering children and young people to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives will be critical if we are to achieve a sustainable, inclusive and child-friendly place to live.

Together we will:

- Design and deliver a seamless early intervention development pathway for children in their early years (aged 8 and under) so that they realise their potential to develop and thrive.
- Develop better ways to listen and enable the voices of children and young people to make a positive contribution through early involvement and participation in future policies, services, decisions and actions that affect their lives.

- Develop, test and embed a special school community partnership model to improve awareness and access to all aspects of daily life and living for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Measures of success:

- Promote the pathway and implement a jointly resourced delivery model for children in their early years (aged eight and under).
- Provide more opportunities for enhanced collaboration and co-ordination amongst youth engagement fora in order to inform and influence community planning in Belfast.
- The percentage of young people (16 – 24) who agree that they are able to have a say on how services are run, what the priorities are or where investment is needed to be increased from 32.6% to 40% by 2028.
- Two special schools to be tested and reviewed as part of the community partnership model.



Our shared values



A focus on outcomes for people



Partnerships for collaborative gain



Equality and Good Relations



Inclusiveness, care and compassion



Sustainable development and respect for our environment



Resilience for the future



Innovative, people-centred design and delivery



Decisions driven by evidence

Making it happen

The Belfast Agenda represents a hugely ambitious body of work for the city that will require the active, coordinated participation of many organisations and individuals across many sectors.

It will require new thinking in terms of collaborative planning, financing, data collection, performance management and programme delivery at the city and neighbourhood level. It will necessitate the adoption of the latest innovations in smart technologies and data analytics.

Ensuring deep linkages with the delivery mechanisms for the Programme for Government will be a critical success factor. The council and its partners will look for complementary opportunities for both plans, not only in terms of resourcing and programme delivery, but also in relation to measurement and shared learning.

Whilst our journey so far has been significant, it is recognised there is further enabling work to be done by all partners to make our vision a reality.

This includes:

- collective performance management arrangements that provide shared understanding of impact and the effectiveness of delivery;
- mechanisms for organisations to share evidence, research, and practice to inform decision-making;
- a shared means of working together to test new approaches to 'intractable' issues and challenges facing the city and its communities; and
- enhanced citizen engagement that will enable the Belfast Agenda to be progressed and refreshed on a regular, collaborative basis with our citizens

As we move to more detailed planning and delivery we need to think locally as well. We want to find better ways to work at a local level – particularly in exploring how we can work with residents and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions that can be adopted at scale across the city.

Action plans

The ambitions we have set in the Belfast Agenda mean nothing unless we deliver upon them. To ensure we are ready to deliver, we have created an action plan for each theme in the Belfast Agenda. These plans show detailed milestones against each priority, timescales for delivery and who will be responsible for leading on the delivery within the partnership. These action plans will drive our focus over the next four years and will form, alongside the Belfast Agenda, the main documents for holding the partnership to account for delivery.

The action plans are live documents and will be updated when, for example, plans progress or additional resources become available.

Measuring success

We have set five ambitious targets to achieve by 2035 and identified 48 population indicators to help track our long-term progress to achieving our five outcomes for the city. Together, they provide a sense of whether our city is heading in the right direction and improving the lives of local people.

To measure our success in 2028, we have set challenging targets associated with the successful delivery of immediate priority actions. These are the collective responsibility of the partnership.

We will develop a robust monitoring and reporting framework to help track our performance against all these measures and ensure regular reporting.

Our population indicators

We have identified the following 48 population indicators that will help us track our long-term progress to achieving our five outcomes for the city.

Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy

By 2035, Belfast will have a diverse and growing economy and a bigger and more competitive business base, capable of attracting increased visitors and investment. It will provide high levels of employment, supported by a skilled workforce and the city will create wealth that can be enjoyed by all.

Population indicators

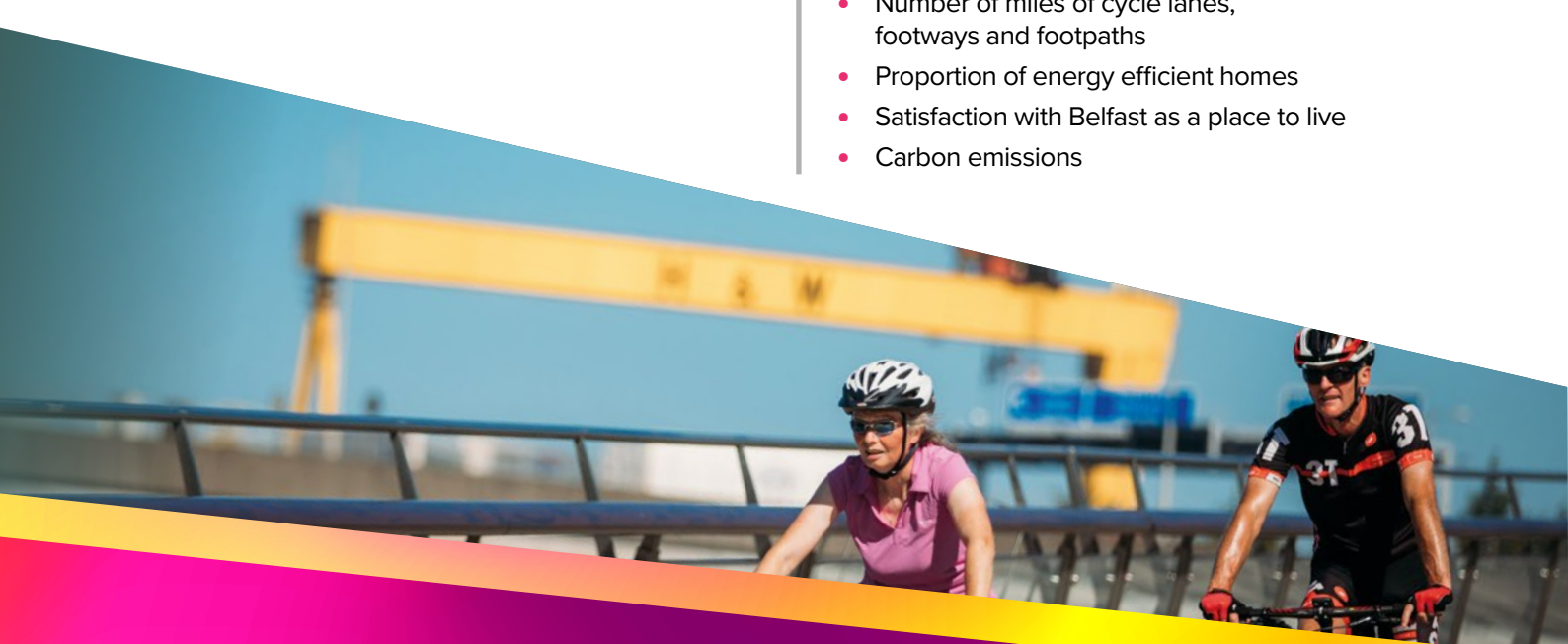
- City productivity levels
- Investment into Belfast
- Total number of businesses in Belfast
- Total number of business start-ups
- Proportion of the population living in absolute and relative poverty (before housing costs)
- Total number of jobs in Belfast
- Employment Rate (by deprivation)
- Economic inactivity rate (excluding students)
- Disability employment rate
- Average earnings
- Total spend by external visitors
- Supply of housing

Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

By 2035, everyone will enjoy attractive, well-serviced, clean neighbourhoods and a thriving city centre equipped with a range of facilities, activities and things to do. It will be a city that will encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, as well as recycling waste and improving energy efficiency. It will be a city where the natural and built beauty of Belfast, linked to its hills, parks, rivers, lough, fine buildings and public space is well protected and can be enjoyed by everyone.

Population indicators

- Air quality
- Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted
- Percentage of all journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport
- Visitor numbers
- Number of people engaged in culture, arts and sport
- Number of miles of cycle lanes, footways and footpaths
- Proportion of energy efficient homes
- Satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live
- Carbon emissions



Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing

By 2035, everyone will live a healthy lifestyle and will experience the best possible physical health and emotional wellbeing. Health inequalities will be reduced and those who suffer from poor health will receive the care and support they need in a compassionate city

Population indicators

- Life expectancy at birth
- Gap in life expectancy by deprivation
- Babies born at a low birth weight
- Preventable deaths
- Proportion of the population of adults who are overweight or obese
- Proportion of the population of children who are overweight or obese
- Proportion of population who smoke
- Proportion of adults drinking above the weekly limits
- Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing
- Proportion of adults who meet CMO's guidelines for physical activity per week
- Number of households in housing stress
- Number of people in treatment for drug or alcohol misuse

Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential

By 2035, everyone will be supported and enabled to reach their full potential to succeed and make a positive contribution to city life. Everyone will have access to information, education, training and lifelong learning and can access jobs and opportunities to actively participate in all areas of life.

Population indicators

- Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 4 or above
- Proportion of school-leavers achieving Level 2 or above, including English and Maths
- Gap between the percentage of school leavers entitled to free school meals achieving at least Level 2, including English and Maths, and their peers
- Proportion of school-leavers entering employment, education or training
- Proportion of pupils with less than 85% school attendance rates
- Proportion of working age population with no qualifications
- Volunteering
- Self-efficacy

Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all

By 2035, Belfast will be a place where everyone will continue to feel welcome and safe and will be treated fairly with equality and respect in a shared city that values diversity and encourages civic participation.

Population indicators

- Number of victims of any crime
- Number of hate-motivated crimes
- Proportion of people who feel safe
- Number of anti-social behaviour incidents
- Number of people who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together
- Proportion of population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society
- Proportion of young people who think that local facilities are shared and open to all

Strategy, Programmes
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Access to information

As part of our commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, we want to ensure that everyone is able to access the documents we produce. This document is available in alternative formats such as Braille, easy-read, audio, large print and also in other languages on request by contacting: 028 9027 0234.



Belfast
City Council