



The Belfast Agenda

A summary

2024 - 2028

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.



The Belfast Agenda is the city's community plan and its key strategic document. First published in 2017, it outlines partners' agreed vision for the city in 2035 and 'our outcomes' - the key things that we want to achieve.

Supported through the Belfast Community Planning Partnership involving public, community and business sector partners, it is designed to reimagine the city and improve quality of life for everyone.

The Belfast Agenda includes a range of ambitions which have, and will continue, to shape the strategies and action plans of all the city's community planning partners.

Following a two-year period of extensive consultation and engagement with partners,

residents and other stakeholders to get their views, we have updated the Belfast Agenda and action plans to ensure that it reflects the city's current priorities.

Community planning is about making sure that public service providers work together with communities, the community and voluntary sectors and the private sector to deliver real improvements for local people. The Belfast Agenda was therefore developed with input from local people and partners involved in delivering public services across our city.

The Belfast Agenda is an ambitious plan that will drive the actions of partner organisations across Belfast in the years to come.



Our 'plan on a page'

The diagram opposite aims to capture all the key elements of the Belfast Agenda on one page. It includes:

- The five strategic themes of the Belfast Agenda: 'Our people and communities', 'Our economy', 'Our place', 'Our planet' and 'Compassionate city'
- 'Our outcomes': the five things people want by 2035
- 'Our ambitions': the key targets we have identified to make our vision a reality

The full Belfast Agenda strategic plan and detailed action plans for 2024-2028 can be viewed at:

 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda





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 and community regeneration at the heart of our city strategy, with our communities as the lifeblood.

Two priority areas have been identified:

1. Health inequalities

2. Community and neighbourhood regeneration

Our measures of success for 2028 include:

- developing and implementing place-based community plans which will deliver the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda.
- reducing the total number of individuals affected by chronic homelessness by 5% per year.
- increasing the proportion of people experiencing improved mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- reducing the number of overweight people or people living with obesity.
- increasing physical activity levels.
- driving down poverty within our neighbourhoods including those most deprived.
- transferring at least three publicly owned assets to organisations within the community.

THEME 2

Our economy

Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity



If we want to achieve the five key outcomes that we have identified, a thriving and, prosperous economy is our city's engine for change and critical to turning the outcomes curve in a positive direction will be essential.

We will create more and better jobs that are sustainable – jobs that, provide a career path and are financially rewarding.

We want to encourage more new businesses to start up and we want to make it easier for existing businesses to grow.

Three priority areas for achieving this have been identified:

1. Educational inequalities

2. Jobs and skills

3. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

Our measures of success for 2028 include:

- increasing the percentage of school leavers progressing into positive destinations (such as employment or further and higher education) from a baseline of 95% in 2021-22.
- reducing the gap between those entitled to free school meals and those who aren't from a baseline of 35% in 2018-19.
- reducing the working-age economic inactivity rate (excluding students) within the city from 23% to 18%.
- increasing the employment rate for people living with a disability from 37% to 42%.
- increasing the number of new business start-ups from 1,435 per year to 1,800.
- reducing the number of jobs paid below the real living wage from 14.7% to 10% or less.

THEME 3

Our place

Creating a liveable
and connected, vibrant
and competitive city



Belfast is a ‘right-size’ city: big enough for a buzzing city vibe; small enough to feel you belong. We’ve come a long way but there is still much work to be done to attract 66,000 more residents, build more homes, keep our city centre and neighbourhoods thriving whilst making sure that everyone is actively and sustainably connected.

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

Our measures of success for 2028 include:

- increasing the number of homes by 6,000 units across all types of property.
- starting to build 400 social homes per year across the council area.
- drafting local planning policies in line with the timescale identified in the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP).
- retrofitting 745 homes.
- delivering the Department for Infrastructure’s Eastern Transport Plan.
- increasing the percentage of people who walk or wheel (wheeling includes people who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams and buggies or any other wheeled mobility aid) up to five days a week from 54% to 70%.
- averaging 70 public transport journeys per person per year by 2030.
- reducing the number of vacant units within the city centre by 5%, from a current baseline of 23.41%.

THEME 4

Our planet

Creating a sustainable,
nature-positive city

We are committed to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. The transition to a sustainable city is not just a priority for our citizens, but also for our industries.

Belfast has a great opportunity to lead the way in providing global green solutions by taking advantage of our unique market access and international networks. 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

Our measures of success for 2028 include:

- protecting an additional 1,770 homes and businesses from flood risk.
- planting 150,000 trees as part of the One Million Trees programme.
- reducing carbon emissions by 66% by 2025.
- installing at least 800 electric vehicle charging points for public use.
- supporting at least two community energy schemes to implementation stage.

THEME 5

Compassionate city

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



As a compassionate city, we recognise the diversity of our people and we are determined to make things better for everyone.

Our priorities will help to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our society have a genuine sense of belonging and are able to participate and access opportunities. This includes understanding and respecting the diverse cultures, languages and identities of all our people.

All our priorities and action plans have been influenced by a desire to address inequalities and create opportunities for all, no matter where they are born or live in Belfast. These are included throughout our action plans where appropriate. The following four priorities have been identified with standalone actions:

1. Inclusive growth and anti-poverty

2. Good relations and shared future

Our measures of success for 2028 include:

- reducing the proportion of people living in relative poverty from 18% (before housing costs).
- reducing the proportion of children (0-15 years) growing up in poverty from 22% to 18% (at least 3,000 children).
- supporting 600 to 800 older people (most in need) through activities which aim to improve their activity levels, help them feel more connected and less lonely.
- increasing 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 from 32.6% to 40.5%.

3. Older people

4. Younger people

Community planning partners



**Belfast
City Council**



**TOURISM
NORTHERN
IRELAND**



**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**



ea Education
Authority



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



**Ulster
University**



**BELFAST
CHAMBER**

**visit
Belfast**



VCSE
Advisory Panel and
Citywide Network



**WEST BELFAST
PARTNERSHIP
PÁIRTÍOCHT
FEIRSTE THÍAR**



**Health and Social
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Strategy, Programmes and Partnerships team

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www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

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