



Lower Oldpark Community Association

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Lower Oldpark

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY NEEDS STRATEGY

MARCH 2026 TO MARCH 2029

BUILD BACK LOWER OLDPARK



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1.0 Background

1.1 Lower Oldpark

The Lower Oldpark neighbourhood straddles the lower stretch of the Oldpark Road in North Belfast. It is an interface community, bound on two sides by peace walls. These walls were installed to provide peace barriers between the mainly Protestant Lower Oldpark community and the adjoining, mainly Roman Catholic, Oldpark and Cliftonville communities following sustained civil disturbance from the mid 1980's onwards. From this time, Lower Oldpark suffered significant decline with population loss and resulting demolition of vacant and decaying NIHE properties. Cleared housing sites were grassed over and fenced off or left open to become locations for extensive fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Interface residents suffered decades of inter-community attacks and anti-social behaviour

The Lower Oldpark neighbourhood is made up of three main housing areas. The largest is bounded by Cliftonpark Avenue, Oldpark Road, the Oldpark Road Peace Wall and the Cliftonpark Avenue Peace Wall. It consists mainly of Housing Executive properties built during the 1980's, some properties developed at a later date by Radius Housing, 26 former NIHE properties refurbished and let by Clanmil Housing in 2014 and a development of 12 social properties completed and let by the same housing association in late 2024.

The other two housing areas are on the opposite side of the Oldpark Road. The Hillview/ Rosewood/ Fairfax area is adjacent to Hillview Enterprise Park and was developed by the NIHE during the same period as the main housing area.

The Albertville/ Century/ Yarrow/ Rosewood housing area was developed by a housing association (now Radius Housing) during the early part of the 2000's. A row of eight properties fronting onto the lower stretch of the Oldpark Road was completed by Choice Housing in early 2017. A social housing development consisting of 14 units was completed by NB Housing during 2024.

Two small private developments were completed in 2021 and 2023 providing a total of 11 houses on Cliftonpark Avenue at its junctions with Oldpark Road and Crumlin Road.

Across the three areas, there are also occasional properties that are owner-occupied and some that are privately rented. These are primarily a product of the Social Housing House Sales Policy.

The vast majority of the properties in Lower Oldpark were built during the 1980's and the 2000's and are terraced houses, bungalows and flats.

A supported housing complex was developed by the British Legion Housing Association (now the responsibility of Clanmil Housing) at the junction of Oldpark Road and Manor Street. This complex has tended to remain separate from the main Lower Oldpark Community.

1.2 Lower Oldpark Community Association

Lower Oldpark Community Association (LOCA) was established in 1975. It is registered as a charity with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission. LOCA has the legal status of a company limited by guarantee. The Association has a management board consisting of 8 members, seven of whom live within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood.

LOCA employs a team of four full-time staff who deliver a range of services within the community, including family support, youth services, adult education, employment support, after-schools provision, housing advice, local environment improvement and physical regeneration promotion.

1.3 Regeneration and Community Needs Survey

In 2010, efforts to kickstart a long-awaited process of physical regeneration of the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood began with the appointment by LOCA of a full-time Housing Project Worker funded by the NIHE. The NIHE funded this post until March 2024. During this time, vacant NIHE properties were transferred to Clanmil Housing which refurbished and let them as social homes. New social housing was built on the Oldpark Road by Choice Housing, on the Crumlin Road by NB Housing and at Alloa Street by Clanmil Housing. The latter was provided under the umbrella of the Department for Communities' Building Successful Communities initiative. Also covered by this initiative was the development of 11 private houses on two small sites and the development of a petrol station/ retail unit. There was also a major public realm improvement scheme in seven Lower Oldpark housing courts and some limited improvements to property boundaries and the LOCA Centre in Avoca Street.

In 2024, there remained three significant sites to be developed in Lower Oldpark. Disagreement between LOCA and the NIHE on how these sites would be developed created a stalemate. LOCA had regularly liaised with the local community in relation to new housing development and improvements.

With the loss of funding from the NIHE for the Housing Project Worker post in mid-2024, LOCA sought and secured funding from Belfast Charitable Trust for a replacement post to carry out largely the same role but also to implement a physical regeneration survey of all Lower Oldpark households. This planned survey was also seen as an opportunity for LOCA to obtain an update on what local people felt were the main problems of the area and what activities and services should be provided in Lower Oldpark. It was also viewed as a chance to identify latent social housing need along with local interest in house purchase. Gary Hughes took up the role of Housing and Regeneration Worker at the start of November 2024. He was responsible for carrying out the survey which was implemented between January and May 2025.

1.4 Survey Purpose

The Regeneration and Community Needs Survey had specific objectives. These are set out below.

- To identify the level of resident support for housing, or alternative, development on the vacant sites.
- To identify the level of resident support for different types of housing development on the vacant sites.
- To identify which vacant site residents wished to see developed first.
- To identify interest in new-build house purchase.
- To identify latent local social housing need.
- To identify residents' views on what the main problems facing the Lower Oldpark community are.
- To identify activities or services residents think should be provided in Lower Oldpark.

1.5 Community Workshops

On 3rd September 2025, LOCA held three consultation drop-in workshops on the survey findings. Every home in Lower Oldpark had received a leaflet inviting residents to the consultation workshops which were also promoted on the LOCA housing Facebook page.

Unfortunately, turnout at the workshops was low, however, those who did attend generated lively discussions and received topic consultation sheets to complete during the workshops, or at home, and return to LOCA.

1.6 Strategy

The information obtained from the survey and the workshops was used to compile a draft Lower Oldpark Regeneration and Community Needs Strategy.

This Draft Strategy was considered and approved by LOCA Board on 22nd January 2026 and a summary was distributed to every home in Lower Oldpark and residents invited to provide feedback. Relevant feedback was incorporated into the Draft Strategy.

This Draft Strategy was considered and approved by LOCA Board on 19th February 2026.

This final Lower Oldpark Regeneration and Community Needs Strategy document is the end product of a process that began in January 2025. It provides a plan that will guide LOCA's work over the next three years from March 2026 to March 2029.

2.0 Aims and Actions

2.1 Community Communication/ Area Perception

Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents will have been kept informed about issues covered by this Strategy and about positive things happening in the community.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will make information available to Lower Oldpark residents by way of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark Housing News newsletter. Lower Oldpark Housing Facebook page. Lower Oldpark Housing website. LOCA Facebook page. <p>Start Target: Ongoing</p>



2.2 Housing

2.2.1 Housing Regeneration

Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing regeneration of Lower Oldpark’s three vacant sites will have taken place in a way that is consistent with the views of residents as expressed in the Lower Oldpark Regeneration and Community Needs Survey Report (August 2025).
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to ensure that new social housing is built on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Bonfire Site.</u> (The grassed site bounded by Mountview St/ Oldpark Road Peace Wall/ rear of 103 to 125 Manor Street). <u>64 Cliftonpark Avenue to Alloa Street.</u> (The long, grassed site backing onto 25-53 Avoca Street) <u>Cliftonpark Avenue Peace Wall Site.</u> (The long, grassed site from the new houses at Annalee Street to Rosapenna Peace Wall. The Linear Park.) <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to ensure that any parts of the three sites (above) not developed with social housing are developed with affordable owner-occupation homes following market testing.

	<p>LOCA will work to ensure that the sale of these properties is heavily promoted amongst Lower Oldpark residents.</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to ensure that the vast majority of new homes built on the three sites (above) are traditional, family houses built to Lifetime Home standards (Incorporating provision for people with disabilities). New housing schemes may include a small number of large homes (four bedrooms), end-of-terrace flats and bungalows. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to ensure that the three Lower Oldpark sites are developed in the following order. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>First</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonfire Site. <u>Second</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 64 Cliftonpark Avenue to Alloa Street. <u>Third</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cliftonpark Avenue Peace Wall Site. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
<p>2.2.2</p>	<p>Housing Advice</p>
<p>Aim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will have had access to locally based, professional help when dealing with their housing problems.
<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will deliver a locally based housing advice service for Lower Oldpark residents. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
<p>2.2.3</p>	<p>Social Housing Selection Scheme - Applications/ Allocations.</p>
<p>Aim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will better understand how the Social Housing Selection Scheme works and how to make complaints to social housing landlords operating in Lower Oldpark.
<p>Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will produce and distribute to Lower Oldpark households an information sheet providing information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How the Social Housing Selection Scheme works.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social housing landlord complaints procedures. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will help Lower Oldpark residents who want to apply for social housing to do so. <p>Timeframe: Ongoing - January 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.2.4	Empty Social Homes
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A reduction in the number of unoccupied social houses in Lower Oldpark.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work with social landlords (NIHE and housing associations) to secure action to reduce the number of unoccupied social houses in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
	
2.2.5	Home Insulation
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Lower Oldpark social homes will meet modern insulation standards.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work with social housing landlords, homeowners and private landlords to secure improved home insulation where required in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.2.6	NIHE/ Housing Association Accountability
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved accountability of Lower Oldpark operating social housing landlords to their tenants and to the community.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure the agreement of the NIHE and housing associations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare and make available to LOCA, six-monthly Lower Oldpark related housing management reports which LOCA will publish. ○ Attend six-monthly tenant meetings to respond to questions. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.2.7	Garden Management
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents are ensuring that their gardens are clean and tidy.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will provide a no-cost gardening equipment lending service for Lower Oldpark residents. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will make available to Lower Oldpark residents, information on garden maintenance services they could use. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.2.8	Home Decoration/ Maintenance
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents are ensuring that their homes are adequately decorated and maintained.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will make available to Lower Oldpark residents, information on local home decoration services. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will explore the potential for setting up a community home decoration service. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will prepare and distribute to Lower Oldpark residents' information sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On social housing repair obligations and rights. Private renting tenants' housing repair obligations and rights. Owner-occupiers and repairs. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will deliver a housing advice service including help with dealing with repair issues. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>

2.3	Local Environment
2.3.1	Local Environment Problems
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents are living within a neighbourhood environment that is clean, well maintained and attractive.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will report the following problems in public roads, places, open spaces and walkways to relevant public bodies and work to ensure the problems are dealt with. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weeds. ○ Dumping/ fly-tipping. ○ Litter. ○ Dog/ cat fouling. ○ Pests. ○ Abandoned vehicles. ○ Poor open space maintenance. ○ Pot holes and road/ pavement surface defects. ○ Bin collection issues. ○ Ice and snow on roads and pavements. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to recruit, organize and support a group of Lower Oldpark volunteers to help to address the problems of weed, dumping/ fly-tipping and litter. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to work with public bodies to try and prevent and discourage behaviour that causes environmental problems in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to work with relevant public bodies to secure additional tree planting at locations agreed with LOCA and residents. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.3.2	Open Space
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the Peace Wall Linear Park and a reduction in its size to facilitate adjoining housing development.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure the retention of an improved but reduced linear park immediately adjacent to the Cliftonpark Avenue Peace Wall. <p>This would be monitored from new housing development running from Annalee Street to the Rosapenna Street peace wall.</p> <p>The improved Linear Park could accommodate family friendly space and a small, enclosed dog park.</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.3.3	Lower Oldpark Peace Walls
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical appearance of Lower Oldpark peace walls and the adjoining land will have been significantly improved and residents will feel at ease in the area of the peace walls.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure physical and security improvements to Lower Oldpark’s two peace walls including e.g. public artwork, hanging gardens, security cameras. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to ensure that Lower Oldpark residents are fully consulted in respect to any proposed amendments to the Lower Oldpark peace walls or any development adjacent to them. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.3.4	Bonfire Site
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suitable site will have been agreed for an annual 12th July bonfire.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work with the local community and landowners in Lower Oldpark to identify a potential 12th July annual bonfire site after the existing Bonfire Site is developed. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>

2.4	Traffic and Pedestrians
2.4.1	Safer Streets
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark streets are safe for pedestrians and vehicle users.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to secure the installation of traffic calming humps at agreed locations in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.4.2	Parking
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking problems at specific locations in Lower Oldpark will have been addressed.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to secure a Department for Infrastructure (Roads Service) review of parking provision in Lower Oldpark following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completion of the Courts Public Realm Improvement Project in 2022. ○ Completion of the social housing development at the 197-203 Crumlin Road/ Century Street/ Albertville Drive site. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	

2.5	Community Facilities
2.5.1	Play Park Facilities
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alloa Street playpark will provide a broader range of modern play equipment in an environment that is attractive, safe and meets the needs of all children.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased and improved play facilities for all children, including those for children with special needs, at the Belfast City Council owned and managed Alloa Street Playpark.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental improvements within the park, including those which help to make the park safe and feel safer for users. ○ Inclusion of a community garden in the park area. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2028.</p>
	
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The provision of modern play facilities serving the residents of the Rosewood/ Crumlin and Hillview/ Rosewood/ Fairfax courts area, subject to site availability.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure a children’s play facility to serve the residents of the Rosewood/ Crumlin and Hillview/ Rosewood/ Fairfax courts area. This is subject to a suitable site being identified and secured. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.5.2	Sports Facilities
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The provision of modern sports facilities to serve local children and young people of Lower Oldpark.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure agreed new sports facilities adjacent to Alloa Street Playpark e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football. ○ Basketball. ○ Skateboarding. ○ Tennis area. ○ Crazy golf. ○ Bike/ BMX riding. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.5.3	Retail Facilities
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower Oldpark residents will have access to an increased range of shops.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will encourage the owners of local, vacant commercial premises to let them. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.6	Community Activities and Services
2.6.1	Community Space
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will have access to locally based community space for the activities set down in this strategy and for individual family events and celebrations.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide community space in the LOCA Centre and Portacabin. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek use of space in the former Lower Oldpark Carnegie Library building for community activities, as needed, and encourage the provision of disability access throughout the building. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
2.6.2	Children/ Young People
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark children and young people will have access to a range of enjoyable, stimulating and locally based activities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure the delivery, within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood, of relevant activities/ services for Lower Oldpark children and young people e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth club/ summer schemes/ activities.* ○ After school club/ activities.* ○ Workshops for age group 12-16 years. ○ Support for children/ young people to learn about other cultures. ○ Discos. ○ Football/ ○ Darts.* ○ Pool.* Snooker. ○ Chess/ drama/ dancing. ○ Art/ baking/ cooking. ○ Beauty/ nail care. ○ Activities for age group 3-5 years. ○ Support for children with special needs including autism/ ASD/ ADHD. ○ Distractions for children/ young people who could get involved in inter-community conflict/ ASB.* ○ Career related training for young people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Life skills training for young people. <p>(The above are subject to demand and funding.)</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029. * Ongoing.</p>
2.6.3	Adults
Aim	Lower Oldpark adults will have access to a broad range of enjoyable, stimulating locally based activities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure the delivery, within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood, of relevant activities/ services for Lower Oldpark adults e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classes (including English Language) as part of an adult learning programme. ○ Trips out. ○ A women's group/ men's group. ○ A cooking group. ○ A fitness/ friendship group. ○ Coffee mornings. ○ Activities for parents when children are at school. ○ Activities in the evening for those who work. <p>(The above are subject to demand and funding.)</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.6.4	Families
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower Oldpark families will have access to a range of enjoyable, stimulating locally based activities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure the delivery, within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood, of relevant activities/ services for Lower Oldpark families e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family days out. ○ A meeting place for parents to share and meet each other. <p>(The above are subject to demand and funding.)</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.6.5	Older People
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower Oldpark older people will have access to a range of enjoyable, stimulating locally based activities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOCA will work to secure the delivery for Lower Oldpark older people, within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood, where possible on an intergenerational basis, of relevant services/ activities e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pensioner's club/ bingo. ○ Classes as part of an adult learning programme. ○ Gardening for older people/ history lectures. ○ Activities for the Over 50's/ Information on services available to older people. ○ Crochet club/ knitting. ○ Benefits' check. ○ Chair-based activities.

	<p>(The above are subject to demand and funding.)</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.6.6	Vulnerable Groups
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark vulnerable residents will have access to a range of enjoyable, stimulating locally based activities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure the delivery, within the Lower Oldpark neighbourhood, of relevant activities/ services for Lower Oldpark vulnerable groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities for disabled people/ autistic children. ○ Support for people who are socially isolated. <p>(The above are subject to demand and funding.)</p> <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.6.7	Community Café Drop-In
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will have access to a place where they can meet/ relax share.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide a community ‘tea and buns drop-in’ in the LOCA Centre portacabin. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will look at the potential for setting up a volunteer run community café in the portacabin. <p>Start Target: April 2027 to March 2028.</p>
	
2.6.8	Community Health Needs
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will access health services relevant to their needs.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will secure the delivery of health information/ support sessions in Lower Oldpark. Topics could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coping with alcohol addiction/ Mental illness. Potential locally based counselling. ○ Coping with special needs. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will tell residents about the health services available to Lower Oldpark people and encourage them to make use of them. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.6.9	Community Arts and Culture
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents have access to additional arts and cultural opportunities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure the delivery of community arts and culture activities in Lower Oldpark. Activities could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music. ○ Art through creative play. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
2.6.10	Education/ Training Services
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents have access to additional education and learning opportunities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will deliver an adult learning programme for Lower Oldpark residents including adults with special needs and young adults. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide a Children’s Library Service for Lower Oldpark households. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will explore the potential for providing a small-scale Adult’s Library Service for Lower Oldpark residents. <p>Start Target: March 2027 to March 2028.</p>
2.6.11	Low Income Households
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents will have had access to professional help when dealing with their household income related problems and will have access to affordable finance.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will refer residents with welfare-related enquiries to relevant benefits advice agencies. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will promote awareness among Lower Oldpark residents of available credit union services. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will promote awareness among Lower Oldpark residents of available food bank services. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.6.12	Childcare Services
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents have access to additional childcare opportunities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide/ explore the potential of providing the following childcare services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Mother and Toddler Group.* ○ A Mother and Baby Club. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2029.</p> ○ A Nursery. <p>Start Target: April 2027 to March 2028.</p> • LOCA will tell residents about nearby childcare services. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027. *Ongoing.</p>

2.7	Community Relations
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Oldpark residents have had increased opportunities to meet and build relationships with residents from Nationalist communities.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to include cross-community elements within the delivery of a number of its ongoing and planned community actions/ services. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.8	Community Safety
2.8.1	Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB and crime levels in Lower Oldpark will have been reduced.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will support the Belfast City Council programme of alley gate installation in Lower Oldpark and request provision of signs on gates telling users to close them after use. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will support residents to report incidents of ASB and crime to the relevant organisations. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work with social housing landlords and private landlords to try and minimize the letting of accommodation in Lower Oldpark to households with a history of ASB. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will organize information sessions on ASB and crime prevention for Lower Oldpark residents including on relevant issues e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbours causing ASB. ○ Firework misuse. ○ Motorised scooters and bikes. ○ Sectarian attacks on homes. ○ Burglary. ○ Inappropriate behaviour by individuals in public places. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will seek to work with the owner and management of the Old Bank on the Crumlin Road to reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour by Old Bank residents in the surrounding community. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide a Summer Diversionary Programme for children and young people in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will provide a youth club for children and young people in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure the provision of defensible space at the front of 3 to 7 Manor Drive interface properties. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure community safety related public realm improvements at the walkway running between Manor Drive and Oldpark Road. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOCA will work to secure policing and community safety resources to address ASB and interface conflict at the Cliftonpark Avenue/ Alloa Street junction and the Girdwood entrance. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.8.2	Drugs
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal drug use in Lower Oldpark will have been reduced along with the presence of abandoned needles.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will receive/ collect abandoned needles in Lower Oldpark and request their collection and disposal by Belfast City Council Sharps Team. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work with relevant organisations and access information on the dangers of drug use and the support available for drug abusers and make it available to Lower Oldpark residents. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
2.8.3	Cold Callers
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents will not be experiencing as many cold callers.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure ‘No Cold Caller’ signs for Lower Oldpark residents who want them. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>

2.9	Public Utilities and Services
2.9.1	Water Supply and Drainage
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water pressure and drainage/ sewage system problems will have been addressed.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will ask Northern Ireland Water to review domestic water pressure in Lower Oldpark homes where there is a problem. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will ask Northern Ireland Water to review of the drainage/ sewage system in Lower Oldpark were there is a problem. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.9.2	Waste Management
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling services in Lower Oldpark will have improved.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure, where required, new recycling bins in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.9.3	Public Transport
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oldpark Road bus service and facilities will have improved.

Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure increased frequency of the Oldpark Road bus service. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure the provision of bus shelters at the bus stops adjacent to Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>
2.9.4	Grit Boxes
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents will have access to grit when pavements are affected by ice or snow.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will work to secure the provision of at least one grit box in Lower Oldpark. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>

2.10	Lower Oldpark Community Association
2.10.1	Community Participation
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Oldpark residents will be strongly represented on the LOCA Board/ Committee.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will seek to increase local resident representation on the LOCA Board/ Committee to at least three quarters. <p>Start Target: Ongoing.</p>
2.10.2	Funding
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will have secured sufficient funding to continue to deliver its services.
Action	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOCA will seek funding, as appropriate, to deliver this strategy. <p>Start Target: March 2026 to March 2027.</p>