

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 10th September, 2025

MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor I. McLaughlin (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff, Councillor McAteer;
Alderman Lawlor; and
Councillors Black, Bunting, de Faoite, S. Douglas,
Duffy, Groogan, Hanvey, Lyons, McCabe,
McCallin, McKay, R. McLaughlin, Meenehan,
Murray, Nelson and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. D. Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and
Development;
Mr. K. Forster, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. L. Toland, Senior Manager, Economy;
Ms. L. O'Donnell, Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism;
Ms. C. Cassin, Markets Development Manager;
Mr. F. Grant, Operations Development Manager;
Ms. E. Clark, Belfast 2024 Programme Manager; and
Mr. C. Mealey, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McCormick.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 27th August, 2025, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September, 2025, subject to the following amendments:

- the minute under the heading "Translink - Belfast Grand Central Station Update" was amended to provide that the Council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure and Translink to request consideration of a scheme that would reduce fares to encourage the use of public transport and reduce traffic congestion during the Christmas period; and
- the minute under the heading "Vacant to Vibrant Programme" was amended to provide that a report be brought back to the Committee that would outline how many applicants remained without funding and the cost of approving those grant awards.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Request to Present

St. George's Market Traders

The Committee acceded to a request from representatives on behalf of St. George's Market traders to present at a future meeting.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following eight items was restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Members were also reminded that the content of 'restricted' reports and any discussion which took place during closed session must be treated as 'confidential information' and that no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

Vacant to Vibrant Programme

The Committee was provided with an update on the Vacant to Vibrant Programme and the associated recommendation from the assessment panel.

The Director of City Regeneration and Development highlighted that, subject to the Committee's approval of the assessment panel's recommendation, the city-wide fund would now be completely expended and closed to further applications. She advised that officers would continue to seek additional funding to extend the scheme.

The Committee:

- i. noted the update in relation to the Vacant to Vibrant Programme which would be supporting up to 72 businesses/organisations to locate or expand into long term vacant units;
- ii. agreed the recommended city-wide grant award as outlined within the report; and
- iii. noted that the city-wide fund was now completely expended and closed to further applications, and that officers would continue to seek additional funding to extend the scheme.

Housing-Led Regeneration Update

The Director of City Regeneration and Development submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided an update on a number of strands of the housing-led regeneration programme of work.

The Director reminded Members that, following the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) in April 2025, which formalised the Overarching Business Plan (OBP) and the Joint Venture (JV) governance arrangements, the Private Sector Partner (PSP) had submitted a proposed Seed Site Development Programme. She reported that the Council had a contractual obligation to consider and approve the Development Programme within the agreed timeframe. She advised that the prioritisation and programme for the seed sites had been developed through a process of site prioritisation followed by the establishment of a development programme for each site, which included key milestones and longstop dates. In relation to the development proposals for each of the sites, the Director advised that the Initial Site Specific Business Plans (ISSBP) would be brought back to the Committee for approval.

The Committee was provided with an update in respect of the Strategic Site Assessment (SSA) Phase 2 sites, which highlighted that the PSP had identified a potential site which could be considered as an Additional Opportunity Site. It was reported that there might be an opportunity to bring forward additional SSA Phase 2 sites, and that further updates would be brought back to the Committee and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, as appropriate.

The Director also provided an update, as requested by the Committee at its meeting in June 2025, on the current position of the Strategic Site Assessment Phase 1 sites which summarised the work that had been undertaken to date and next steps.

The Committee was informed that there continued to be an ongoing requirement to retain specialist commercial and financial related property advice as the JV moved through the delivery process, and that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to these services.

The Committee:

- i. noted the progress made through the governance process for the approval of the Seed Site Development Programme submitted by the PSP;
- ii. agreed the prioritisation of the Seed Sites as detailed in the report;
- iii. noted that the Initial Site Business Plans would be brought back to the Committee for approval in respect of the detailed development proposals for each of the sites;
- iv. noted the key milestone and longstop dates that contractualised key event dates in the PSP Development Programme and provided the Council with the ability to remove exclusive

development rights that were currently granted under the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA);

- v. noted the requirement for ongoing specialist financial and commercial property services from the appointed provider;
- vi. agreed that the key appointment of the specialist financial and commercial property services provider would be noted in a Contract Report to be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- vii. noted the potential to include one of the SSA Phase 2 sites, as agreed through the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, as an Additional Opportunity Site, and that the PSP would consider inclusion of the asset for redevelopment along with another seed site, with further proposals to be brought back through the Site Specific Business Plan;
- viii. noted the potential opportunity for additional SSA Phase 2 sites to be brought forward through the PSP, with further engagement and updates to be brought back to the Committee;
- ix. noted the update in relation to a seed site's development brief, the continued progression of workstreams alongside the Department for Communities, and the advancement of the scheme through the appointed Housing Association; and
- x. noted the update in relation to the SSA Phase 1 sites.

Sandy Row/Grosvenor Road Revitalisation Update

The Director of City Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an update in relation to the Sandy Row Revitalisation Scheme and the proposed Grosvenor Road Revitalisation Scheme.

During discussion, a Member highlighted the potential impact of the works associated with Belfast Grand Central Station on the independent businesses located on Great Victoria Street.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the update on the Department for Communities funded Sandy Row Revitalisation Scheme and the proposed Grosvenor Road Revitalisation Scheme; and
- ii. agreed to write to the Minister for Communities to request that consideration be given to the provision of support for independent businesses on Great Victoria Street impacted by the works associated with Belfast Grand Central Station.

Belfast 2024 Evaluation

The Strategic Director, Place and Economy, and the Belfast 2024 Programme Manager presented to the Committee a draft closure report which summarised the Belfast 2024 programme activities, outputs, evaluation results, lessons learned and legacy plans.

During discussion, Members thanked the officers for the work that had been undertaken in delivering the cultural programme.

The Strategic Director and the Programme Manager answered a range of questions from the Members in relation to the impact of the programme, lessons learned, communication and public engagement, and legacy plans going forward.

After discussion, the Committee noted the outputs, outcomes and feedback from the Belfast 2024 programme, and the legacy opportunities that had emerged from the programme of work.

Markets Quarterly Update

The Director of Economic Development provided the Committee with an update on the performance of St. George's Market for Quarter 1 2025/26, the Markets Storage Policy and the Markets Rights Policy. He also outlined, for the Committee's consideration, a request for a markets licence for a Dilly Dally Festive Makers Market to be held in Carlisle Memorial Church in November, 2025.

The Senior Manager, Economy, provided the Committee with an overview of the Markets Rights Policy and outlined a recommended new approach and fee structure for licenses under the policy.

During discussion, the Director of Economic Development, the Markets Development Manager, and the Senior Manager, Economy, answered a range of questions from the Members on the Markets Storage Policy, the Christmas Continental Market and external markets.

In relation to the Markets Storage Policy, a Member highlighted the need for further engagement to take place with market traders in relation to any update to the policy and suggested that it would be beneficial to the Committee for a further report to be submitted which would outline potential options in respect of the Council's engagement and communication with traders.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- i. noted the update against priority business plan activities and the financial performance of St George's Market for Quarter 1, 2025/26;

- ii. approved a proposed new approach and fee structure for licences under the Markets Rights Policy, with effect from 1st November, 2025;
- iii. approved a licence for a Dilly Dally Festive Makers Market at Carlisle Memorial Church on 22nd November, 2025; and
- iv. agreed to defer consideration of the Markets Storage Policy update to enable a further report to be submitted which would outline options in respect of the Council's engagement and communication with traders.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 1 2025/26

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided an update on the Committee's financial position for Quarter 1 of 2025/26.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Belfast Bikes Quarter 1 2025/26 Performance Update

The Director of Economic Development provided the Committee with an update on the performance of the Belfast Bikes Scheme for Quarter 1 of 2025/26.

The Committee noted the update provided in respect of the Belfast Bikes Scheme performance for Quarter 1 2025/26.

Belfast Zoo Quarter 1 2025/26 Performance Update

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy provided the Committee with an update on the performance of Belfast Zoo for Quarter 1 of 2025/26.

The Committee noted the update on the performance of Belfast Zoo for Quarter 1 2025/26.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Major Events Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is

- To provide an update on Fleadh Cheoil
- To provide an update on Oireachtas
- To provide an update on festive lighting

- To provide an update on America 250
- To provide an update on New Years Eve

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to

- Note the update regarding Fleadh Cheoil
- Note the update regarding Oireachtas festival
- Note and approve costs associated with Festive lighting scheme
- Note the update regarding America 250
- Note the update regarding New Years Eve

3.0 Main report

3.1 Fleadh Cheoil

August SPR committee considered a report on the strategic case for the Fleadh and its significant economic impact and return on investment. Members were updated on the financial plan associated with hosting the Fleadh and the Committee approved the draft outline expenditure budget for Fleadh Cheoil 2026.

Following consideration of the proposed governance arrangements, including detailed proposals in relation to governance of Finance Risk, Members agreed not to establish a Members Working Group but that a further report should be brought back to the Committee on governance, following engagement with Comhaltas, and on the use of delegated authority.

SPR Committee Members were also advised that an engagement plan is being developed to ensure early engagement with stakeholders and local communities which is essential to ensure inclusivity and impact. This will include a city stakeholder group which will help to inform the work undertaken in relation to programme development and operational planning and will be closely aligned with the work of the marketing and communications group.

Following attendance at Wexford 2025 a dedicated Party Group Leader session has been scheduled to discuss lessons learned and to update on key areas of work.

A number of core work packages are currently under way, being overseen by the internal Programme Board and the Fleadh Executive Committee, including;

- Implementation of all governance structures (subject to further report to SPR Committee)
- Financial plan, funding & sponsorship
- Audit & risk
- Lessons learned from Wexford
- Brand, marketing and communications
- Operations and logistics planning
- Ground footprint
- Traffic management planning
- Core programming
- Venue mapping
- Licencing
- Planning
- Accommodation
- Volunteering
- Visitor servicing

3.2 Oireachtas na Samhna 2025

Planning is well under way for the Oireachtas with final technical site visits occurring early September. Core venues remain as ICC, Ulster Hall, City Hall and the Europa.

Dedicated brand work has been developed and is being utilised across all partner marketing. Exhibition space within ICC has been identified for BCC which is being led by language officer aligned to ongoing work for the language action plan. Visit Belfast will also avail of exhibition space to facilitate visitor servicing.

Officers have been working with core venues to ensure there is a provision of Irish language speaking staff on front of house duties and integration into announcement systems

Through the ongoing work of the programme board, Oireachtas have facilitated an ongoing engagement to encourage participation and competition entries as well as a Schools engagement programme.

Additional support packages of work in partnership with Visit Belfast are focused on visitor management with the addition of translated city maps, a familiarisation video, web content and industry front of house briefings.

Key programme highlights include;

Wednesday 29th October

Official opening – ICC Belfast

Media awards – Belfast City Hall

Thursday 30th October

Competition schedule commence – ICC Belfast

Live Broadcasts – TG4, RTE and BBC NI – Multiple venues

Club Celi and festival club - Europa

Friday 31st October

Competition schedule -ICC Belfast

Live Broadcasts – TG4, RTE and BBC NI - Multiple venues

Festival club - Ulster Hall

Saturday 1st November

Park run

Competitions – ICC Belfast

Festival club - Ulster Hall

Sunday 2nd November

Final live broadcast

3.3 Festive lighting

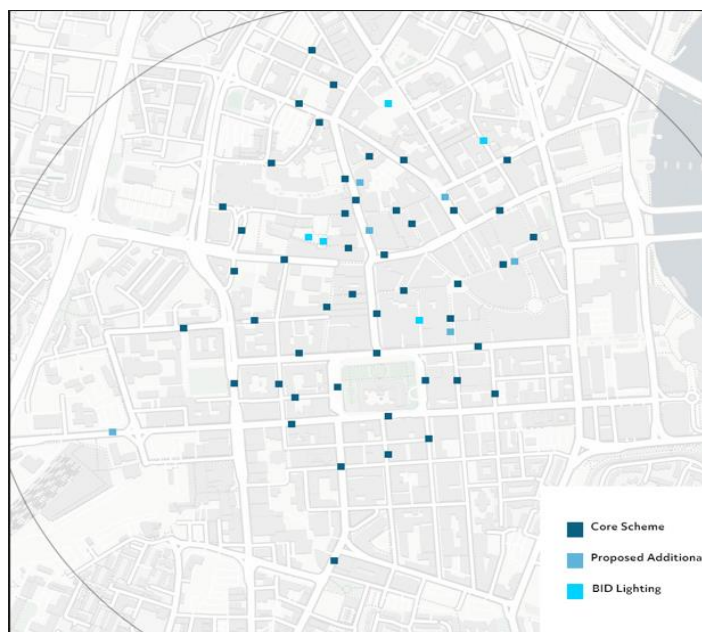
Officers have conducted a number of site visits with the supplier to identify any adjustments to the core lighting scheme to allow for ongoing building works, access to wayleaves and power sources.

As part of this work a number of potential additional sites have been identified to enhance the core scheme and address areas where there has previously been limited lighting; namely additional infrastructure in: Royal Avenue trees, Ann Street, Arthur street, Bank Square and Bridge Street

This is at an additional cost of £47,531 to the core scheme.

Festive lighting budget allocation is £300,000, with management support previously facilitated through BCCM. Council have been in ongoing discussions with the BIDs about future provisions of the management of the scheme but for 2025 this will remain as council led delivery.

In addition to this officers have engaged with the BIDs to identify additional areas that the BIDs will support through allocation of their own funding for Callender Street, Blackstaff Square, Transport hub, Writers Square and Hill Street. Discussions are on going about potential for co-funding of some of the additional features.



As part of the development work contractors have identified an ongoing issue with the power sources linked to DFI lighting columns. Where they do not currently meet safety standards the points require a full upgrade at a cost of £400/point, this is a one off upgrade required to ensure a compliant and safe installation with BS7671. This impacts the majority of columns in use for the festive pole mounted features.

The remedial works to bring the rest of the city up to standard and safety against the core scheme is a total of £77,600 and to facilitate additional scheme elements would cost £29,000 – totalling £106,600.

Discussions have been held with DFI officers and they have advised that while DFI own the columns the infrastructure that lighting power supplies are drawn down from are within BCC ownership and therefore upgrade costs fall to BCC. This allows for access to isolate the power supply for festive lights therefore if a fault occurs only the festive light elements are impacted.

Wayleaves

BCC estates team are continuing to engage with business owners to complete the development of new wayleave agreements to support the scheme. All new wayleaves have been issued with circa 20% returned and ongoing dialogue being facilitated with all key partners. Discussions are well advanced and are being supported by the BIDs to access the appropriate building owners.

3.4 America 250

Following agreement at Committee last month in relation to options to support the marking of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the US Declaration of Independence in 2026, Officers are engaging with stakeholders in relation to planning and activities aligned to America 250.

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland's approach to the 250th commemoration of the founding of the United States of America is pivoted around a number of key themes i.e. food and drink, music, history/heritage, and key attractions or experiences.

Tourism Ireland alongside Tourism Northern Ireland has undertaken a scoping exercise in respect to what sectoral stakeholders may be able to contribute to an overall tourism programme for the 250th commemoration centred around key sites, local anniversaries and marketing opportunities to drive US footfall into the region.

Tourism Ireland will also undertake a digital promotions campaign through e-mail, articles on US websites which will include videos, and instate market opportunities. In terms of media outreach, they will look to undertake:

- Inviting American celebrities who have an Ulster Scotch heritage to come over to Northern Ireland and investigate their roots
- Focused familiarisation trips
- Bespoke food tours for media
- Working on our musical strengths to attract inward visitors
- Targeting the travel trade market via themed webinars outlining key opportunities such as the

Fleadh 2026 in Belfast and Ulster American Folk Park's 50th anniversary as components to consider.

Public Records Office NI (PRONI)

PRONI staff coordinate the US NI Cultural Working Group on behalf of the Department for Communities. DfC will coordinate the communications strategy on finalised components. Work is currently taking place to agree the delivery mechanism for the publicly announced small grants programme which is anticipated to go live in Autumn 2025.

Details shared regarding potential programming included:

- National Museums events centred around key dates and music festivals
- Hillsborough Royal Palace visitor engagement initiatives which may include a joint loan of an original copy of the Declaration of Independence to be co-hosted by HRP and PRONI
- Series of public lectures in PRONI Offices

Ulster Scots Agency

The Ulster Scots Agency is considering a number of avenues to commemorate the 250th anniversary:

- Publications: refresh of the Pioneers Trail map and conversion into booklet format;
- Digital projects: applications have been invited regarding a landmark digital project to narrate the role of Ulster Scots/Scots-Irish in American Independence
- Art: potential for a public art trail in a number of local authorities which have an Ulster Scots-US connection
- Gallery: extension of the Visitor Centre gallery to include a special US 250 exhibition with a long-term ambition of including a permanent loan of a copy of the Declaration of Independence. The Agency has also commenced discussions with Dublin's EPIC Museum with a view to using the Ulster Scots impact on the foundations of America to drive footfall to Belfast.
- Talks: Outreach events to highlight the role of Scots Irish in America's history
- Music: a strategic and signature event which pivots around Belfast-Boston-Nashville relationships. Initial concept is in regard to a weekend event centred around 4 July using American artists who also have a link to Belfast/NI e.g. Getty Music. This could act as a hook to attract inward visitors from both Sister Cities and present a cultural offering around an economic mission, should Belfast City Council agree to develop

such a programme. Given the scale of such an event, the Agency would also propose city dressing on NI-US 250 within its communication and promotional channels

Linenhall Library

Linenhall Library has expressed willingness to develop and house an exhibition and are prepared to do so around a theme identified by BCC e.g. links between city's emigrants which had economic impact on founding of the US.

Our Sister Cities

Research on the State Commission websites for both our Sister Cities shows that both have small grants programmes to commemorate the Semi quincennial (Massachusetts has assigned funding, whilst Tennessee is seeking applications). Initiatives appear to be centred around museums and heritage sites.

Officers will liaise with the Department for Communities and with stakeholders with a view to bringing back a further report.

3.5 New Years Eve

The Millennium Celebrations was a significant celebration across the globe and was celebrated in Belfast with an event outside City Hall. It was felt at the time that there was some merit in continuing to provide an event in subsequent years, this included two years of a Radio One Dance Party and a small concert at City Hall.

However, this particular event was discontinued for a number of reasons:

- Appetite – while there will always be some voicing of the wish for a New Years event in the City, there are questions over the appeal of attending a late concert in mid-winter.
- Cost of staging this event was significant, both in respect of suppliers charging high 'holiday' rates but also artists. Costs a decade ago were circa £250k for an audience of 3,000-4000, and with event delivery costs rising significantly post-pandemic, the cost of an New Years Eve event could be north of £400,000.
- The opportunity cost to Council is very significant.

As part of the development of the cultural strategy recommendations were that Council did not host an outdoor New Years Eve event and as Members are aware there is no budget for supporting NY celebrations in 2025 and there are already considerable pressures on both the Culture Tourism and Events Teams. Officers will however engage with city partners to understand their plans for New Year 2025 and a report on this will be brought back to the committee.

As part of the agreed work in relation to the events action plan officers are continuing to benchmark and assess the costs and impact of hosting NYE celebrations for future years.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.1** The Fleadh will be delivered in accordance with draft expenditure budget and agreed financial plan. Remaining financial resources will be met from within existing departmental budgets and officers are continuing to work with partners to reduce the financial burden on council.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

- 5.1** The cultural strategy, A City Imagining has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). The Fleadh will be subject to a further equality screening and officers are engaged with the equality unit on progressing this.”

The Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism, provided the Committee with an overview of the updates for each of the major events. She also highlighted the recent Maritime Festival, which was held on 6th and 7th September, 2025. It was reported that a full post-event update would be provided to the Committee in due course.

During discussion, the Senior Manger answered questions from the Members in relation to the Festive Lighting Scheme, the Oireachtas na Samhna and New Year's Eve.

In response to a Member's question on the Festive Lighting Scheme, the Senior Manager stated that, whilst the core infrastructure for the 2025 lighting would remain similar to previous years, the ambition would be to expand and enhance the scheme going forward for future years. She advised that festive lighting visuals would be circulated to Members in due course.

In relation to America 250, a number of Members highlighted that, as part of the celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence, it was important to recognise and acknowledge historical issues such as the slave trade and the anti-slavery movement, and also the impact of the colonisation of North America on indigenous peoples. A Member also suggested

that as part of the engagement in relation to America 250, the outreach be broadened to include those of Irish heritage.

A further Member welcomed the update in relation to America 250 and requested that the Committee be provided with regular updates on both America 250 and New Year's Eve.

The Committee:

- i. noted the update on the Fleadh Cheoil; Oireachtas na Samhna; America 250; New Year's Eve; and the Festive Lighting Scheme;
- ii. approved costs associated with the Festive Lighting Scheme;
- iii. agreed that it be provided with regular updates in relation to New Year's Eve and America 250; and
- iv. agreed that, as part of officers' engagement with stakeholders in relation to activities to mark America 250, consideration be given to the acknowledgement of the historical links to the slave trade and the anti-slavery movement; recognition of the impact that the colonisation of North America had on indigenous peoples; and to broadening the outreach to include those of Irish heritage.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Belfast Regeneration Place Based Growth Proposition.

The Committee also considered correspondence from the Department for Communities in response to its request for an update on what consideration had been given to the transfer of regeneration powers to local government.

During discussion, a Member welcomed the update provided within the report, however, expressed disappointment in respect of the Department for Communities response, which stated that any further transfer of regeneration powers would require a fundamental review of the position across several Departments, consideration by the Executive and the introduction of primary legislation, and advised that there was currently no plans to take this forward.

The Committee noted:

- i. the update on the Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition, which included the Belfast Business Case for Place-Based Investment;
- ii. the update on the strategic engagement with the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, which included a forthcoming joint Ministerial meeting with the Executive as part of a strategic engagement programme aligned to the Belfast Place Based

Growth Proposition and would seek to secure place based and regeneration investment funding;

- iii. the continued role for Members in terms of political party engagement at local, MP and ministerial level; and
- iv. a response received from the Department for Communities to correspondence from the Committee which requested an update on what consideration had been given to the transfer of regeneration powers to local government.

Shaping Sustainable Places Consultation Response

The Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the Department for Communities consultation on its proposed 'Shaping Sustainable Places Programme'. The report also outlined a draft Council response to the public consultation.

The Committee:

- i. noted the Department for Communities (DfC) public consultation on its proposed 'Shaping Sustainable Places' programme;
- ii. approved a response to the DfC Shaping Sustainable Places consultation, subject to comments from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- iii. noted that the response would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 19th September, 2025, given the potential financial and resource implications of the programme; and
- iv. noted that the response would be submitted to the Department for Communities on the 21st September, 2025, with the caveat that it would be subject to Council ratification on the 1st October, 2025.

Department for Infrastructure Transport Strategy 2035 – Consultation Response

The Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the Department for Infrastructure's consultation on its draft 'Transport Strategy 2035'. The report also outlined a draft Council response to the public consultation.

The Committee:

- i. noted the main highlights of the Department for Infrastructure's draft 'Transport Strategy 2035'; and
- ii. approved a response to the draft 'Transport Strategy 2035' consultation; and

- iii. noted that the response would be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure by the deadline of 16th December, 2025, subject to Council ratification on 1st October 2025.

Growing Business and the Economy

Feedback on Outcomes of the Belfast Health and Work Steering Group

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the work of the Belfast Health and Work Steering Group, which was established through the Belfast Labour Market Partnership.

The Committee noted the key recommendations of the Belfast Health and Work Steering Group, and the next steps and implications for the work of the Council and its partners.

Correspondence

US Film Tariff – Responses

The Committee noted responses from the Executive Office, the Minister for the Economy and the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport in relation to potential US tariffs on films produced outside of the US.

Rent Controls - Department for Communities Response

The Committee noted a response from the Department for Communities in relation to rent controls.

Strategic and Operational Issues

Notices of Motion Quarterly Update

The Committee considered a report which provided a quarterly update on the Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that it was responsible for, in line with the agreement of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that all Committees receive regular updates.

The report outlined that there was currently eight Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which the Committee was responsible for, and recommended the closure of the following two motions:

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

- **Rent Controls; and**
- **Proposed US Tariff on Films Made Outside of the US.**

The report also provided an update on the six motions which remained open.

The Committee:

- i. noted the updates to all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that the Committee was responsible for, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- ii. agreed to the closure of the following two Notices of Motion, as outlined in 3.3 and Appendix 1 of the report:
 - Rent Controls (ID 309); and
 - Proposed US Tariff on Films Made Outside of the US (ID 450).

Issues Raised in Advance

Rosetta Quietway (Councillor de Faoite to raise)

Councillor de Faoite reminded the Committee that, in April 2023, he had proposed a motion, which was subsequently passed by the Council, which recognised that many neighbourhoods across the city suffer from congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic, under investment in active travel measures and road safety issues, and called on the Department for Infrastructure to engage with the Council, relevant local organisations and residents to deliver a 'Rosetta Quietway' to help tackle some of those issues within the area. He expressed his concern and frustration at the lack of progress in relation to the delivery of a quietway for the Rosetta area.

He highlighted that, at its meeting on 4th September, 2025, the East Belfast Area Working Group had received a presentation from the EastSide Partnership on the Connswater Greenway, which also included discussion regarding the potential to expand and deliver additional greenway and quietway networks across East Belfast and the city. He stated that, given the continued congestion and road safety issues, Rosetta, Lisnasharragh District Electoral Area (DEA), was a prime location to deliver a quietway to help reduce congestion and provide a cleaner and greener neighbourhood for residents.

At the request of Councillor de Faoite, the Committee agreed that Council officers would seek to facilitate, alongside local Councillors for the Lisnasharragh DEA and the EastSide Partnership, an engagement session with the Department for Infrastructure to explore options in respect of the potential to deliver a 'Rosetta Quietway'.

Chairperson