



<b>Subject:</b>	City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2025/26 and End of Year Report 2024/25
<b>Date:</b>	07 May 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Damien Martin, Strategic Director, Place and Economy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	
Sometime in the future	
Never	

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide an end of year report on the key actions contained in the 2024-25 City Growth and Regeneration (CG&R) Committee Plan, as agreed by this Committee in May 2024.
1.2	To present to Committee the draft City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan for 2025-26 and associated Tourism & Culture workplan. A further draft of the Committee plan incorporating key performance information will be brought to the committee in June. Should any amendments be required following agreement of the Corporate Delivery Plan, these will also be reported in June.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of the end of year report as set out in Appendix 1;</li> <li>• Approve the draft City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan for 2025-26 attached at Appendix 2, subject to additional performance information being brought to the next committee meeting.</li> <li>• Approve the priority work areas and budget allocations presented in the Tourism &amp; Culture workplan for 2025-26 as set out in Appendix 3; and</li> <li>• Approve the contribution to support the ongoing development of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (work to be coordinated through Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) up to a maximum of £35,000.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>CG&amp;R Committee Plan 2024-25 End of Year Report</u></p> <p>While the Committee receives regular updates on progress for specific programmes and initiatives, Appendix 1 sets out an overview of progress against the strategic priorities and deliverables that were contained within last year's Committee Plan (2024-25) as of the 31st March 2025. This builds on the report that members received at the November 2024 committee meeting which provided a six-monthly update.</p>
3.2	<p><u>CG&amp;R Committee Plan 2025-26</u></p> <p>Each year the Committee is tasked with agreeing a Committee Plan for the year ahead. This year's Committee Plan (attached at Appendix 2) has been developed to align to the council's Corporate Plan 2025-28, member feedback and engagement, in addition to decisions relevant to the Committee agreed through the rates setting process. The Plan is structured to articulate the council's contribution to the recently refreshed Belfast Agenda. In particular, the strategic priorities and deliverables within the draft Committee Plan contribute to the "Our Economy" and "Our Place" themes of the community plan.</p>

3.3	During the last 12 months, members have asked that consideration be given to measuring progress and reporting performance with the addition of annual targets for agreed Key Performance Indicators. (KPIs). The development of a refreshed planning and performance management framework has been an internal priority for council with last year's Corporate Delivery Plan committing to "develop a refreshed set of corporate performance indicators to support performance management and regular internal monitoring and reporting".	
3.4	This work is ongoing across council and significant progress has been made within the business areas that report to this committee, including the introduction of new monitoring processes and installation of new monitoring systems. Further discussion however is required to ensure that accompanying targets for KPIs are SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound.	
3.5	The Performance Monitoring section of the draft Committee Plan is not yet complete and will be presented to members at the June meeting. It is proposed that KPIs and progress towards their targets will be reported on a six-monthly basis together with an accompanying progress report against all deliverables.	
3.6	The council's Corporate Delivery Plan will be presented to the May meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. Should any changes be required, an update of the committee plan will also be brought to the attention of members at its June meeting.	
3.7	<u>Culture and Tourism Workplan/ Programme Budgets</u> Many of the activities outlined within the draft Committee Plan will be resourced through the respective departmental budgets for 2025-26 in line with the Scheme of Delegation and in accordance with section G of the Financial Regulations. Members are asked to approve the priority Culture & Tourism work areas for the 2025-26 financial year and their allocation from their respective budgets presented in Appendix 3.	
3.8	In addition to the Fleadh Cheoil, there are a number of other regional and overseas events held throughout the Fleadh year and it is important that appropriate council representatives attend these gatherings to experience in-person and learn directly the range of organisational and operational considerations in delivering an event of this nature. There is an expectation from Comhaltas HQ that the newly appointed host city attend these events. Attendance will demonstrate Council's full and ongoing commitment to delivering a first class Fleadh in Belfast. Permission is therefore sought for the Lord Mayor and appropriate officers to attend the following events:	
	Event, Date	Proposed Attendee(s)

	All Ireland Fleadh Wexford, Aug 2025	Lord Mayor, elected members, relevant Chief Officers / Directors and Senior Managers. Attendance at relevant components by external strategic and operational stakeholders will also be required .
	Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner Dublin, Dec 2025	Lord Mayor, Director
	GB Convention England, Feb / Mar 2026	Chief Executive, Director
	US Comhaltas US city tbc, Apr 2026	Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director, Senior Manager
3.9	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The draft Committee Plan 2025-26 and the subsequent work plans are aligned with the budget agreed by the Special Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025, namely a cash limit for the CG&R Committee of £22.9 million as set out in Appendix 2.	
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Strategies, programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officers and subject to appropriate equality, good relations and rural needs assessment.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>	
	Appendix 1 - CG&R Committee Plan 2024-25 End of Year Report Appendix 2 – CG&R Committee Plan 2025-26 Appendix 3 – Tourism & Culture Work Plan 2025-26	