

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast  
City Council**

18<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

## **MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall and remotely via Teams on Friday, 22nd November, 2024 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

#### **2. Restricted Items**

- (a) Quarter 2 Finance Report 2024/25 (Pages 1 - 24)
- (b) Revenue Estimates 2025-26 and Medium-Term Financial Planning (Pages 25 - 48)
- (c) Update on Hardship Programme 2024/25 (Pages 49 - 56)
- (d) Housing Led Regeneration Programme - Appointment of a Private Sector Partner (Pages 57 - 96)

- (e) Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme Review (Pages 97 - 146)
  - (f) Heritage Assets Update (Pages 147 - 156)
  - (g) Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update (Pages 157 - 162)
3. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**
- (a) Notice of Motion – Epilepsy – Education and Training (Pages 163 - 166)
  - (b) Notice of Motion – Blood and Bone Marrow Donations (Pages 167 - 170)
  - (c) Notice of Motion – NILGOSC – Disposal of Government Bonds (Pages 171 - 174)
4. **Governance**
- (a) Schedule of Meetings 2025 (Pages 175 - 178)
  - (b) Change of Date of Council Meeting in January and Schedule of Meetings 2025 (Pages 179 - 182)
5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
- (a) Innovation Update  
Moved to restricted
  - (b) Women's Safety in the City (Pages 183 - 190)
  - (c) Planning Update (Pages 191 - 206)
6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 207 - 212)
  - (b) Assets Report (Pages 213 - 226)
7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 227 - 234)
8. **Equality and Good Relations**
- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 11th November 2024 (Pages 235 - 304)
9. **Operational Issues**
- (a) Minutes of Meeting of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 305 - 308)
  - (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 309 - 314)

- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Cost of Living Working Group (Pages 315 - 318)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Epilepsy: Education and Training</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
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
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

After Committee Decision	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Epilepsy – Education and Training, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 24th October.
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>
	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p>
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th November:</p> <p><b><u>Epilepsy – Education and Training</u></b></p> <p>“This Council notes the fact that Northern Ireland has the highest prevalence of Epilepsy in the UK.</p> <p>The Council agrees to consider providing better education about Epilepsy, and training for staff and Councillors in how to deal with seizures and other episodes.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Michael Long</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Sammy Douglas, High Sheriff</p>
3.2	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to provide training for staff and Members- the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for Human Resources and the People Strategy; and the Members' Development Programme and the motion has been referred to this Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion.</p> <p>Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>

3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Blood and Bone Marrow Donations</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

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  5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
  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
  7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Blood and Bone Marrow Donations, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 24th October.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th November:</p> <p><b><u>Blood and Bone Marrow Donations</u></b></p> <p>“This Council recognises that donating blood and bone marrow is one of the most precious things a person can do as it can help to save a life. Our Council wants to encourage any eligible staff to take part in regular blood donation by providing them with appropriate time off to do so. This motion requests that we provide our staff with adequate paid time to take part in the selfless act of giving blood and/or to donate bone marrow. We also request that the Council explores ways in which they can make it easier for staff to donate blood, such as, blood donation events at the workplace.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Christine Bower</p> <p>Secunder: Councillor Tara Brooks</p>
3.2	The motion calls upon the Council to explore ways to make is easier for staff to donate blood, such as blood donation events in the workplace - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for Human Resources and the motion has been referred to this Committee.
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion.</p> <p>Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>

3.4	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – NILGOSC – Disposal of Government Bonds</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

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7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to NILGOSC – Disposal of Government Bonds, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 24th October.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th November:</p> <p><b><u>NILGOSC – Disposal of Government Bonds</u></b></p> <p>“This council notes that Northern Ireland Local Government pension provider NILGOSC purchased government bonds from the Israeli government which were being used by the Tel Aviv administration to fund its operations both within Israel and elsewhere.</p> <p>As the pension provider for all local council workers, the Education Authority, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, NI Libraries and many others including schools, it was a shock to many of the 176,000 members of this pension scheme that it was directly funding the Netanyahu-led government. Given the widespread horror felt by people of all political backgrounds at the targeting of civilians and children by the Israeli government in the war in Gaza the use of workers' and public sector money in a loan to the Israeli government was and is unacceptable.</p> <p>Belfast City Council expresses its deep concern at the decision to purchase these bonds, welcomes the fact they have now been divested, and will write to NILGOSC requiring that purchase of Israeli government bonds is never repeated.</p> <p>Belfast City Council will commission an independent report evaluating the relationship between the council and NILGOSC, the performance of the NILGOSC fund when compared to similar pension funds, all contributions made by the council to the fund, including how they are impacted by the fund's performance.”</p>

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Proposer: Councillor Carl Whyte</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to commission an independent report - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for Finance matters and the motion has been referred to this Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Schedule of Meetings 2025</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22nd November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
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<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>					
<b>After Committee Decision</b> <b>After Council Decision</b> <b>Sometime in the future</b> <b>Never</b>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

<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 advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee between January and December, 2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings, as set out below, and to agree to the holding of additional special meetings, if required, to consider the rate-setting process, on dates to be determined in consultation with the Chairperson.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The monthly meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is normally held at 9.30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday of each month.
3.2	However, it is necessary on occasions to move some meetings to earlier/later in the month.
3.3	Members will also be aware that a special meeting is normally scheduled in January, in case it is required for the consideration of the rate-setting process.
3.4	There is always the possibility that additional meetings may be required for this purpose. If so, these meetings would have to be arranged at short notice. The Committee is being asked, therefore, to agree to the holding of such meetings on dates and times to be determined in consultation with the Chairperson.
3.5	The following dates have been identified for meetings of the Strategic Policy Committee for the period from January to December, 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 17th January at 9.30 a.m. (Rate setting, if required)</li> <li>• Friday 24th January at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 21st February at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 21st March at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 18th April at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday, 23rd May at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 20th June at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• No monthly meeting in July</li> <li>• Friday 22nd August at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 19th September at 9.30 a.m.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 24th October at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 21st November at 9.30 a.m.</li> <li>• Friday 19th December at 9.30 a.m.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Change of Date of Council Meeting in January and Schedule of Meetings 2025</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22nd November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
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<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>					
<b>After Committee Decision</b> <b>After Council Decision</b> <b>Sometime in the future</b> <b>Never</b>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 30px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td style="width: 100%; height: 15px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 100%; height: 15px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 100%; height: 15px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 100%; height: 15px;"></td></tr> </table>				

<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 consider a change to the normal date for the monthly Council meeting in January.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to move the Council meeting in January from Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January to Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The Council's Standing Order 1 states that:  <i>"Monthly meetings of the Council will be held on the first working day of each month except in August. Monthly Meetings shall not, however, take place on a Bank or Public Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but shall be held on the next following weekday instead."</i>
3.2	In previous years, Members have commented that the date scheduled for the monthly meeting of the Council around the New Year period means that some cannot attend due to holiday commitments. The same can be said for officers, some of whom are also on holiday around that time.
3.3	In 2025, the January meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , the first working day following the New Year public holidays. There would not be any difficulty in moving this meeting to Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January at 6.00 p.m., as no other meetings are scheduled for that date.
3.4	It is, therefore, proposed that the January meeting of the Council take place on Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m.
3.5	If the Committee is minded to agree to this date, then the schedule of meetings of the Council for 2025 will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 6.00 p.m. – Annual Meeting</li> </ul>

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 1st July at 10.45 a.m. – Special: Somme Commemoration</li> <li>• Monday 1st July at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• No monthly meeting in August</li> <li>• Monday 1st September at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Wednesday 1st October at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Monday 3rd November at 6.00 p.m.</li> <li>• Monday 1st December at 6.00 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.7	None associated with this report.
4.0	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer(s):</b>	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Corporate Services Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Operational Director Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
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<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>					
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

<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</b>
1.1	To update Members on recent committee discussions and other meetings related to addressing the issue of violence against women and girls and possible interventions to improve women's safety in the city.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the discussions held and decisions taken at the People and Communities and City Growth and Regeneration Committees (November 2024);</li> <li>• Note the cross-departmental and cross sectoral work being delivered by, supported, or endorsed by the council;</li> <li>• Note the multi-agency stakeholders currently involved in this work and the discussions which took place at the Multi-Agency Operational Task Force on the City Centre which took place on 13 November 2024;</li> <li>• Agree short-term interventions to support women's safety in greater Belfast, together with plans for further engagement with stakeholders to develop further interventions for implementation in the medium term and that these form part of considerations for use of in-year underspend or external funding, if applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Background and Main Issues</b>
3.1	Members have discussed the important issues of ending violence against women and girls and improving safety for women in several recent committee meetings. This has included:
3.2	<p>Discussion of The Executive Office (TEO) Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Funding Initiative – 2024-2026 which was discussed at SP&amp;R committee on 25 October 2024;</p> <p>The Women's Night Safety Charter, discussed at SP&amp;R meeting on 25 October 2024;</p> <p>Proposal raised by Cllr Ruth Brooks at the People and Communities Committee on 5 November 2024 that:</p> <p><i>...officers (should) examine existing budgets and funding streams with a view to identifying initiatives that would support women's safety in greater Belfast. It was agreed also that a report in this regard be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd November, for consideration.</i></p>

3.3	<p>In addition, the People and Communities Committee agreed that, in conjunction with the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, a special meeting be convened to which a range of stakeholders would be invited to consider city-wide and multi-agency initiatives to support women's safety in greater Belfast. The proposals were also raised at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee by Cllr Tracy Kelly where they were endorsed.</p>
3.4	<p>This report is intended to fulfil the Committees' request for a report to be brought to SP&amp;R Committee, as outlined above, and provide an update on activity currently underway by council, partners and other stakeholders in this space.</p>
3.5	<p>Appendix 1 contains information about the range of council activity currently underway. This work cuts across a number of partnerships and programmes and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onus Safe City Award;</li> <li>• White Ribbon Charter;</li> <li>• Onus Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence - Platinum level;</li> <li>• Actions within the Gender Action Plan 2024-27;</li> <li>• Delivery of the Local Change Fund and Regional Grant Programme as part of TEO's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework;</li> <li>• Programme of projects funded by and delivered through the PCSP structures; and</li> <li>• Delivery of interventions, advice and guidance to end violence against women and girls within the Wider University &amp; Lower Ormeau (WULO) Action Plan.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>These initiatives provide a useful foundation upon which to build future interventions in partnership with relevant stakeholders and support groups.</p>
	<p><b><u>Update since Committee Discussions</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>When the issue was raised, Members at the People &amp; Communities and City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committees were concerned that actions should be identified, if possible, in advance of the Christmas period. A meeting of the Multi-Agency Operational Task Force on the City Centre subsequently met on Wednesday 13 November 2024, attended by DfC, DfI, PSNI, Linen Quarter BID, Cathedral BID, Belfast One, Retail NI, Belfast Chamber and Belfast City Council. At this meeting partners provided a number of updates about activity in the run up to Christmas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of personal safety alarms to the Linen Quarter BID, with a request for additional funding being brought forward to PCSPs for the purchase and supply of additional devices;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working with UU and QUB, with a student safety survey having been undertaken and the Community Safety team hosting a number of pop-up safety events and supplying a number of personal safety alarms to students.</li> <li>• The commencement of the PSNI Christmas Programme of activity and</li> <li>• BCC Safe Neighbourhood Officers are planning additional programming over the December period which will see an increase visibility of PSNI and SNOs throughout the day and evening.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>The BCC Women’s Steering Group, which includes elected Members and officers met on 11 November 2024 and together with the Women’s Network, will consider the possibility of aligning further resource to their action plan particularly those actions designed to highlight the issue of EVAWG including the programme of activity related to International Women’s Day. Information has also been circulated in respect of the Reclaim the Night march on Saturday 30 November 2024.</p>
3.9	<p>An internal officer meeting was also held to consider suggestions made by Members at Committee, including the provision of self defence classes in community facilities and the provision of alarms. It has been confirmed that alarms can be covered from within existing PCSP budgets and it is likely that the initial provision of self defence classes will be under £5,000 and it is anticipated this can be found within existing departmental spend limits.</p>
3.10	<p>It is intended that further engagement will take place with stakeholders to discuss further potential interventions so that these can be considered as part of any future discussion around the use of in-year underspend and to take advantage of any external funding opportunities.</p>
3.11	<p>In previous years, anti-spike kits were procured through the PCSP with the aim of distributing to licensed premises across the city. When this proved difficult to implement, the kits were distributed to women and girls through community organisations. Consideration is also being given to whether kits should be made available at council-run events and other events on council land.</p>
3.12	<p>This year saw the delivery of EmpowHER workshops which included safety information to women and girls, including personal alarms. It is proposed that officers work with local community groups and our own Community Services Team to ensure the distribution of the remaining personal alarms before Christmas.</p>

	<b>On-going engagement</b>
3.13	<p>Belfast City Council host and/or participate in a range of multi-agency forums which focus on safety issues and concerns, they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police and Community Safety Partnerships</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Operational Task Group</li> <li>• City Centre Tasking Group (Community Safety)</li> <li>• Strategic Leadership Group including Complex Lives</li> <li>• Community Safety Forums across Belfast</li> <li>• Night Time Volunteer Group</li> </ul>
3.14	<p>With the limited time before the Christmas period and the range of multi-agency meetings currently taking place it may be difficult to get the same stakeholders together to host a conversation on women's safety.</p>
3.15	<p>Given this, the opportunity will be taken to include 'Women's Safety' and 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' to the above multi agency meeting agendas to ensure coordination of initiatives and strategies.</p>
3.16	<p>Arrangements will be made for the specific joint meeting of People and Communities Committee and City Growth and Regeneration Committee with stakeholders, which was requested at the November People and Communities meeting as soon as possible following council ratification.</p>
	<p><b>Safer Socialising Initiative and Women's Night Safety Charter</b></p>
3.17	<p>Members will recall that at it's October meeting the Committee received a request to approve the Council's involvement in the Safer Socialising Initiative and for the organisation to sign up to the Women's Night Safety Charter. Members deferred for consideration of the matter to enable further information to be provided. Members are asked to note that a meeting between Members and Hospitality Ulster is being arranged.</p>
	<b>Related Notices of Motion</b>
3.18	<p>At the SP&amp;R meeting on 25 October 2024, Members asked that an update on related notices of motion be provided to the committee. An overview of these motions including their latest status will be brought to the December SP&amp;R meeting.</p>

	<b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>
3.19	The immediate cost implications of this report can be met from within existing departmental expenditure limits.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.20	The proposals are intended to support the safety of women and girls in the city.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Current initiatives being delivered by Belfast City Council

## APPENDIX 1

Current initiatives being delivered by Belfast City Council:

### **White Ribbon**

In February 2020, Elected Members approved a council motion to work towards 'Safe City' accreditation, including support for the White Ribbon Charter. In previous years, the council has supported the White Ribbon Campaign by facilitating the display of a White Ribbon at the front of the City Hall on 25 November. The council has agreed that annually the Lord Mayor will re-affirm the council's commitment to Belfast being recognised a Safe City by signing the White Ribbon Charter, promoting the initiative internally and externally and including all the associated actions of the White Ribbon campaign within the council's internal campaign for Safe city accreditation. The Lord Mayor and Chief Executive will sign the Charter on Monday 2 December 2024.

### **Onus Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence** - Platinum level achieved in October 2019

This is assessed annually and is achieved by having our Workplace Policy on Domestic Violence and Abuse, associated network of trusted colleagues, regular trusted colleague training and support, and general awareness raising training, effective communications and signposting to additional support outside of work.

**Onus Safe City Award** – January 2021 which is assessed annually.

**Gender Action Plan 2024-27** includes the following actions:

- Work with TEO to deliver Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls;
- Annual funding of International Women's Day rally and march in the city - organised by Reclaim the Agenda;
- Partnership project Queen's University to improve design public spaces / interventions to EVAWG; and
- GAP contributes funding to supplement domestic violence training and awareness raising across the City.

### **Community Safety – PCSP delivery Plan**

Actions and interventions include:

- Hollie Guard App- for 120 women and girls
- PSNI/ QUB 'Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls Project'
- South Reactive project- Women's Aid
- EA Youth Conferences on International women's day to deliver "Her Say, Her Way"
- EmpowHer- providing safety information and practical items to women and girls
- BADSVAP- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid delivered the following workshops, sessions and seminars:
  - Domestic Abuse and the Road to Justice Conference
  - Domestic Abuse & Children/ Young People Seminar and Animation Launch
  - Youth Sessions Development – Abuse & Coercion in Relationships for Young People
  - Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee Women facing Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation Seminar (FGM)

- Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Resources
  - LGBTQIA+ Leaflet
  - Bus Campaign
  - Jigsaw Programme
  - Non-fatal Strangulation Seminar
  - Counselling Sessions – for specific intensive therapeutic interventions.
- 
- PSNI DV Home Security Kits
  - Jeet Kuon Do – Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Trust Ltd
  - Talking About Sexual Consent.
  - East Belfast CIP Women's One Stop Shop
  - Walkie talkie Girlie – Support for group
  - Additional Safer Neighbourhood Officer Patrols



<b>Subject:</b>	Planning Information
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer(s):</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

<b>Restricted Reports</b>													
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
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<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 or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The report is for notation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Background</u></b>
3.1	The Committee received an update on Planning Performance at its meeting on the 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024. At that meeting and previously, the Committee sought a regular update on Major applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee, especially those where a Decision Notice has yet to be issued.
3.2	All Major applications must be determined by the Planning Committee. The Key Performance Indicator (given in weeks) is calculated from when an application is considered to be valid to when the Decision Notice (“Green Form”) is issued. This means that any delays either pre- or post- committee will impact on the KPI. The target for determining a Major application is 30 weeks.
	<b><u>Major applications</u></b>
3.3	Appendix 1 sets out the Major applications that are currently with the Council to determine. Details are given on the location, proposal, the validation date and target date for determination (using the 30 week target set out in the Key Performance Indicator) as well as a status update.
	<b><u>Applications determined by Committee</u></b>
3.4	Appendix 2 sets out the applications that have been determined by Committee since February 2022 which are yet to issue. For completeness information is also given on those applications determined by Committee which have had their Decision Notice issued. Details are given on the time taken (in weeks) to bring the applications before Committee and where decisions are yet to be issued, information is given relating to the main reason for the delay.
	<b><u>Conclusion</u></b>
3.5	This report will be brought to each Planning Committee and to each Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for information on an ongoing basis
	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.7	There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at September 2024 Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at September 2024

## Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 06.11.24

Number	Application No.	Category	Location	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date	Status
1	LA04/2022/0809/F	Major	Lands to the south and west of Woodland Grange to the north of Blacks Gate and to the east of Moor Park Mews Belfast.	Amendments to approved schemes ref. Z/2008/0993/F (erection of 53 No. dwellings) & ref. Z/2013/0120/F (erection of 46 No. dwellings); to reduce overall density from 99 No. dwellings to 94 No. dwellings and associated and ancillary works.	21-Apr-22		CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
2	LA04/2022/1206/F	Major	Glenwood Primary School 4-22 Upper Riga Street Belfast BT13 3GW.	Demolition of existing 1960s three-storey block and caretakers house and erection of split level two-storey extension and refurbishment of original school building to provide 21no. classrooms, including 4no. support classrooms, a nurture suite and a school canteen. New boundary walls with railings, landscaping, car parking, new access from the Shankill Road and retention of existing access from Upper Riga Street. Works to include 4no temporary classroom units for the duration of construction work. (revised description and plans)	05-Aug-22		CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
3	LA04/2023/2633/F	Major	St Teresa's GAC, 2 Glen Road Heights, Belfast BT11 8ER	Proposed extension to existing clubhouse to provide indoor sports hall, changing rooms, reception, and fitness suite. Proposed relocation of grass pitch and new 4G training pitch with integrated ball walls. Proposed annex building with club store and matchday shop. Site works including increased parking, fencing, catch nets, floodlighting, dugouts, paths, and other associated amenities.	14-Mar-23	10-Oct-23	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
4	LA04/2023/2922/F	Major	Site bounded by Glenalpin Street, Wellwood Street and Norwood Street, Belfast	Redevelopment of existing surface car park for the erection of new purpose built, managed student accommodation scheme comprising of 354no. units with shared amenity spaces, ancillary accommodation, on street car parking and landscaping.	23-Mar-23	19-Oct-23	PLANNING APPEAL IN PROGRESS
5	LA04/2023/3483/F	Major	Land North of Former Corpus Christi College, Accessed off Michael Davitts GAC Grounds, Via St Mary's Gardens, Belfast	Proposed Michael Davitt Heritage & Community Centre, Reception, Toilets and associated Car Parking with Exhibition Signage to existing Trim Trail	09-Oct-23	06-May-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
6	LA04/2023/3832/F	Major	Blacks Gate Development (Former Visteon Factory) Blacks Road Belfast, BT10	Section 54 application to vary condition No. 4 of LA04/2013/434/F (as amended in PAC decision 2016/A0033) to vary trigger point for provision of community centre.  Proposed amended text for this condition: In accordance with the Phasing Plan agreed under Condition 3 and on the occupation of the first residential unit, the Council shall be notified, and no later than six years from that date the Community Centre and associated infrastructure, marked on stamped approved drawing no. 2E, dated 28.08.2015 shall be completed and a report submitted to the Council to verify this	09-Aug-23	06-Mar-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

7	LA04/2023/3799/F	Major	Vacant lands (partial site of the former Wolfhill Flax Spinning Mill) located to the south, of Wolfhill Manor, north of Wolfhill Grove and west of Mill Avenue, Ligoniel Road, Belfast, BT14 8NR	New single storey 10-class based primary school, separate nursery school accommodation and school meals accommodation to facilitate the relocation of St. Vincent De Paul Primary School and Nursery from existing site on Ligoniel Road, Belfast. Proposal includes new pedestrian and vehicular accesses onto Mill Avenue, car parking, covered cycle storage area and hard play areas. Hard and soft landscaping including wildlife walkway, fencing, retaining walls, underground drainage system to include the reinstatement of underground storm sewer and headwall into adjacent DFI River wayleave. Includes temporary contractors compound and all associated site works.	09-Oct-23	06-May-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
8	LA04/2023/4181/F	Major	Lands comprising the existing Sydenham Wastewater Pumping Station west of Park Avenue, Connswater River and King George V Playing Fields, to the south of the Sydenham By-Pass, east of The Oval football stadium, north and east of Parkgate Gardens and north of Parkgate Crescent, Parkgate Parade and Mersey Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing Wastewater Pumping Station (WwPS) with reinstatement of site as a landscaped area. Construction of a replacement WwPS including associated control building and hardstanding, the raising of site levels, in-channel works, provision of new rising main, other ancillary buildings, the creation of an access road on lands within the King George V Playing Fields to serve the facility, landscaping and other ancillary works. Provision of a temporary working area on lands within the King George V Playing Fields, the creation of a temporary access road from Mersey Street to facilitate construction traffic on lands to the rear of 1-35 Parkgate Gardens, the creation of a temporary footway adjacent to 88 Park Avenue and other ancillary development and landscaping restoration works.	14-Nov-23	11-Jun-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
9	LA04/2023/4405/F	Major	Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE	Redevelopment of existing storage sheds, temporary office structures and yard area to provide new replacement Analytical Services Laboratories.	20-Dec-23	17-Jul-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
10	LA04/2024/0015/F	Major	Lands at Cabin Hill, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4	Amendment to Reserved Matters Approval Z/2007/2069/RM to include reduced number of units (43 dwellings and 10no. apartments), reconfiguration of internal road and associated ancillary works.	22-Dec-23	19-Jul-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
11	LA04/2024/0122/F	Major	Former Belfast Metropolitan College Campus, Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PG	Proposed mixed use development comprising of 62No. social housing units (mix of dwellings and apartments) and a new children's centre, car parking, landscaping, open space and all associated site and access works.	19-Jan-24	16-Aug-24	SITE INSPECTED
12	LA04/2024/0211/F	Major	Existing Football Stadium The Oval Parkgate Drive Belfast BT4 1EW.	Redevelopment of the existing stadium by way of demolition of both existing stands and construction of two new spectator stands with reconfiguration of existing standing terracing at goal ends, new turnstiles and associated siteworks including new floodlighting, additional car parking and improved circulation routes to provide an overall capacity for 6000 spectators on site.	15-Mar-24	11-Oct-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
13	LA04/2024/0369/F	Major	Lands at Former Monarch Laundry site, and Broadway Hall Site, No's 451 - 457 Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 6HD.	Proposed Specialist Nursing and Residential Care Facility comprising approximately 158 no. beds, day/dining rooms, treatment rooms, staff rooms, office/store rooms, including car parking provision, cycle parking, refuse storage, landscaping, and associated site and access works.	08-Feb-24	05-Sep-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

14	LA04/2024/0285/F	Major	Ardoyne Youth Club, Old Beltex Mill, Flax Street, Belfast, BT14 7EJ	Demolition of existing building and erection of a new purpose-built youth facility including retention of existing chimney. (Renewal of planning permission reference LA04/2018/1998/F)	20-Feb-24	17-Sep-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
15	LA04/2024/0393/F	Major	ECIT Building Queen's Road, Queen's Island, Belfast, BT3 9DT	Proposed 5 storey extension to the East of the ECIT Building (Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology), and 3 storey extension to the West, to provide additional research and development space with associated landscaping and site works	21-Mar-24	17-Oct-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
16	LA04/2024/0429/F	Major	Lands bound by North Street, Royal Avenue, Rosemary Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street located approximately 400m west of Laganside bus station 300m northeast of City Hall and 1km northwest of Central Train Station.	Renewal of planning permission LA04/2017/2126/F (Phase 1B Tribeca) for redevelopment including the construction of a new six storey building on the existing surface level car park, part change of use to create a mixed use development comprising retail units, restaurants and cafes, residential units, offices, church and related community floor space, new streets and public realm works. Demolition of 53 Royal Avenue and 27-31 Rosemary Street and restoration of Central Halls (37-39 Rosemary Street), Masonic Hall (15 Rosemary Street), 43/43a Rosemary Street and retention of 30-34 North Street.	08-Mar-24	04-Oct-24	VALID
17	LA04/2024/0475/F	Major	Ulidia Resource Centre, Somerset Street, Ballynafoy, Belfast, BT7 2GS	Renewal of planning permission ref: LA04/2018/1755/F. New 7 classroom primary school and single unit nursery on the former site of the now demolished Ulidia Primary School. Existing site entrances to be retained and used for site access with proposed car parking, bus parking and drop off, footpaths, boundary treatment, and hard and soft play areas.	18-Apr-24	14-Nov-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
18	LA04/2024/0570/F	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castleview Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and Summerhill Park (nos. 37 & 39).	Change of use of from hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
19	LA04/2024/0569/O	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castleview Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and Summerhill Park (nos. 37 & 39).	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for independent living and assisted living retirement apartments (Use Class C3), associated internal access roads, communal open space, revised access from Castleview Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
20	LA04/2024/0714/F	Major	Units 2A and 2B at 38 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6HR.	Proposed development to create a private medical facility (a hospital within Class C3) comprising of the change of use of part of retail warehouse and the extension of the building to create a private medical facility with a significant element of overnight residential care together with all associated ancillary development.	14-Jun-24	10-Jan-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

21	LA04/2024/0626/F	Major	1 Havelock House Havelock Place, Ormeau, Belfast, BT7 1EB .	Proposed residential development of 104no. dwelling units providing General Needs Social Housing and Category 1 over 55's accommodation consisting of a varied housing mix including family maisonettes, apartments and wheelchair accessible units with all associated site works including; landscaping communal and private amenity space and ancillary cycle and car parking provision..	17-Apr-24	13-Nov-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
22	LA04/2024/0675/F	Major	The Arches Centre 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5AA	Change of Use of first and second floor of The Arches building to provide 39 No. apartments; extension to second floor to provide a further 6 No. apartments and erection of new third floor to provide 19 No. apartments (all social housing dwellings, 64 No. in total), and ancillary/associated works.	13-May-24	09-Dec-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
23	LA04/2024/0664/F	Major	Lands comprising existing Fanum House, Norwood House and adjacent lands, No's 96-110 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BE	Demolition of the existing buildings on the site and construction of a new Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation development across 4 blocks of 6 to 18 stories in height, comprising of 560 student rooms, including landscaped roof terraces, associated amenity, site and access works	19-Apr-24	15-Nov-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
24	LA04/2024/0910/F	Major	70 whitewell Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7ES Site at Hazelwood Integrated College	Redevelopment of Hazelwood Integrated College to include demolition of existing building and development of new school campus, new sports pitch, outdoor play areas, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and retention and refurbishment of the Listed Building (Graymount House) and other associated site works including a temporary mobile village during the construction process.	23-May-24	19-Dec-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
25	LA04/2024/1138/F	Major	Lands including and to the rear of 24-54 Castle Street, 2-6 Queen Street, 1-7 & 21 Fountain Street, Belfast.	Demolition of existing buildings and construction of Purpose Built Multi Storey Managed Student Accommodation (821no. rooms) with heights of between 6-9 storeys and associated shared/ancillary spaces with ground floor retail/retail service units, resident's gym/cinema and ancillary development/uses	04-Jul-24	30-Jan-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
26	LA04/2024/1385/F	Major	Olympic House, Titanic Quarter, 5 Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9DH	Amendment to planning permission Z/2013/0931/F to permit occupation for either Class B1(a) office or Class B1(c) research and development.	09-Aug-24	07-Mar-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
27	LA04/2024/1458/F	Major	Divis and The Black Mountain national Trust Site, Divis Road, Hannahstown, Belfast, BT17 0NG.	Alterations to the site include refurbishing and repurposing of 3no existing vernacular buildings and replacing 1 shed, a small garage and an agricultural structure with a new amenity building. Enhancements to the existing pond network, introduction of signage interpretation and a suite of site-appropriate furniture. Wider site improvement works are proposed including path enhancements and new routes, installation of site furniture and interpretation signage.	20-Sep-24	03-Jan-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
28	LA04/2024/1592/F	Major	Marlborough House, (no. 28-32 Victoria Street), and no. 8 Marlborough Street, Belfast BT1 3GG	residential development comprising the demolition of no. 8 Marlborough Street, partial demolition of existing Marlborough House, and the refurbishment of existing Listed Building (Princes Court), for the erection of 103 no. apartments (mix of 1-bed, 2-bed and 3 bed units), with provision of private amenity, and internal and external communal amenity spaces; and associated site and infrastructure works.	20-Sep-24	18-Apr-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

29	LA04/2024/1635/F	Major	Lands at Nos. 176-184 and No. 202 Woodstock Road and Nos. 2-20 Beersbridge Road, Belfast.	Section 54 application to vary condition 13 of LA04/2022/0209/F regarding vapour protection measures prior to occupation of approved development and refer to the updated Remediation Strategy of September 2024. The removal of the wording of part c of condition 13, which is no longer required.	27-Sep-24	10-Jan-25	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
30	LA04/2024/1761/RM	Major	Land forming Plot 9 of the Kings Hall development as approved by LA04/2020/0845/O.	Application for approval of reserved matters application for a medical facility in accordance with outline planning permission LA04/2020/0845/O, seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping details			Awaiting information to validate
31	LA04/2024/1752/PAN	Major	Lands adjacent and south west of Monagh By-pass, north west of Nos. 17, 19 and 22 Black Ridge Gardens and c.150 metres south east of Nos. 38 to 70 (evens) Black Ridge View (part of the wider Glenmona mixed-use development), Belfast	Proposed mixed use development (in lieu of the previously approved employment zone under LA04/2020/0804/F) comprising 36 no. Category 1 (over 55's) social housing apartments and 7 no. Class B1/B2 Business/Light Industrial Units. Development includes 2 no. access points, car parking, landscaping and all associated site works			Validation Officer Allocated

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Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 06 Nov 2024  
 (Red issued refusal decision - Amber to be issued - Green issued approval decision)

Decision Description	Totals
To be issued	33
Consent Granted	0
Consent Refused	0
Permission Granted	1
Permission Refused	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Category	Date Valid	Delegated Committee	Committee Date	Weeks between Valid date and Comm date	Weeks Since Committee	Weeks between Comm Date and Issued Date 2	Decision	Issue date	Today's Date	Reason decision not issued
LA04/2021/0547/F	Lands at 124-126 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 6AH	Demolition of the existing buildings and redevelopment of site for 2 no. commercial units on ground floor; 11 no. 1 & 2 bed apartments; landscaped communal courtyard; and all associated site works.	LOC	30-Mar-21	C	15/02/2022	46	142	No Issue Date	Permission Granted		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/2059/F	Lands south of 56 Highcairn Drive Belfast BT13 3RU Site located at junction between Highcairn Drive and Dunboyne Park Belfast.	Proposed Social Housing Development Comprising of 12 no. 3p/2b semi-detached dwelling houses with incurtilage parking and associated site works. (amended description and site location plan)	LOC	04-Nov-22	C	29/06/2023	33	70	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1924/F	160-164 Kingsway Dunmurry BT17 9RZ.	Mixed-use proposal comprising 13 apartments (with 13 car parking spaces) and coffee shop.	LOC	19-Oct-22	C	29/06/2023	36	70	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2324/F	MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRE NORGLLEN GARDENS BALLYMURPHY BELFAST ANTRIM BT11 8EL	Proposed redevelopment comprising demolition of an extant building and development of two apartment blocks (12 units category 1 over 55s tenure) and change of use/alterations of existing retail unit to apartments (8 units private tenure), communal amenity, parking, site access alterations, landscaping and ancillary site works	LOC	13-Dec-22	C	17/10/2023	44	55	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

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Agenda Item 7

LA04/2023/2709/F	Lands at Apartment Blocks 1-3 Clonaver Drive Belfast BT4 2FB	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of social housing development comprising 30 no. apartments across 3 buildings with amenity space, landscaping, car parking and associated site works.	LOC	03-Feb-23	C	14/11/2023	40	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1861/F	1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA.	Replacement facade to active facade to facilitate the display of internally illuminated moving images (Temporary Permission for 3 years)	LOC	04-Oct-22	C	14/11/2023	58	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Referred to DFI
LA04/2022/1867/DC A	1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA.	Part demolition of facade to facilitate replacement facade.	LOC	04-Oct-22	C	14/11/2023	58	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Referred to DFI
LA04/2019/0081/F	Lands at former Maple Leaf Club 41-43 Park Avenue Belfast.	Erection of 12No. apartments (social/affordable housing units comprising 3No. one bed & 9No. two bed) with provision of community pocket park, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (Amended site location plan / site layout)	LOC	04-Oct-24	C	14/11/2023	-46	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2020/2325/F	Lands at Former Maple Leaf Club 41-43 Park Avenue Belfast.	Proposed erection 21no. dwellings (social/affordable housing units comprising 17no. townhouses and 4no. semi-detached), car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (Amended drawings, additional information)	LOC	06-Nov-20	C	14/11/2023	157	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1860/A	1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA.	Active facade to facilitate the display of LED internally illuminated moving images (Temporary consent for 5 years)	LOC	04-Oct-22	C	14/11/2023	58	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Referred to DFI

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LA04/2020/1858/F	Hillview Retail Park Crumlin Road Belfast.	Proposed residential development of 18 no. social housing units, comprising two terraces. Development includes associated car parking, gardens, landscaping, site access and all other site works. (amended plans uploaded to the Planning Portal on the 5th April 2023 that revise the proposed access and road layout, including the introduction of a traffic island).	LOC	08-Jan-21	C	14/11/2023	148	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2021/2687/F	3 Milner Street Belfast BT12 6GE.	Residential development for 87 no. apartments (1 no. and 2 no. bedroom) of which 18no. units are affordable housing, internal car park, landscaped gardens/terraces and all associated site works (amended description and plans).	MAJ	02-Nov-21	C	12/12/2023	110	47	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2390/F	Lands West of Monagh By-Pass South of Upper Springfield Road & 30-34 Upper Springfield Road & West of Aitnamona Crescent & St Theresa's Primary School. North and East of 2-22 Old Brewery Lane Glanaulin 137-143a Glen Road & Airfield Heights & St Mary's CBG School Belfast	Section 54 application to vary a number of conditions to allow the removal of 21 lay-by parking spaces to facilitate the introduction of a new Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) to the southern side of the approved east-west spine road.	MAJ	22-Feb-23	C	12/12/2023	41	47	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2021/2016/F	21-29 Corporation Street & 18-24 Tomb Street Belfast.	Demolition of existing multi-storey car park and the erection of 298no. build for rent apartments (19 storey) including ground floor commercial unit (A1/A2), car/cycle parking provision along with associated development. (Further information received).	MAJ	26-Aug-21	C	16/01/2024	124	42	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2022/1219/F	177-183 Victoria Street 66-72 May Street and 4-8 Gloucester Street Belfast	Demolition of existing building and erection of 11 storey building (May Street/Victoria Street) and 4 storey building (Gloucester Street) comprising 77 apartments with communal areas, ground floor retail services (A2) unit, cycle and car parking, and vehicular access via Gloucester Street	MAJ	21-Jun-22	C	16/01/2024	82	42	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/0097/F	22-30 Hopefield Avenue Belfast BT15 5AP	Proposed three and a half storey residential development comprising of 18no. units (3no. wheelchair apartments and 15no. Category 1 - Social Housing) and associated access, bin storage, boundary treatments, bike stands, car parking and site and landscaping works (Amended Drawings)	LOC	04-Apr-22	C	13/02/2024	97	38	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1384/F	Lands at 12 Inverary Avenue Sydenham Belfast BT4 1RN	Residential development of 10 no. apartments within a single building, including demolition of existing structures, car parking and relocation of existing access, and all other associated siteworks.	LOC	05-Aug-22	C	19/03/2024	84	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2020/2607/F	Former Belvoir Park Hospital Site Hospital Road Belfast BT8 8JP.	Residential development for the erection of 33 no dwellings (including 5 no affordable units) including public open space, equipped children's play area and associated development as enabling works to deliver the refurbishment of 3 no listed pavilions within the Belvoir Park Hospital complex (previously approved under Y/2014/0401/F and Y/2014/0390/LBC). [amended scheme]	MAJ	16-Dec-20	C	19/03/2024	169	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2017/1991/F	Land adjacent to Concourse Buildings Queens Road Belfast BT3 9DT.	Construction of a new 5 storey office development for science and I.T. based business and associated car parking and public realm works.	MAJ	20-Sep-17	C	19/03/2024	338	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2020/2105/F	1-5 Gaffikin Street Belfast BT12 5FH	Residential development comprising 55no. apartments comprising 12 no social, and 43 no private apartments and associated site works.	MAJ	21-Oct-20	C	19/03/2024	177	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/0612/F	Lands at the junction of Shankill Road, Lanark Way, and bound by Caledon Street, Belfast.	Residential scheme of 53 no. dwellings comprising 34 no. semi-detached and 4 no. detached) and 15 no. apartments (7 no. 2-bed and 8 no. 1-bed), amenity space, bin and bicycle storage, landscaping, access, car parking and all associated site works.(revised description & amended plans).	MAJ	15-Apr-22	C	18/06/2024	113	20	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/4607/F	Parkmore Building, 284A Ormeau Road, Ballynafoy, Belfast, BT7 2GB	Removal of existing temporary sectional buildings and construction of new three storey childcare building with external play area, associated landscaping and alterations to existing access.	LOC	20-Dec-23	C	27/06/2024	27	18	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2023/2557/F	Lands East of Meadowhill, North of Glencolin Court, North and East of Glencolin Rise, East of Glencolin Grove, North and West of Glen Road Rise, and North of Glen Road Grove. Belfast.	260 no. dwellings, children's play area and other ancillary and associated works.	MAJ	24-Feb-23	C	27/06/2024	69	18	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2024/0344/F	The Royal Belfast Academical Institution College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DL	Construction of a new South Wing of the RBAI Campus to include multi-purpose dining hall, 15 general classrooms, a drama suite, a 25m swimming pool, a Board Room suite, living accommodation for the School Steward with PV panels on roof and new, small extension to the Soane Building, to provide improved accessibility and upgraded WC facilities, with associated refurbishment and re-modelling of first and second floor classrooms to the southern end of the Soane Building, the development of landscaped zones including the under-croft area at the Common Hall and new boundary treatment at Durham Street and demolition of the existing dining hall, swimming pool, school steward's house and W-Block.	MAJ	20-Feb-24	C	13/08/2024	25	12	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2024/0321/LBC	The Royal Belfast Academical Institution College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DL	Construction of a new South Wing of the RBAI Campus to include multi-purpose dining hall, 15 general classrooms, a drama suite, a 25m swimming pool, a Board Room suite, living accommodation for the School Steward with PV panels on roof and new, small extension to the Soane Building, to provide improved accessibility and upgraded WC facilities, with associated refurbishment and re-modelling of first and second floor classrooms to the southern end of the Soane Building, the development of landscaped zones including the under-croft area at the Common Hall and new boundary treatment at Durham Street and demolition of the existing dining hall, swimming pool, school steward's house and W-Block.	LOC	20-Feb-24	C	13/08/2024	25	12	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	

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LA04/2024/0432/DC A	The Royal Belfast Academical Institution College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DL	Demolition of the dining hall, swimming pool, school steward's house and landscape planters. The proposed demolition forms part of the overall RBAI Campus Vision proposal which is the subject of a related planning application (ref. LA04/2024/0344/F) and listed building consent application (ref. LA04/2024/0321/LBC).	LOC	07-Mar-24	C	13/08/2024	22	12	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2024/1084/F	Henry Jones Playing Fields, Church Road, Belfast, BT6 9SB	2 no. (35m width x 16m height) ball stop fences. 1.2m height perimeter fencing with 2 no. gate access points. 2 no. (10m width x 4m depth) dugouts + hardstanding path and associated site works.	LOC	11-Jun-24	C	17/09/2024	14	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2023/4215/F	141-147 Upper Dunmurry Lane, Dunmurry, Belfast, BT17 0EY	Proposed 3no. residential apartment blocks (19no. Cat 1 Elderly apartments and 2no. Wheelchair apartments, 21 units in total) Associated car parking, site works and landscaping.	LOC	16-Oct-23	C	17/09/2024	48	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Deferred for Site Visit
LA04/2023/4153/F	44 Ponsonby Avenue, Belfast, BT15 2LS	Conversion of an existing dwelling house to a 5 bed HMO dwelling house. No works to the exterior or elevation of the property.	LOC	04-Oct-23	C	17/09/2024	49	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	Deferred for Site Visit
LA04/2024/0681/F	Lands to the northeast of Olympic House, east of Queen's Road and south of Belfast Metropolitan College, Belfast.	Erection of Purpose-Built Managed Student Accommodation development with additional use of accommodation by further or higher education institutions outside term time, comprising 4 no. blocks of accommodation with building heights ranging from 5 to 9 storeys and up to 35,850sqm gross external floorspace, café, associated communal facilities including landscaped courtyards, internal bin stores and cycle stores, pv array, disabled parking, public realm provision, associated site works and extension of Titanic Boulevard to form new junction	MAJ	18-Apr-24	C	17/09/2024	21	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	

LA04/2024/0483/F	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Proposed change of use from Office (B1) and restaurant (Sui Generis) to Hotel comprising of 88 no. bedrooms, two storey rooftop extension, restaurant and bar offerings, gym facilities, including new dormer windows on roof, internal and external refurbishment and alterations, and all associated site works.	MAJ	19-Mar-24	C	15/10/2024	30	3	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2024/0480/DC A	34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast	Part demolition of existing buildings (stripping back of roof, shopfront and other external alterations to facilitate change of use and extension of buildings to hotel use.	LOC	29-Mar-24	C	15/10/2024	28	3	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	
LA04/2023/2861/F	1 MILLENNIUM WAY BALLYMAGARRY BELFAST ANTRIM BT12 7AL	Extension to Class B2 factory for storage/ loading purposes and associated works	LOC	09-Mar-23	C	15/10/2024	83	3	1	Permission Granted	28 Oct 2024	06/11/2024	
LA04/2023/3649/F	Royal Victoria Hospital 274 Grosvenor Road, Belfast, BT12 6BA	New 2 storey regional radiopharmaceutical facility, with associated single storey ancillary services accommodation, bin store, and emergency generator and oil tank storage. Amendment to existing car parking layout.	MAJ	08-Aug-23	C	15/10/2024	62	3	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		06/11/2024	

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<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<p><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></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <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>					
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme, along with updates on capital planning, the temporary container at Cathedral Gardens and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.
2.0	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2025/26</b> – Note the update on the Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2025/26.</li> <li>• <b>Capital Programme Stage Movements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>St George's Market – New Stalls</b> – Agree that the project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</li> <li>○ <b>Waterfront Hall Chiller Units</b> - Agree to move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</li> <li>○ <b>Innovation Factory Access Control</b> – Agree to move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Cathedral Gardens</b> – Note that the temporary active travel container at Cathedral Gardens will be relocated to Strangford Avenue, subject to final installation arrangements.</li> <li>• <b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b> – Note the update on Shared Prosperity Funding for 2024/25.</li> </ul>
3.0	<b>Main report</b> <u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<b>Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2025/26</b>
	In March 2024 Members agreed to a series of workshops regarding future capital priorities linked to the medium-term financial planning process. To prepare for this it is agreed that a series of Party Group Briefings are to be held to update Members on the existing Capital

Programme, ascertain future priorities to determine the level of financing required, as well as exploring the implications of any future investment decisions and the potential impact on the district rate. **These briefings are now being scheduled for late November and early December in line with the rates setting process for 2025/26.**

As Members will be aware, the Capital Programme has an expenditure horizon of around three years. CIPFA capital planning guidance recommends taking a longer-term view (8-10 years). The Council is continuing to adopt this best practice approach for the Capital Programme, alongside the standard planning for short to mid term programme requirements in 2025/26. Work as usual still continues, and any project at an appropriate stage of readiness is still brought before Members via the three stage approvals process.

This activity feeds through to the planned consultation on the draft Corporate Plan in early 2025, and the target date of March 2025 to publish the Corporate Plan.

**Members are asked to note the update on Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2025/26.**

3.2

**Capital Programme - Proposed Movements**

Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. Members are advised that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.

Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
<b>St George’s Market – New Stalls</b>	Replacement of market stalls in St George’s Market.	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</b>
<b>Waterfront Hall - Chiller Units</b>	Replacement of the chiller units at the Waterfront Hall to ensure adequate cooling for events and operational requirements.	<b>Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted</b>
<b>Innovation Factory Access Control System</b>	Procurement of a replacement for the access control system at the Innovation Factory.	<b>Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted</b>

3.3	<p><b><u>St George’s Market – New Stalls</u></b></p> <p>In March 2024, SP&amp;R Committee agreed that St George’s Market – New Stalls project be moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow a business case to be developed. The project is for the replacement of the 180 market stalls in St Georges Market. The current stalls are more than 18 years old and many are in a poor state of repair, presenting a health and safety risk both for staff and for traders. An Outline Business Case has now been worked up in line with the three stage approvals process.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to agree that ‘St George’s Market – New Stalls’ is moved to Stage 3 – Committed and held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return; and that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</b></p> <p><b><u>Waterfront Hall – Chiller Units</u></b></p> <p>The existing chiller units at the Belfast Waterfront Hall have reached the end of their economic life. The proposal is to replace the existing chiller units with high efficiency equivalents to improve performance and resilience. An Outline Business Case will now be worked up on the proposal.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to agree that ‘Waterfront Hall – Chiller Units’ is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</b></p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Innovation Factory Access Control</u></b></p> <p>The project is for the replacement of the access control system at Innovation Factory. The current system is no longer fit for purpose. As previously advised, this project is progressing at pace. There is a requirement to upgrade the system which includes new door controllers, readers, and associated software. An Outline Business Case will now be worked up on the proposal.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to agree that ‘Innovation Factory Access Control’ is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</b></p>
	<p><b><u>Cathedral Gardens</u></b></p>
3.6	<p>Members will be aware that the Cathedral Gardens project is at Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme. A temporary Active Travel Hub had been installed in the space via external funding comprising two shipping containers. Members will recall that the hub was a</p>

	<p>temporary measure rather than part of the overall masterplan for Cathedral Gardens. Sustrans held a temporary licence to provide active travel services at the hub, which has now expired. The containers can be relocated for use elsewhere.</p> <p>Relocation of the containers to Strangford Ave Playing Fields would complement recent works to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, including replacement of gates and extending pathways, and the creation of a loop suitable for wheelchairs and adapted bikes. This site is situated across the road from a school campus shared by four disability schools which cater for 660 young people who have a physical or learning disability. Although recent improvements have been welcomed, the logistics of transporting pupils and bikes to and from the park is incredibly challenging and has proved unsustainable. The bike storage container will provide a location for bikes to be stored, including adapted bikes for pupils with a physical disability and will enable a disability bike programme to be delivered from the park. The containers can also allow a wider outdoor recreational programme to be developed, supported by CNS Department.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to note that the temporary active travel container at Cathedral Gardens will be relocated to Strangford Avenue, subject to final installation arrangements.</b></p>
	<p><b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b></p>
3.7	<p>Members will recall that in September the Council received a report on a funding opportunity under the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) for 2024/25. The Council has since been successful in securing the full allocation of £1,787,615 for Belfast. The funding received is for the list of activities as agreed by Members, namely: pitch improvements; playgrounds improvements; Vacant to Vibrant scheme; feasibility studies for key city centre sites and assets; and a programme of animation, lighting enhancements and marketing linked to key city events (e.g. Halloween, Christmas). Work is complete on several of the activities - this approach was permissible under the eligibility criteria, and work is underway on the delivery of the remaining activities for completion by end March 2025.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to note the update on Shared Prosperity Funding for 2024/25.</b></p>
3.8	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p><i>Financial Implications</i> – A financial allocation of £1,787,615 is secured for the SPF activities in 2024/25.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications</i> – Officer time to deliver.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	i) <b>Ulster Hall – Agreement for Rory Gallagher Statue</b> ii) <b>Dromara Street &amp; Balfour Avenue – Licence Agreement &amp; Easement</b> iii) <b>Kent Street Car Park – Licence Agreement</b> iv) <b>Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Agreements</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property and Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>													
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p><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></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <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>													
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>After Committee Decision</b></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>After Council Decision</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sometime in the future</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Never</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		<b>After Committee Decision</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>After Council Decision</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sometime in the future</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Never</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Committee Decision</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>											
<b>After Council Decision</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>											
<b>Sometime in the future</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>											
<b>Never</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>											

<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	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p><b>i) Ulster Hall – Agreement for Rory Gallagher Statue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve an agreement between the Council &amp; The Rory Gallagher Statue Project Trust for the gifting of a Rory Gallagher Statue to be located at the Ulster Hall and;</li> <li>- Approve a short-term licence agreement between Council &amp; Martin Contracting Services Ltd for the statue installation and associated base at the Ulster Hall.</li> </ul> <p><b>ii) Dromara Street &amp; Balfour Avenue – Licence Agreement &amp; Easement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve a licence and an easement for installation and siting of gas mains / apparatus at Dromara Street Open Space &amp; Balfour Avenue Open Space between the Council &amp; Phoenix Energy Group Limited.</li> </ul> <p><b>iii) Kent Street Car Park – Licence Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the renewal of a Licence agreement from the Department for Communities in relation to the Council operated off-street car park at Kent Street.</li> </ul> <p><b>iv) Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve a short-term month to month licence agreement between the Council &amp; Streetbeat Youth Project for its use of Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre and a lease agreement thereafter if approval is obtained from DfC and</li> <li>- Approve submission of an application to the Department for Communities to seek approval for a rent at less than best value.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>i) Ulster Hall – Agreement for Rory Gallagher Statue</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Rory Gallagher is a musician and song writer. He is commonly acknowledged as one of the greatest guitarists of all time with some of his most famous performances being held in the Ulster Hall. He died in 1995 at the age of 47. In recognition of his contribution to music and to Belfast, the Rory Gallagher Statue Project Trust ('The Trust') have crowd funded to create a Rory Gallagher Statue and associated base with the intention of having it installed at the Ulster Hall Site and to gift it to the Council. The unveiling date of the Statue is proposed as the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 which is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BBC recording at the Ulster Hall of "Rory at Midnight". There will be no artist rights attached to the Statue and the future maintenance of the Statue will become the Council's responsibility once installed. Subject to Members approval, it is proposed that an agreement will be entered into between The Trust and the</p>

	<p>Council, to document the unveiling date and the gifting of the Statue to the Council. Members approval is also sought for the Council to enter into a short-term licence agreement with Martin Contracting Services Ltd (the Trust's appointed contractors) who will set up a temporary working area at the Ulster Hall Site enclosed with heras fencing to enable installation of the Statue and its associated base. The licence will remain in place up to the point of unveiling. Please find map attached at Appendix 1 showing the Ulster Hall Site delineated red and the proposed positioning of the Statue and its associated base position outlined green.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.2	<p><b>ii) Dromara Street &amp; Balfour Avenue – Licence Agreement &amp; Easement</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Phoenix Energy Group Limited (PEG) had approached the Council seeking consent to install a gas mains/apparatus at Dromara Street Open Space &amp; Balfour Avenue Open Space. To formalise matters, it is proposed that a temporary works licence is entered into with PEG to cover the installation of the gas mains / apparatus whilst an easement will also be entered into, to document the proposed route of the gas mains / apparatus (once installed) and the associated easement area. Council officers understand this proposed gas mains / apparatus installation is part of an essential project to reinforcement the 7 Bar gas network in South Belfast &amp; Belfast City Centre. The Licence Fee will be £500+VAT for the first week plus £100+VAT each week thereafter. PEG have agreed to pay the Council an easement fee of £5,000, subject to Member's approval. The easement will be for a term of 99 years. See Map at Appendix 2 showing the proposed route of the gas mains / apparatus (once installed) and the associated easement area.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. The Council will receive an easement fee of £5,000. The Licence Fee will be £500+VAT for the first week plus £100+VAT each week thereafter.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p><b>iii) Kent Street Car Park – Licence Agreement</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>As part of the Transfer of Functions legislation for off-street car parking from DRD (now Dfl), the car park at Kent Street transferred to the Council on 1st April 2015. This car park is owned</p>

by the Department for Communities (DfC) and has been held by Council under Licence since the transfer date. The previous Licence from DfC was for a term of 3 years and was due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 however DfC terminated the Licence early on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to safely facilitate the demolition of Star Bingo on its adjoining lands. Demolition works are due to complete at the end of November 2024 and DfC are proposing to enter into a new Licence with the Council for a further 3 year term. The Licence will incorporate a mutual break option, given the proposed development plans for the Inner North West Cluster which include this site. The Licence fee will be assessed by Land & Property Services (LPS) annually, based on actual income generated from the car park in previous years. Council would retain all revenue generated from its operation of the Car Park. Please find map attached at Appendix 3 showing Kent Street Car Park outlined in Red.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

The Licence shall be drafted by DSO acting on behalf of DfC. The Council's Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estate Management Unit to review the Licence. Council will be responsible for payment of an annual Licence fee, to be assessed by LPS based on actual income generated from the car park in previous years.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None associated with this report.

3.4 **iv) Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Agreements**

At its meeting of 12th March 2024, the P&C Committee agreed to recommend to the SP&R Committee that Streetbeat Youth Project (Streetbeat) be appointed as the lessee of Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre following an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Estates, in consultation with C&NS, had then instructed Land & Property Services to prepare a rental valuation based on community use which estimated a rent of £9,500 per annum which Streetbeat advised the Council they were unable to manage. Given the work which Streetbeat are intending to deliver as set out in its EOI submission and its alignment with corporate and Belfast Agenda objectives, Estates (as instructed by C&NS) are proposing to submit an application to the Department for Communities (DfC) to seek approval for a rent at less than best value in accordance with Section 96(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. Subject to DfC approval, Members are asked to approve of a lease agreement with Streetbeat for a term of 5 years at a rent of £2,000 per annum. In the interim, Members approval is also sought for the Council to enter into a short-term month to month licence to facilitate occupation of the building by Streetbeat as soon as possible. See Appendix 4 showing the UAYC site shown delineated red with the positioning of the UAYC building shown outlined green.

**Financial and Resources Implications**

	<p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. Officers will seek DfC approval to a disposal (lease of UAYC) at less than best value rent to Streetbeat. The licence fee will equate to £2,000 per annum. The lease will generate a rental income of £2,000 per annum.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Map outlining location of Ulster Hall in red and location of proposed statue in Green.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Map outlining the proposed route of the gas mains / apparatus once installed and the associated easement area.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map outlining Kent Street Car Park in Red.</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Map outlining Council lands at the Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre site delineated in red and positioning of the UAYC building shown outlined Green.</p>

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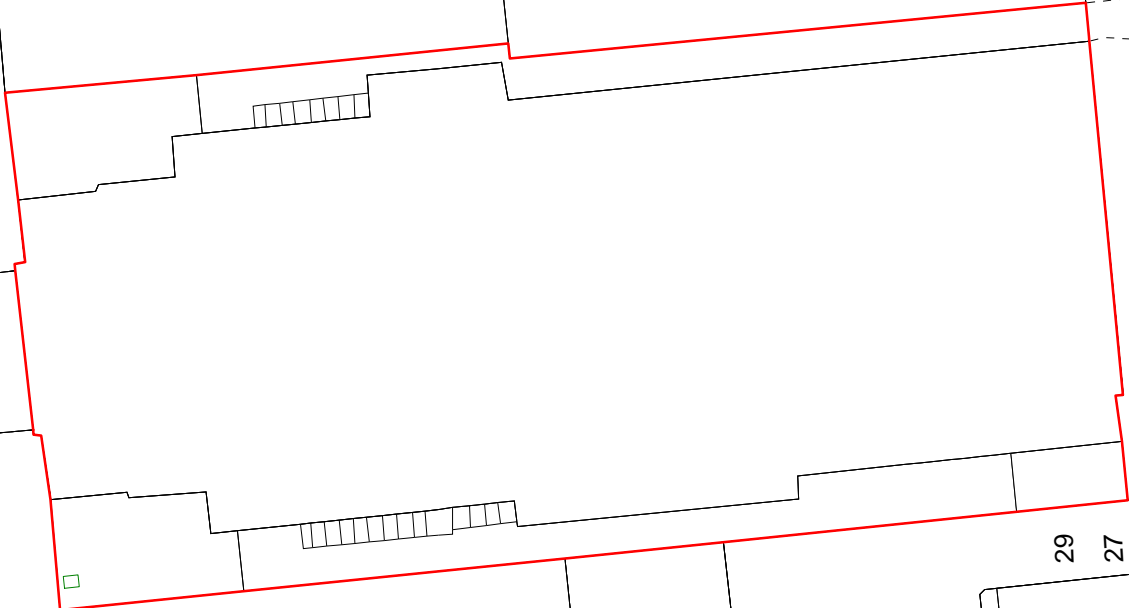
27

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12

28

LINEN HALL STREET



34 36

38 to 42

44

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8

10

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33 to 37

BEDFORDS

CLARENCE STREET

Scale 1:500

-  = BCC Ulster Hall
-  = Statue Base

BL

48 to

46

6

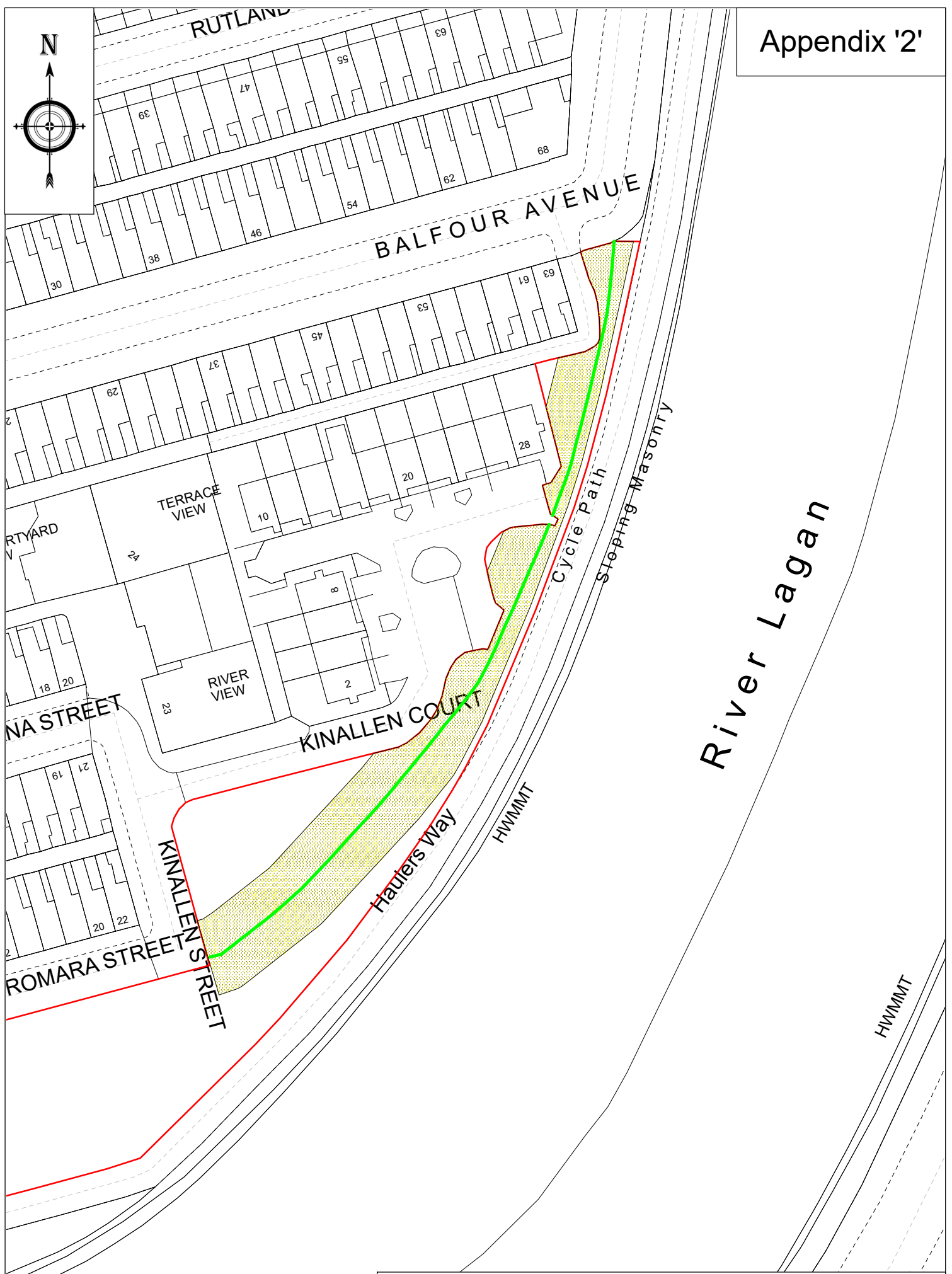
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LINEN HALL STREET WEST

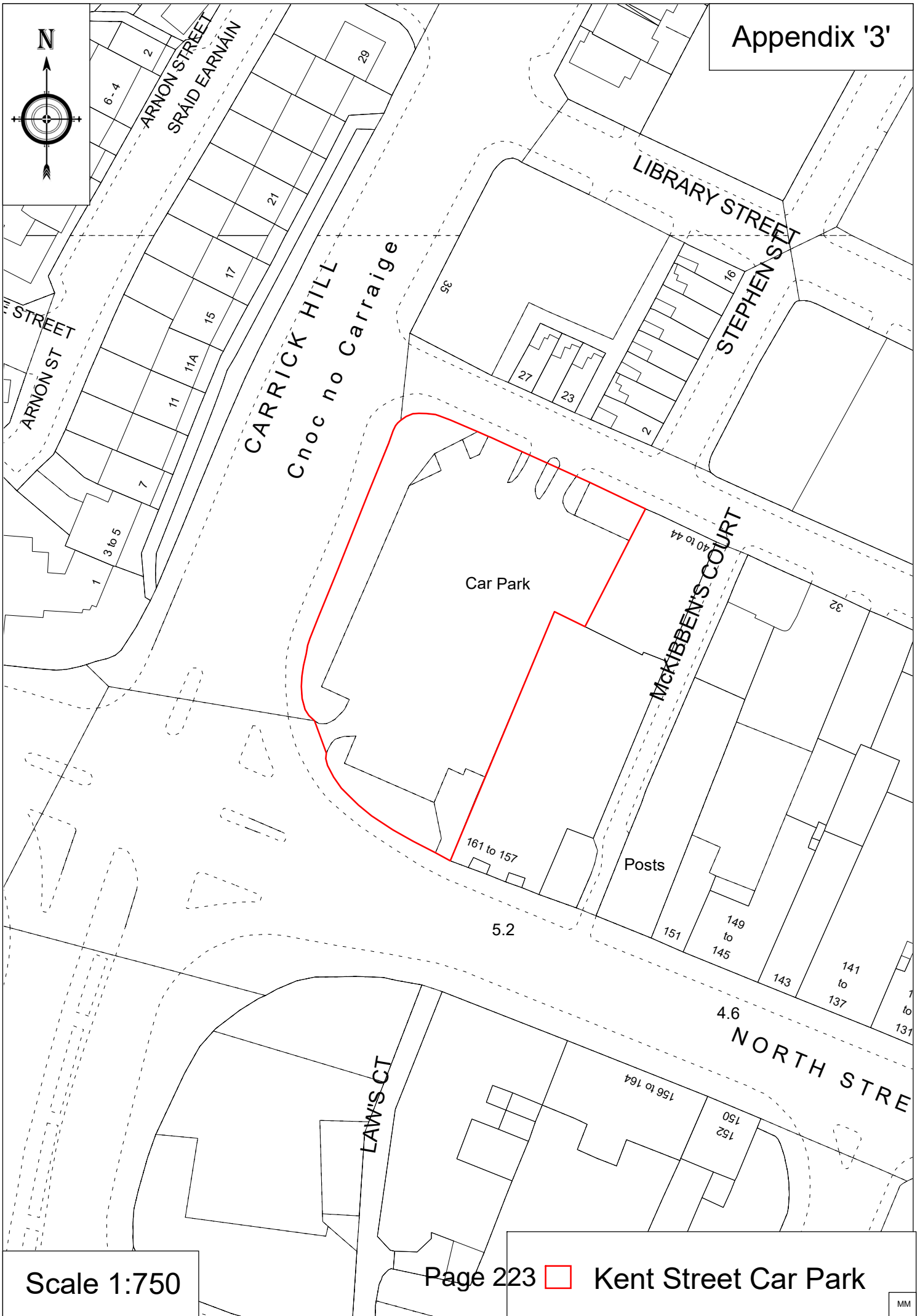
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Scale 1:750

-  Dromara Street Open Space & Balfour Avenue Open Space
-  Gas Pipe
-  Easement Area

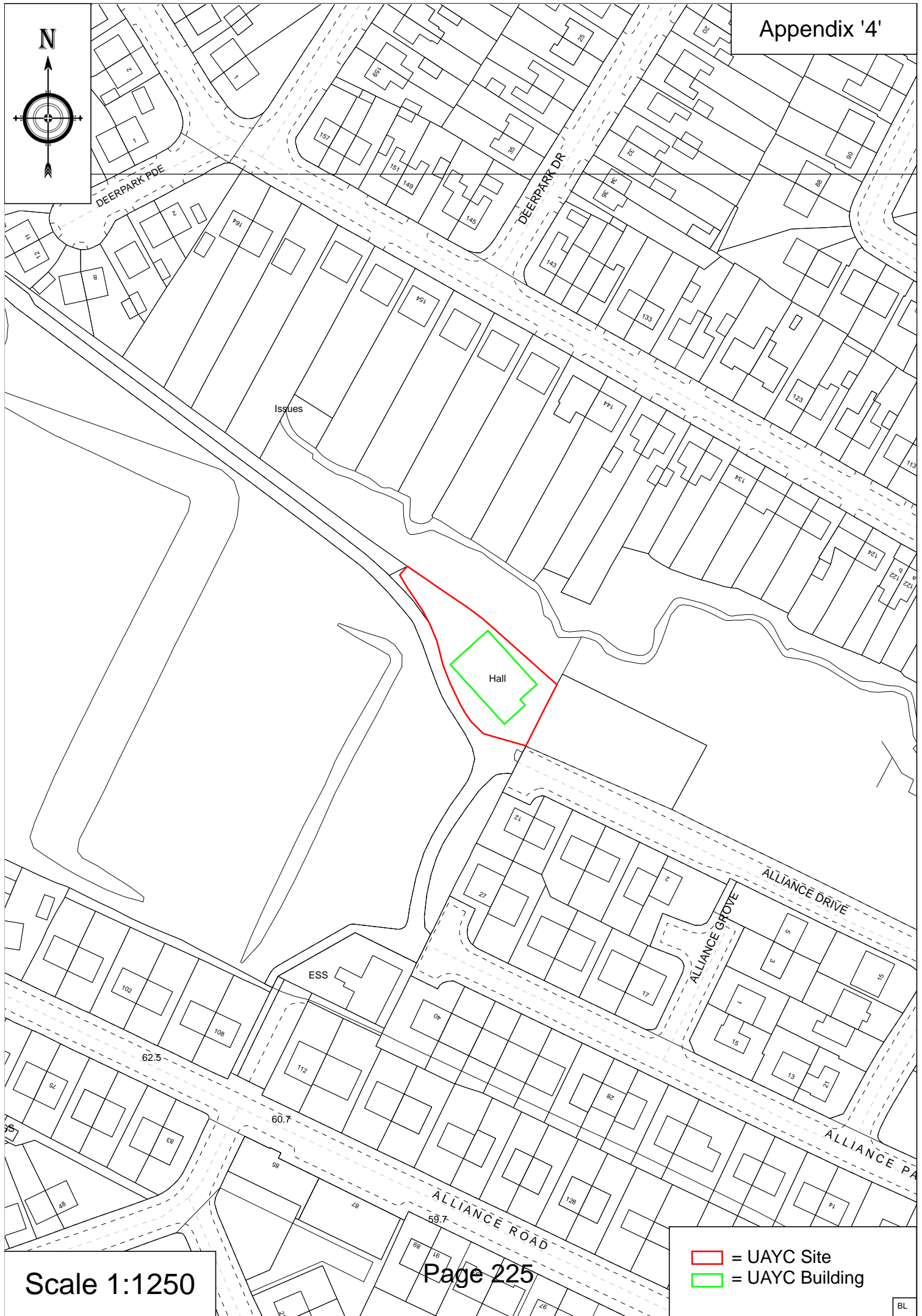
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Scale 1:750

Page 223  Kent Street Car Park

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Scale 1:1250

Red outline = UAYC Site  
Green outline = UAYC Building

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<b>Subject:</b>	Contracts Update
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

**Restricted Reports**

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
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
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000</li> </ul> <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 1</b>)</li> <li>Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>)</li> <li>Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 3</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Competitive Tenders</b>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
3.4	The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 ( <b>Table 1</b> )
	<b>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</b>
3.5	The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 'PCRs' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the PCRs setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1).
3.6	To support Officers understanding and to build capability CPS also offer STA Process training on a regular basis.
3.7	In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to approve the award of the following STAs:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract for up to £75,749, for up to 2 years, awarded to East Suffolk Council, for Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) (fully funded). For extending the utilisation of PHILIS which has become the industrial standard for Port Health. No other supplier exists for digitised food import system.</li> <li>• Contract for up to £51,750, for up to 3 years, awarded to CDR Group for support and maintenance for MapInfo mapping software. The platform has been extensively used to provide developed functionality and projects. It would be a major exercise to replace or change this product and the costs and risk would be prohibitive.</li> <li>• Contract for up to £115,000, for up to 3 months, awarded to Visit Belfast for enhanced key event marketing and promotion. Visit Belfast has an extensive knowledge, unique media partnerships and buying power for a greater out of state campaign and reach not achievable by Council.</li> </ul> <p>Further details on these STAs are set out in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>).</p>
	<p><b>Modification to Contract</b></p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to an additional 1 month and £1,500 (income), awarded to USEL for T1998 (3) - provision of catering at the Stables Cafe (income based contract - approx £20,000 pa income). A one month contract extension is required for the current contract to align it with the proposed start date of the new contract which is being tendered.</li> <li>• Up to additional 4 months, awarded Féile an Phobail for T2544 Art of Reconciliation for Belfast 2024. Contract duration extended to include performance during Belfast International Arts Festival. No increase in value.</li> <li>• Up to additional 6 months, awarded to Value Cabs for T2138 Provision of Taxi Services. An extension is required to allow for a reassessment of the current specification to develop a more efficient method of invoicing and payment processes for both supplier and council staff and finance team.</li> </ul> <p>Further details on these contract modifications are set out in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 3</b>).</p>

	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.9	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.10	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</li> <li>• Table 2 - Single Tender Actions</li> <li>• Table 3 - Modification to Contract</li> </ul>

**Table 1: Competitive Tenders**

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Framework Agreement for Goods for Resale at Belfast Zoo. Previously approved Feb 2024 for £520,000 but has now been reviewed.	Up to 4 years	£832,000 (Costs recouped via sales/income)	D Martin	Supply of a range of goods (i.e. toys, souvenirs etc) to sell in shops at Belfast Zoo.
Supply of mechanical sweeper brushes	Up to 3 years	£380,000	D Sales	To support vehicle maintenance for street cleaning and sweeping.
A new Folder inserter for NIHE, and internally for council departments. Previously approved SR&P Sept 2024 for up to 2 years at £110,000. Both duration and value now been reviewed.	Up to 5 years	£155,000	P Gribben	This project aims to enable Digital Services to continue to provide SLA mail processing service for NIHE, and internally for council departments.  All revenue costs are covered by DS budget.
Belfast City & Region Place Partnership (BCRPP) Framework	Up to 4 years	Framework value £4,000,000 BCC contribution 2024/25 £80,000	D Martin	This multi-supplier framework agreement will allow BCC, as the lead partner of the BCRPP, to engage a pre-qualified supplier on a needs led basis, ensuring that each call-off contract represents best value for the partnership.  The BCRPP Partnership is delivered as a public private sector sponsorship fund, which includes a BCC contribution of £80,000 for the 2024 / 2025 programme, as approved by CG&R Committee, June 2024. External funding will form the majority of this overall budget.
Collection, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste	Up to 4 years	£500,000	D Sales	This service ensures that dumped hazardous wastes and those brought to BCC recycling centres are

## Appendix 1

				identified, collected, treated and disposed of by specialist and trained contractors in line with legislation.
Search tool for the Council external website	Up to 3 years	£50,000	P Gribben	Belfast City Council has emphasised their search function since the implementation of an updated website in 2020. This is well used, with an average of almost 119,000 searches a year on our website. These have resulted in an average of over 51,000 clicks (43.59% click through rate)

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason Code
Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) (Fully Funded)	Up to 2 years	£75,749	P Gribben	Extend the utilisation of the Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) which has become the industrial standard for Port Health. No other supplier exists for digitised Food Import system. We currently use PHILIS system.	East Suffolk Council	3
Support and maintenance for MapInfo mapping software	Up to 3 years	£51,750	P Gribben	The platform has been extensively used to provide developed functionality and projects. It would be a major exercise to replace or change this product and the costs and risk would be prohibitive.	CDR Group	3
Visit Belfast enhanced key event marketing and promotion	Up to 5 months	£115,000	D Martin	Visit Belfast has an extensive knowledge, unique media partnerships and buying power for a greater out of state campaign and reach not achievable by Council.	Visit Belfast	3

**Table 3: Modification to Contract**

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T1998 (3) - Provision of catering at the Stables Café.  Income based contract - approx £20,000 pa income	Up to 5 years	Additional 1 month and £1,500 (income)	S Leonard	A one month contract extension is required for the current contract to align it with the proposed start date of the new contract which is being tendered.	USEL
T2544 - Art of Reconciliation for Belfast 2024	Up to 4 months	Additional 3 months	D Martin	Contract duration extended to include performance during Belfast International Arts Festival. No increase in value.	Féile an Phobail
T2138 - Provision of Taxi Services	Up to 3 years	Additional 6 months	T Wallace	Extension required to allow for a reassessment of the current specification to develop a more efficient method of invoicing and payment processes for both supplier and council staff and finance team.	Value Cabs

**Direct Award Reasons**

Reason Code	Reasons in line with Public Contract Regulations
1	No response following advertised procurement exercise
2	Creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance
3	Competition is absent for technical reasons (no reasonable substitute exists)
4	The protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights
5	Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by BCC, the time limits for a procurement cannot be complied with.
6	Products manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experimentation, study or development
7	Additional deliveries which are intended either as a partial or extended replacement of supplies or installations where a change of supplier would result in supplies of different technical characteristics causing incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance
8	Supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market
9	Supplies or services on particularly time-limited advantageous terms e.g. supplier winding up its business activities
10	New works and services consisting of the repetition of similar works or services, provided that the possibility of a direct award is disclosed during the original tender process
11	Other – Reason not in line with Public Contract Regulations (PCR 2015)

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<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
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
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	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 report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.

2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 including:
2.2	<p><b><u>Presentation from Active Communities Network</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the contents of the presentation detailed in the minutes.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p><b><u>Presentation from Victims Support NI</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the contents of the presentation detailed in the minutes.</li> </ul>
2.4	<p><b><u>Shared City Partnership Membership – Verbal Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shared City Partnership noted and agreed the update provided by the Good Relations Manager, recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the update.</li> </ul>
2.5	<p><b><u>Community Recovery Fund Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Partnership noted and agreed and recommends the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to agree the Community Recovery Fund Action Plan.</li> </ul>
2.6	<p><b><u>TEO Asylum Dispersal Funding and Refugee Integration Funding</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.</li> </ul>
2.7	<p><b><u>PEACE IV – Secretariat Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Partnership notes the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.</li> </ul>
2.8	<p><b><u>PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan – Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The key issues on the agenda at the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership Papers of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</li> <li>• Presentation from the Active Communities Network</li> <li>• Presentation from Victims Support NI</li> <li>• Shared City Partnership Membership – Verbal Update</li> <li>• Community Recovery Fund Action Plan</li> <li>• TEO Asylum Dispersal and Refugee Integration Funding</li> <li>• Peace IV Secretariat Update</li> <li>• PEACEPLUS – Theme 1.1 – Local Action Plan Update</li> </ul> <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the following minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1; a Presentation from Active Communities Network in Appendix 2; a Presentation from Victims Support NI in Appendix 3 and Draft Community Recovery Action Plan in Appendix 4.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 11th November 2024</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Presentation from Active Communities Network</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Presentation from Victims Support NI</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Draft Community Recovery Fund Action Plan</p>

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## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 11th November, 2024**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY AND IN THE CONOR ROOM**

Members present: Councillor Duffy (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Abernethy, I. McLaughlin and Smith.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities;  
Mr. M. Briggs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Dr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum;  
Mr. G. Walker, Department for Communities; and  
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

#### **Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Michael Briggs to his first meeting in his capacity as a representative of the Community and Voluntary Sector.

#### **Apology**

An apology was reported on behalf of Father Martin Magill.

#### **Ms. Anna Lo**

The Partnership agreed that a letter of condolence be forwarded on its behalf to the family of the late Anna Lo.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

## **Declarations of Interest**

In respect of item 7, viz., PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, Independent Members Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Briggs and Ms. Arthurs all declared interests in this matter since they were associated with organisations which had applied for funding for community empowerment projects under the Council's PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan. Since the report did not become subject of discussion, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

## **Presentations**

### **Presentation - Active Communities Network (ACN)**

Mr. J. Donnelly (Partnership Member and joint Chief Executive of ACN Belfast) and Ms. V. Moore (Project Manager with ACN Belfast) provided an overview of the work of the Active Communities Network. It was explained that the organisation supported young people from marginalised and socially excluded communities to address a range of issues, such as community cohesion, citizenship, crime and anti-social behaviour. Such work was delivered through grass roots projects, progression pathways, research and evaluation.

The Partnership was informed that ACN was primarily a youth and community development organisation, which utilised positive activities to enable change in young people and communities which had suffered from disadvantage. One of the key programmes delivered was tailored specifically to help empower women by focussing on three key themes, this is, violence, safety and relationships. That programme was one of four key initiatives which were delivered on both an individual and community basis under the themes of tackling inequality, creating opportunities and inspiring change.

The representatives of the Active Communities Network answered several questions which had been posed by Members and the Partnership agreed to note the information which had been provided.

### **Presentation - Victims Support Northern Ireland re: Anti-Hate Crime Campaign**

Mr. Michael Avila, Hate Crime Project Manager with Victim Support NI, was welcomed to the meeting, and he delivered a presentation in respect of the above-mentioned matter. He explained that Victim Support was a charity that supported victims of hate crime and offered a free and confidential service. He gave an overview of the various types of crimes and how Victim Support had, since 2008, been contracted by the Department of Justice and the PSNI to deliver an advocacy service for the victims of such crimes. He outlined how support was provided through increasing the confidence of individuals to report crimes and to access the criminal justice system. In addition, Victim Support provided investigative support and signposted individuals to relevant support agencies.

Mr. Avila answered several questions which had been posed by Members and the Partnership agreed to note the information which had been provided.

Discussion then ensued regarding the use of language in discussing the recent race attacks and the perceived role of paramilitaries in relation thereto. The point was made that the racial attacks were, regardless of origin, acts of criminality and it was essential that the narrative in this regard be examined and challenged. It was suggested that the matter could be given further consideration in due course.

Noted.

### **Membership Update**

Further to the Partnership's meeting of 7th October, when it had been agreed, given the level of race-related violence experienced across Belfast during the summer period, that it would be beneficial if a member of the Mears Group be co-opted onto the Partnership, the Good Relations Manager advised that he had sought the advice of the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services in this regard.

The Partnership was informed that the advice received had indicated that it would be appropriate if a representative of the Mears Group would attend meetings on a quarterly or ad hoc basis to provide updates as necessary.

Arising from discussion, it was agreed that officers would liaise further with representatives of the Mears Group in respect of a series of questions which had been raised by Members at the meeting on 8th October.

Noted.

### **Community Recovery Fund**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd October it was agreed that Officers would develop an Action Plan for the Community Recovery Fund under four main themes: -**

- **Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration**
- **Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau**
- **Theme 3 Area Based Initiatives and Programmes**
- **Theme 4 Resource Recoupment**

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 For members to agree the Action Plan for the Community Recovery Fund.**

### **3.0 Main Report**

The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to each eligible local authority, to be spent before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.

Expenditure is eligible under this scheme if it is in response to the violent disorder that took place between July and August 2024 and is on, or in connection with:

- a. Immediate action to safeguard life or property.
- b. To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- c. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
- d. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

**3.2** The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances. The following are examples of expenditure which may be covered by the grant, though this list is not exhaustive.

### **3.3 Community and voluntary activity:**

- Projects which build connections between communities. For example, by bringing people together from different groups, including those of different faiths, around a shared goal/objective, such as through volunteering, befriending or mentoring schemes.
- Events, workshops, or campaign activities to educate on what constitutes a hate crime and supporting victims of hate crime.
- Projects in schools and universities which help address tensions/unrests, linked to hatred and intolerance, for example guidance for teachers on how to de-escalate tensions and respond neutrally to concerns.
- Initiatives which help counter or strengthen resilience to mis/disinformation and prevent false and harmful narratives spreading. For example, social media focused 'critical thinking' lessons in school.
- Temporarily increasing safety patrols.
- Measures to prevent anti-social behavior, crime and reduce reoffending including youth diversionary activities.
- Destination marketing and funding for the development and promotion of campaigns which encourage people to visit the local area.
- Campaigns to encourage local pride and to bring people back into the high streets.

- Campaigns to promote community cohesion and educate on hate crime.

**3.4 Associated costs with the above activity:**

- Legal, clerical and other charges incurred on any of the above work.
- Additional temporary employees or contractors, to work on the emergency or replace permanent employees diverted from normal work.
- Special overtime for employees, either during the emergency for overtime worked on the emergency itself, or afterwards to catch up on work from which they were diverted by the incident.

**3.5** The above programmes will be additional to the departments core work, and an Action Plan for the said has to be agreed, with delivery by the 31st March 2025, that said this is a considerable investment for Belfast City. Officers have been in discussions with the relevant department in Westminster and providing programmes are committed Council may have the ability to deliver into the Financial Year 25/26.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

**3.6** All the budget detailed within the report is at 100%, the biggest implication is that of resource to design, implement, manage and monitor the programmes, however Council will be able to recoup this under Theme 4.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

**3.7** All the above aligns with Council’s Good Relations Strategic Framework, which seeks to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds.”

The Partnership adopted the Action Plan as presented in respect the Community Recovery Fund.

**The Executive Office - Dispersal Programme and  
Refugee Integration Programme**

The Partnership considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Issues**

**11** To provide members with an update on the Asylum Dispersal Fund and Refugee Integration Fund

## **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **Background**

**3.1 Members are reminded that In March 2023, The Executive Office (TEO) awarded Council £406,228 of Asylum Dispersal Funding to support projects for people that have sought asylum.**

**3.2 Following, the final award of funding to five further projects in June, this funding has now all been committed. In total 11 projects were supported through the fund.**

**3.3 In addition to the Asylum Dispersal Funding, in June 2024, TEO wrote to Belfast City Council, offering the Council £128,700 of Refugee Integration Funding, to support services to people that have been granted Refugee Status in Belfast.**

**3.4 Due to the requirement for the money to be spent this financial year, the Council developed an Open Call for organisations to submit proposals for small-scale projects that support the integration and inclusion of Refugees.**

**3.5 Following the closure of the call on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, Officers assessed the applications with all 15 projects being awarded funding.**

**3.6 The table below details the organisations funded.**

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Funding award</b>	<b>Short Project Description</b>
<b>African and Caribbean Support Organisation NI</b>	<b>£10,945</b>	<b>This project will deliver physical and mental well-being sessions, for people who have been granted Refugee Status, it will also include a programme to provide volunteering opportunities as well as intercultural initiatives to support wider relationship building.</b>

<b>Artsekta</b>	<b>£7,000</b>	This project will involve a series of creative classes to encourage social activity and new friendships. It will also involve a 14-week English language programme as well as educational visits to help support integration and inclusion.
<b>Ashton Community Trust</b>	<b>£10,180</b>	This project is for a 10-week programme of Integration initiatives, to build relations with people that have been granted Refugee Status in North Belfast and to encourage contact and relations with wider communities.
<b>Counselling All Nations Services (CANS)</b>	<b>£2,650</b>	This project will provide workshops on strategies to deal with the mental health related impacts for people that have went through the Refugee journey.
<b>Diverse Youth N.I.</b>	<b>£11,600</b>	This project is for a five-month initiative aimed at fostering integration and inclusion for refugee youth in Belfast. Through cultural-exchange workshops, conflict resolution training, and creative projects, the program will build positive relationships between refugee and local youth.
<b>Diocese of Down and Dromore – Church of Ireland Suitcase Project</b>	<b>£10,340</b>	This project will provide a Learning Hub focused on supporting Refugee families in East Belfast. The initiative will provide a homework club, English language classes, befriending opportunities and drop in facility for families and individuals.
<b>East Belfast Community Development Association</b>	<b>£3,000</b>	This project is focused on upskilling youth leaders and empowering them to challenge negative stereotypes that can lead to hate crimes and help to create a more welcoming community for newcomers.

<p><b>Ethnic Minority Sports Organisation N.I</b></p>	<p><b>£6,100</b></p>	<p>This Project is providing a weekly outlet for people, from the Refugee as well as host community, to meet by providing a pop in sporting activity.</p>
<p><b>Fitzroy Presbyterian Church</b></p>	<p><b>£9,918</b></p>	<p>This project will provide opportunities for Refugees to visit various spaces in Belfast enabling them to feel safe travelling around the city. It will also include an eight-week English conversational course for women.</p>
<p><b>GEMS N.I</b></p>	<p><b>£10,670</b></p>	<p>This project will deliver tailored support to help refugees integrate into Belfast's job market and build sustainable careers. The project focuses on pairing refugees with experienced professionals from various industries, who will be trained to provide personalised, one-to-one mentoring. This mentoring will guide participants through critical aspects of employability, including job search strategies, CV development, interview preparation, and navigating workplace culture in Belfast/Northern Ireland.</p>
<p><b>Horn of Africa</b></p>	<p><b>£12,320</b></p>	<p>This project will provide a befriending programme, developing community navigators to support the orientation and inclusion of Refugee Women.</p>
<p><b>International Organization for Migration</b></p>	<p><b>£11,500</b></p>	<p>This project will deliver a skills and reintegration programme to enhance the employability, skills profile and volunteering prospects of refugees and to improve their integration into the labour market in a manner which fosters their autonomy and human dignity.</p>

JoinHer Network		This project aim is to create strong connections between people seeking refuge and host communities, reduce social tensions, and empower people seeking refuge to participate fully in the life of Belfast. It will involve awareness raising of the NI cultural context for people seeking refuge, promoting civic participation and volunteering. It will invoice develop an anti-discrimination awareness campaign and organise a community inclusion and storytelling event.
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	£4,460	This project will provide ongoing good relations activities and joint programmes to build trust between the refugee and wider communities.
Street Soccer	£8,250	This project will promote integration and inclusion through 3 elements: a Sports Café, English language classes and a training academy. The Sport Café will provide an initial welcoming space as a point of contact to meet other people and access signposting advice. It will also upskill refugees by providing language classes, and opportunities to participate in a sporting academy.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£128,933</b>	

### 3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The proposals in this report are 100% funded through Home Office Dispersal Funding, and Refugee Integration Funding via the Executive Office, the main resource is Officer time around the management and governance of the funds.

### 3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Implications

These proposals have strong good relations outcomes and complement the work being delivered through the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and the Belfast Agenda."

In response to a Member's question regarding the city-wide impact of the funding, it was indicated that, whilst there had been a positive response to the call for funding, certain areas had remained under-represented, but that it was anticipated that a funding would have an overall positive and beneficial impact. Officers pointed out also that they would be content to liaise with organisations from under-represented areas to discuss future opportunities related to the work.

A Member suggested that there remained a reluctance within certain areas to apply for funding since several factors which had contributed to the summer unrest remained unresolved. It was highlighted that the Council's Good Relations Grant Scheme was currently accepting applications and officers would be prepared to provide advice and guidance to organisations in this regard.

In response to a further question from an Independent Member regarding the Asylum Dispersal Fund, it was reported that confirmation had as yet to be provided from The Executive Office concerning the Fund. However, officers undertook to keep Members updated in this matter.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

### **Peace IV - Secretariat Update**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress update in respect of the reimbursement and closure of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they also note the contents of the report.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Claims Reimbursement**

**As members are aware, the Council has been managing a substantial and long-term debt associated with PEACE IV Local Action Plan claims reimbursement.**

**As reported in September 2024, this issue was further highlighted with the SEUPB Director. Over recent weeks SEUPB has been progressing the verification and reimbursement of outstanding claims.**

##### **3.2 Reimbursement of the CYP Claim 34.1 of £110,701 has been received, with minor financial corrections of £667 applied,**

these costs will be offset by the office and administration payment.

Period 34 and 35 claims for the SSS theme, valued at £1,393,559 have proceeded to the first level control stage within SEUPB, although reimbursement has not yet progressed.

**3.3 The following claims have yet to be progressed.**

		BCC BPR Closure	£215,968.46
Claim 34.2	1 Feb 23 to 31 Mar 23	BCC CYP Closure	£121,527.16
Claim 36	1 Aug 23 to 30 Sept 23	BCC SSS Closure	£1,088,358.60
	TOTAL OUTSTANDING P34-36		£1,425,854.22

Officers will continue monitor outstanding claims and update members accordingly.

**3.4 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV programme expenditure totals £12.9m, with claims of approximately £10m reimbursed to date.

**3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment**

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed that that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd November, be requested to note the report also.

**PEACEPLUS - Council Local Action Plan – Update**

The Partnership considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS 1.1. Co-designed Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan (LCAP).

## **2.0 Recommendations**

Members note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to also note the contents of the report.

## **3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Mobilisation of the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan is proceeding at pace with key actions and progress detailed below.**

## **3.2 SEUPB Approval / Letter of Offer**

As previously reported (7 October 2024), a request was submitted to SEUPB for the Letter of Offer (LoO) to be issued in £ sterling, in line with the PEACEPLUS Programme Manual. However this request was declined, and a further rationale outlining key points which were beyond Council's control (as below) was also submitted and declined by SEUPB:

- 1. Delays in approval by SEUPB has resulted in an increased risk to exchange rate losses for Council, which was beyond our control'**
- 2. Council has been incurring project costs since January 2024 however the SEUPB JeMS system has not been available to Council to claim costs;**
- 3. The Council's approval letter states that the Controller arrangements must be in place before any claims are submitted. As SEUPB has not yet procured a controller framework this will create an initial backlog of claims;**
- 4. During the development phase of the Local Community Action Plan no advice or guidance was provided on currency issues or exchange rate fluctuations.**

Given the significant risk of exchange rate fluctuations and the delays in reimbursement to Council, formal correspondence is being issued to SEUPB's Chief Executive requesting they reconsider this decision.

Officers are also liaising with Council's Finance and Audit departments to discuss approaches that may help mitigate the risk to Council.

Members are requested to note that agreement on the Letter of Offer currency is delaying the issue of the Letter of Offer.

### **3.3 Mobilisation and Implementation**

Public procurement of the PEACEPLUS projects is progressing as outlined in the procurement timeframe provided at the August SCP meeting.

Four public tender calls have been opened for TPC3 Youth Empowerment, TPC1 Community Empowerment, CDD5 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism and TPC5 Employability Language Up projects. Evaluations for the Youth Empowerment and Community Empowerment tender submissions are now proceeding. Contract awards are anticipated to commence in December 2024; however, members should note they will be progressed once the formal Letter of Offer is received and accepted.

Four further tender calls will open over the coming weeks for TPC6 Arts across the Genres, TPC4 Sports for Peace, TPC2 Health & Wellbeing and CDD1 Interfaith and Belief.

Pre-market engagement (PME) sessions are scheduled for

- CCD2 Community Connections on 5 November 2024, 10:00am – 12:00pm
- CCD4 Ex Politically Motivated Prisoner on 13 November 2024 10:00am – 12:00pm

It is anticipated that all contract awards should be in place by February 2025 with end dates of December 2027.

### **3.4 Staff Recruitment**

Appointments for the Project Officer (PO) and Project Support Assistant (PSA) are progressing with staff due in post by December 2024. The recruitment of the Support Officers has also commenced.

### **3.5 Financial and Resource Implications**

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS LCAP will be eligible from this date and will be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.

### **3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment**

Plan has been submitted for equality and good relations screening as well as rural needs assessment.”

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed that that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd November, be requested to note the report also.

Chairperson

# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES NETWORK

**Tackle Inequality.  
Create Opportunities.  
Inspire Change.**

**[activecommunities.org.uk](http://activecommunities.org.uk)**

# WHO WE ARE



We are a youth & community development organisation using positive activities to enable change in young people and communities which have been disadvantaged.



# OUR VALUES

Needs led  
Impact  
Empowerment  
Partnership  
Evidence based  
Inclusion  
Ground up approach

**WHY?**  
**DO WE DO WHAT WE DO**

**BECAUSE WE WANT TO**  
**CHANGE**  
**THE WORLD**



# WHY?

For 18 years we have been delivering in communities which have been dis-advantaged.

From our learning, we believe we have developed a way forward.

**THE**

**ACN**

**WAY**



# HOW?

Time has shown what we as a sector are delivering is having limited impact in communities which have been most disadvantaged.

# SECTOR APPROACH

## WE TACKLE:

Poverty

Educational underachievement

Poor health

Hopelessness

Segregation

Homelessness

Discrimination

Unemployment

Conflict/peace

Crime

Mental health

Drug and alcohol misuse

Suicide

Isolation

Disconnection

Gender Based Violence

## WE USE TOOLS SUCH AS...

Personal and social development

Drug/alcohol awareness programmes

Sports for development

Informal/formal education

Youth and community work

Outreach engagement programmes

Training/employment programmes

Positive activities

Outdoor activities

Family support

Life skills

Inclusive environments

Person centred approach

Offering new experiences

Community social action

Conflict resolution

Restorative practices

Peer support and learning

Diversionary programmes

Partnership working

# WHAT?

SHOULD WE BE TACKLING



**BIAS**

**INJUSTICE**

**DIFFERENCE**

# INEQUALITY

“the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.”

**DISCRIMINATION**

**UNFAIRNESS**

**UNJUST**

**DISPARITY**

**PAIN**

**DISTRESS**

**HURT**

**CONFUSION**

**AGONY**

# TRAUMA

“a deeply distressing or disturbing experience.”

**SHOCK**

**DAMAGE**

**ORDEAL**

**INJURY**

**ANGUISH**

Educational  
underachievement  
Religious discrimination  
Mental health issues  
Drug abuse  
Racial discrimination  
Alcohol abuse

# INEQUALITY AND TRAUMA

Poverty  
High unemployment  
rates  
Suicide  
Health issues  
Conflict/peace  
Homophobia and  
transphobia

**HOW DO WE  
CHANGE  
THE WORLD?**

**THE  
ACN  
WAY**

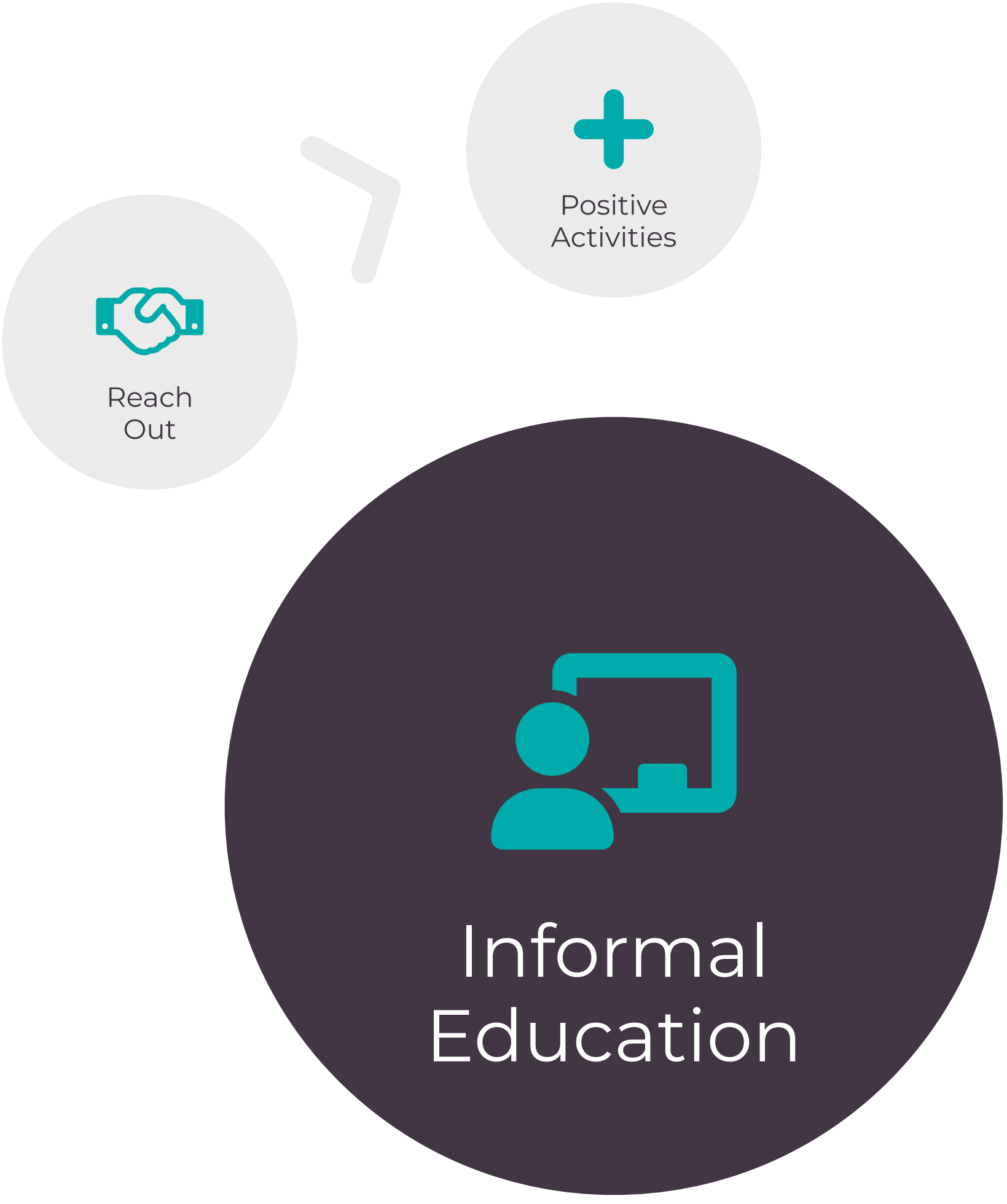




Reach  
Out



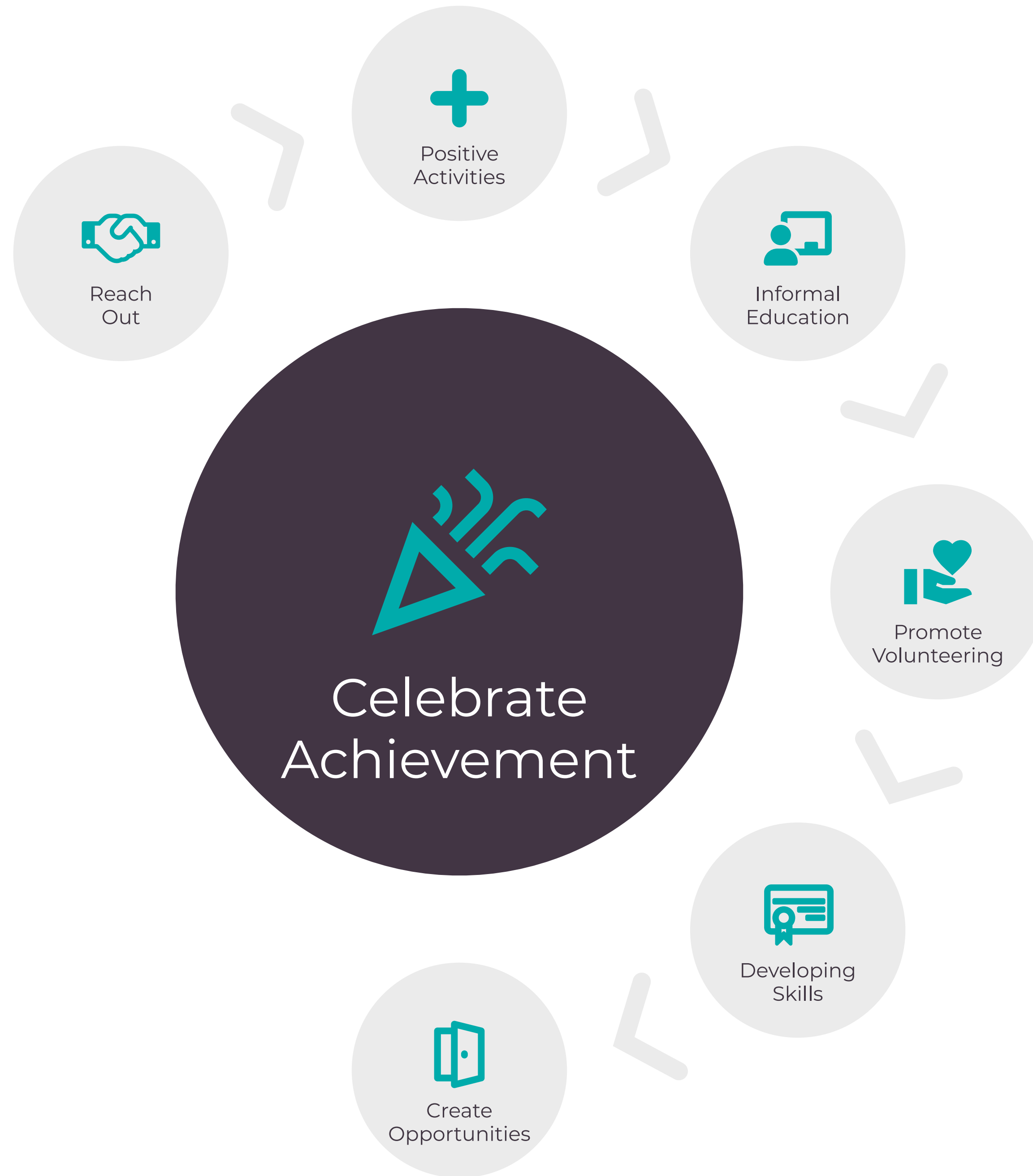
Positive  
Activities











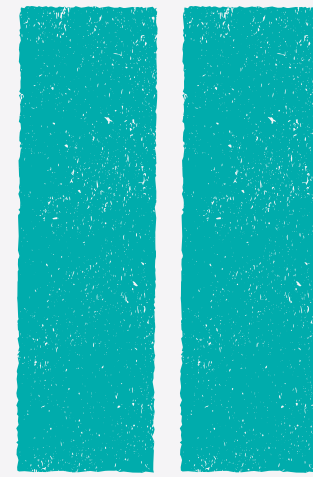






# PILLAR 1

Positive activities



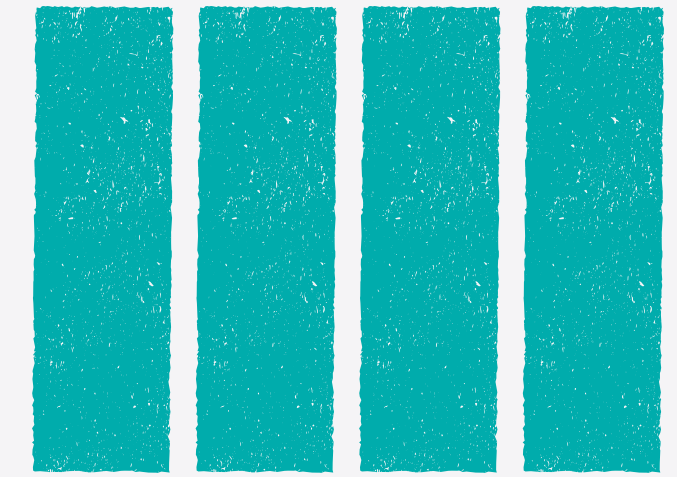
# PILLAR 2

Youth and  
community work



# PILLAR 3

Education



# PILLAR 4

Trauma informed  
practice, wellbeing  
and mindset



# empowerTHEM

An interactive workshop looking at resilience and trauma informed practises, that can be designed to meet the needs of community groups and organisations.



# empowerHER

A women's programme focused on 3 key themes: violence, safety and relationships. These are interactive sessions, aimed at enhancing individual knowledge on issue-based topics, as well as challenging preconceived ideas and informing new behaviours. It promotes Allyship, social action and an opportunity to engage with other organisations.



# empowerHIM

A men's programme, which key focus considers themes such as; societal pressures, well-being and awareness of self. The workshops are interactive, thought provoking and encourages action.



# empowerYOU

A capacity building programme utilising mentoring, skills development, reflection and goal setting which will benefit small groups and individuals alike.



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES NETWORK

**Tackle Inequality.  
Create Opportunities.  
Inspire Change.**

**info@activecommunities.org.uk  
activecommunities.org.uk**



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# **HATE CRIME ADVOCACY SERVICE**

Support for you each step of the way

# What is Hate Crime?

## **What is a 'hate crime'?**

A hate crime is any crime where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised.

## **What is a 'signal crime'?**

'Signal crimes' are 'message crimes' that signal that the community of which the victim is a member is different or not accepted. They include any crime that causes change in public or a particular segment of society's behaviour and/or beliefs about their security.



# Strands of Hate Crime



- Disability

- Transphobic



- Racist


- Faith/Religion

- Homophobic


- Sectarian



# Hate Crime Advocacy Service

- Introduced in 2008 & is contracted by DOJ & PSNI
    - Aims to improve support for victims
    - Increase confidence & encourage reporting
    - Improve access to the criminal justice system
  - Victim Support NI acts as co-ordinator
  - Consortium includes Migrant Centre NI, The Rainbow Project & Disability Action
  - Examples of good practice & learning are shared across the partnership
- 

# How the Advocates Can Help


- **Investigative support**
  - **Third party reporting**
  - **Signpost to relevant support agencies**
    - Emotional Support
    - Criminal Injury Compensation Services
    - Police Ombudsman
    - Health
    - Other Advocacy Organisations
  - **Housing**
  - **Awareness raising**
  - **Building partnerships**
- 

# Disability

- Communication
- Mobility
- Access to transport
- Isolation
- Mental health



# LGBT

- Discrimination
  - Targeting sexual orientation / gender identity
  - Hate speech & public harassment
  - No outcome / consequence for perpetrator
- 

# Religious & Sectarian

- Fear and intimidation
- Threat of escalating violence
- Unwillingness to report
- Lack of support
- Concern for family/friends



# Racial

- Victim might not understand 'hate crime'
- Use interpreting services when needed
- Speak clearly & listen intently
- Refer victims to migrant orgs if necessary
- Empathy can overcome cultural barriers



# What is Victim Support NI?

- **VSNI** is a charity supporting crime victims
- Offers a **free & confidential** service
- **Vision:** A society that ensures appropriate support & information is available to victims & witnesses
- **Mission:** Victims treated with respect & dignity while receiving the support they are entitled to

## Victim Support NI services include:

- **Emotional Support** – forum to speak about trauma
- **Criminal Injury Compensation Services**
- **Witness Service** – support in court
- **ChISVA** – support for young victims of sexual violence
- **SOLA** – legal support for adult victims of sexual violence
- **Phoenix Youth** – supporting young people w/ trauma
- **Restorative Justice** – alternative means to justice

# Thank you for your time

## Any questions?

Website: [www.hcasni.com](http://www.hcasni.com)

Email: [hate.crime@hcasni.org.uk](mailto:hate.crime@hcasni.org.uk)



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinnystrie o tha Laa



## **Appendix 1 DRAFT COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND – ACTION PLAN 24-25**

### **Background**

the recently launched Community Recovery Fund (CRF), which the Deputy Prime Minister is making available to support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place between July and August 2024, including Belfast. In England this will be issued under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, and in Northern Ireland funds will be released to the Department of Finance, to support those communities most affected.

The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to each eligible local authority, to be spent before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.

Expenditure is eligible under this scheme if it is in response to the violent disorder that took place between July and August 2024 and is on, or in connection with:

- a. Immediate action to safeguard life or property.
- b. To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- c. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
- d. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances.

Belfast City Council has designed a high-level Action Plan to utilise the Community Recovery Fund and optimise its impact to the City. This will be delivered under four main themes: -

- Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration
- Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau
- Theme 3 Area Based Initiatives and Programmes
- Theme 4 Resource Recoupment

THEME	Ref	Project Title	Project Outline	Alignment to CRF Priority	Project Outcomes	Project Budget
Good Relations	CRF001	Restore the Physical Environment	<p>To work with Open Spaces and Street Scene Department and the Department for Infrastructure to restore the physical environment back to its original form pre– August Riots.</p> <p>Increase on Street Engagement through the Safety Neighbourhood Officer Team</p>	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p>	Public Property and Space returned to pre riot condition	£20,000
	CRF002	Integration and Inclusion	<p>Commission projects to support key stakeholders such as teachers, youth practitioners and community leaders to work with young people and adults to prevent the threats from new and evolving harmful ideologies, that sow division, and spread hate and intolerance.</p> <p>Projects may include the development of Programmes which Develop: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Connections</li> <li>• Cultural Competence</li> <li>• Integration and Orientation</li> <li>• Trauma Services in School and/or the wider Community</li> <li>• the development of a toolkit resource</li> </ul> <p>Develop a 3 Year Plan for Belfast City Council to assist Social Cohesion and Integration</p> <p>Make Provision to develop the capacity of the Migrant Forum.</p>	<p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>An increase in integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£115,000

CRF003	Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out)	<p>This programme is designed to enable Council Owned Community Centres and 8 Independently Managed Community Centres to create programmes within their area to connect with Asylum seekers, Refugees and BAME community. The Programmes will be designed to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Centres of Welcome and Sanctuary</li> <li>• Foster local connections</li> <li>• Provide Opportunities for engagement.</li> <li>• Signpost to other Services both Internal and External</li> </ul>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Centres of Sanctuary</p> <p>Increased Community Connections</p>	£100,000
CRF004	Challenging the Narrative	<p>Every year, people move to Northern Ireland to live, work and study, and others leave Northern Ireland to live in other countries.</p> <p>Migration is normal and has been increasing on a Global Scale. Northern Ireland is benefitting from migration, on several different levels.</p> <p>This programme is to develop a resource that clearly presents the facts in relation to migration, and the process of immigration. This will include, but is not exhaustive: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Facts</b> - Who can come here and how, Migration in numbers, Migration, our economy, and services.</li> <li>• <b>The Immigration System Explained</b></li> <li>• <b>Integration and Community Supports</b></li> <li>• <b>Accommodation Support</b></li> </ul>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Factual Resource	£35,000

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Misinformation</b> - They're Taking our Jobs, what they Receive, They're Here Illegally, Migrants Bring Crime, Migrants are given Preferential Access to Social Housing, what do Migrants Contribute to the Economy</li> </ul>			
CRF005	Supporting Education – Expansion of Schools of Sanctuary and Drop-in Support Programme	<p>The Schools of Sanctuary programme is an award scheme currently available in the Urban Villages areas of Belfast.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at helping schools to further the concept that schools are welcoming places where every child feels safe and accepted regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like; places where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.</p> <p>The Intercultural Education Service and Urban Villages have worked closely with Belfast City of Sanctuary to develop a customised <b>Schools of Sanctuary resource pack - 2nd edition</b> for schools.</p> <p>Selected schools follow 7 steps online, along with school clusters, which help them to follow the Schools of Sanctuary programme in bite-sized, manageable chunks. This provides advice and support to enhance the experience for children, parents, staff, and those in the wider community. This proposal will see the Schools of Sanctuary Programme expanded to 8 other schools across Belfast, which are not in the Urban Village areas. The schools</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Development of 8 Schools to become Schools of Sanctuary across Belfast NSEW</p> <p>Expansion of Drop in Support</p> <p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Increased Community Connections</p>	£20,000	

			<p>will be identified by the Education Authority based on the enrolment statistics.</p> <p>The EA Drop-in Programme to be expanded and will be hosted X number of evenings per week and will be hosted by the Educational Authority and partners to provide advice, guidance through interpreters to assist integration. This is currently running in 2 Royal Avenue which is an accessible central location for families to visit.</p>			
<p>Wider University and Lower Ormeau</p> <p>Page 301</p>	CRF006	Business Mentoring, Engagement, and Integration Programme	<p>A number of drop-in clinics could be organised in the areas where businesses have suffered in the context of Hate Crime and racist attacks.</p> <p>It will be in a business/building from 9-5 (or a recommended time to ensure engagement) and people can call in at their leisure to hear more about support.</p> <p>People can also arrange a one-to-one meeting in the area at their business premises.</p> <p>From this engagement Officers will establish what the needs are of individuals and help to identify common themes for workshops, mentoring and support.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	8 Businesses Receive Mentoring and Engagement Support	£20,000
	CRF007	Wider University and Lower Ormeau Support Programme	This programme will be designed around Migrant Support Programmes and Council's commitment to, and interest in the diverse community within the WULO area of the city.	To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.	Number of Key Organisations supported in the WULO area	£40,000

			<p>It aims to strengthen the integration and inclusion of the migrant population.</p> <p>Through this programme Council wants to support projects that will have a clear and identifiable impact on supporting and building integration and inclusion of the migrant population within the wider university and lower Ormeau area of Belfast.</p> <p>The most recent Good Relations Audit seeks to build on the work undertaken by the Council on supporting the participation and inclusion of minority ethnic residents over the last number of years. In making recommendations on how to progress this work further the Audit highlights the following as being key components: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop initiatives to address anti-Muslim hate.</li> <li>2. Develop a programme focusing on minority ethnic leadership.</li> <li>3. Examine and explore the response of Council's and communities in Britain, Ireland and further afield regarding managing diversity and tackling systemic racism.</li> </ol>	<p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>		
Area Based	CRF008		<p>Co – Design up to 12 Area Based Plans to equip Communities to Assist with Integration and Inclusion of the Migrant Population in Belfast City.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Production of up to 12 Area Based Plans</p> <p>Up to 12 Animation Projects which will see: -</p>	<p>£180,000</p>

		<p>The programme will build on recommendations arising from Council commissioned research into the experiences of People from Minority Ethnic backgrounds in Belfast.</p> <p>It will support the development of up to 12 Area Based Action Plans to enhance befriending, orientation and integration opportunities for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and the migrant community linking them with local support services and developing their leadership potential and increasing their cultural competence.</p> <p>This proposal will also be enhanced by associating a £10,000 animation fund aligned to each of the Area Plans developed. This will enable delivery of activities in each of the areas through an agreed constituted lead community organisation.</p>		<p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>Increase integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p> <p>Increased Community Leadership and Competence</p>	
CRF009	Hate Crime Hardship Programme	<p>From research undertaken via PCSP Council envision this programme will be able to assist through the provision of the following which have been the most communicated by victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Security equipment</b> to act as a deterrent to further crimes and better protect victims in their homes. Perpetrators do 'think twice' more often when there is more of a likelihood of them getting caught. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Security cameras</b></li> <li>○ <b>Ring Doorbells</b></li> <li>○ <b>Emergency door stops.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people who feel safe.</p> <p>Decrease in number of people affected by Hate Crime</p>	£20,000

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Alarms</b></li> <li>● <b>Temporary cover for clothing, personal care/hygiene products:</b> Having to leave a property in an emergency will lead to victims needing to replace some everyday products they would have had more readily available.</li> </ul> <p>We are not limiting what could potentially be covered by the programme to the list above – these are just <i>some</i> of the more common areas where victims of hate crime have little support and could positively impact their personal safety, confidence in public institutions and ease financial burdens. Again, the purpose of the programme would be to ease burdens that wouldn't otherwise be there were but for the unfortunate victims being targeted with hate crime.</p>			
Resource Recoupment	CRF010	<b>Associated costs</b>	<p>Belfast City Council will need additional resources to ensure the Community Recovery Fund Action Plan is implemented and achieves the desired outcomes. This will be in the form of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additional Staff Resource</li> <li>● Additional Hours from existing members of the Team</li> <li>● Additional Administrative Support</li> </ul>	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	All the above.	£50,000
					<b>TOTAL</b>	£600,000

## Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Attendance

Members:

Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Ryan Murphy  
Councillor Ciaran Beattie  
Councillor Sarah Bunting  
Councillor Gary McKeown

**Apologies:** Councillor Áine Groogan, Alderman Sonia Copeland

### Officers:

Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services  
Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services  
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance  
Wendy Langham, Programme Director, Belfast Stories (for Item 3)  
Eimear Henry, Strategic Lead, Belfast Stories (for Item 3)  
David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services  
Jim Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager (for Item 4)  
Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision (for Item 4)  
Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects  
Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place & Economy  
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

### 1. **Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) – Presentation**

The Deputy Chief Executive welcomed Fiona Douglas and Tony Bovaird from NILGA who presented a briefing on the NILGA regional leadership programme for elected member development. They outlined the objectives, module content and timescales of the programme and highlighted that the programme is designed to provide elected members with a coordinated toolkit of learning in line with the NILGA Political Skills Framework. Members also noted the accreditation options available should they undertake the leadership programme. It was agreed a copy of the presentation would be circulated to the Forum and Members thanked Fiona and Tony for the update provided.

### 2. **Finance Update**

The Director of Finance provided a summary of the Medium Term Financial Plan along with an update on the setting of the district rate for 2025/26 following the completion of the Departmental estimates process. He outlined the significant impact to the setting of the

district rate following the recent Autumn Budget announcement in relation to National Insurance Contributions. Members noted the potential uncontrollable costs which may be incurred as a result, and that given the uncertainty around any potential government subvention that Members will be kept updated as this progresses.

The Director also advised that the growth proposals presented by Departments as part of this process were currently being reviewed and that these would need to be considered by Members as part of the upcoming Party Group Briefings. A full briefing pack will be forwarded in advance of the Party Group Briefings to inform the discussion.

Members also noted an overview of the quarter two 2024/25 forecast position and that a report on both the setting of the district rate 2025/26 and the quarter two forecast position would be submitted to November SP&R for Members consideration.

### **3. Belfast Stories Design and Consultation Update**

The Programme Director and Strategic Lead for Belfast Stories provided a detailed update for Members on the progress achieved to date on the project, including an update on the activity being undertaken to support the next phase of development up to the end of RIBA Design stage 2 and the submission of the Outline Business Case. It was noted that RIBA Stage 2 represents an important milestone and as such a second public consultation has been planned which will go live next week and run until February 2025 and a consultation briefing pack will be provided for Members. The consultation is being undertaken in order to inform the next stage of project development up to the end of RIBA stage 2 and beyond. As part of the briefing Members were also presented with illustrative concept design images that will be shared as part of the consultation process

In relation to some queries raised by Members in relation to the concept images presented and consultation sessions being organised the Director provided clarity.

### **4. Community Support Plan 2025/29**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager referred to the ongoing work in relation to the development of the Community Support Plan 2025/29 following the recent Party Group briefings. He gave an overview of the outcomes of the engagement with Members following these briefings and the proposed approach following all the engagement to date. The timescales for next steps were noted and also that further community engagement would

take place to update those who had been involved in earlier consultations. A report will be brought to a future meeting of the P&C Committee outlining the approach discussed.

## **5. Proposal to relocate Knotted Gun**

The Director of Property & Projects provided a briefing in relation to the the knotted gun statue which was gifted to the City of Belfast from Stena Line and is currently sited at Girdwood. The statue was unveiled at Girdwood in 2019 and is a well-known symbol of peace and non-violence. She advised that there is now a request from Stena Line that the Council consider relocating the statue to a city centre location where there is more footfall and sought the views of the Forum on the relocation options outlined. There was consensus in relation to one of the options outlined and the Director to further explore and bring a report into a future SP&R committee.

## **6. Planning Update**

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and provided an update on the applications considered at the November Planning Committee and also informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months.

## **7. AOB**

### **Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS)**

The Strategic Director of Place & Economy provided an update on the upcoming summit event to launch the key messaging for BCCRIS. He advised that invitations have already been issued and members noted the upcoming event.

### **Ulidia Playing Fields**

It was noted that the Director of Property and Projects would follow up on an issue raised by a Member.

### **Belfast Chamber**

The City Solicitor advised that correspondence had been received from the Belfast Chamber, requesting that the Party Group Leaders agree to receive a presentation from a delegation

from the Chamber. It was agreed that they will be invited into the next Party Group Leaders meeting at the end of November.

**Portrait of former Lord Mayor**

The City Solicitor provided an update in relation to the ongoing investigation into the damage caused to the portrait of a former Lord Mayor in October in City Hall. It was agreed this item be added to the agenda for the next Party Group Leaders meeting for discussion.



<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>					
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<p><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></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <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>					
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

<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	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in

	respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 8 November 2024.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is set out below.
3.2	Functions permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not.</li> <li>• functions which demonstrably enhance the city’s image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination.</li> <li>• functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province.</li> <li>• functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.</li> </ul>
3.3	Functions not permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms.</li> <li>• functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor’s Office.</li> <li>• functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities.</li> <li>• functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council.</li> <li>• functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds.</li> </ul>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Committee will recall that at its meeting on 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024, it considered an update on the City Hall Income Generation Project. Committee was advised that charging for the use of

3.5	<p>the Council's function rooms will be considered as part of a later stage of this project. This will include looking at a review of the current pricing structure and the provision of hospitality. Pending this work being brought to Committee, delegated authority was given to the City Solicitor and Director of Legal &amp; Civic Services to depart from the existing charging structure and negotiate room hire charges for commercial type events.</p> <p>The standard charging structure will apply to the event listed in the Schedule at Appendix 1.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 8 November 2024.</p>

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## NOVEMBER 2024 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED
<b>2025 Functions</b>					
Blackie River Community Organisations	25 January 2025	<p><b>Student Graduation for</b> adult learners on achievement of health and social care level 3 to childcare management level 5. The event will promote community-based education programmes for adult learners.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 100</p>	C & D	Current rate free as <b>charity</b>	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as <b>charity</b>
Invest NI	5 February 2025	<p><b>Business Networking evening for</b> NI business influencers, Invest NI client companies, Ulster Rugby management/players Australian visitors: players/managers/sponsors from Queensland Reds Rugby team.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 60 - 80</p>	A & B	Room hire £450	No hospitality as Government Dept.
Money and Pension Service – Dept of Work and Pensions	19 February 2025	<p><b>Scam/ Fraud Consumer advice showcase</b> to offer guidance on scam/fraud concerns, share approaches, best practice and support available for organisations and consumers. Aim is to work together to help reduce the numbers of people falling foul of scams/frauds.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 200</p>	D	Room hire £450	No hospitality as Government Dept.

## NOVEMBER 2024 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Department of Health	20 February 2025	<p><b>Celebration for Early Years Practitioners</b> - those who work with babies and young children in Belfast. For all those practitioners who work in our community, voluntary and statutory childcare</p> <p>Numbers attending – 150</p>	C	Room hire £450	No hospitality as Government Dept.
Cairde Bhunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin	28 February 2025	<p><b>Night of Celebration for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin</b> - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 200 - 250</p>	C & D	Current rate free as <b>charity</b>	Yes, Wine and Soft Drink reception as <b>significant anniversary</b>

## Cost of Living Working Group

Tuesday, 12th November, 2024

### MEETING OF THE COST OF LIVING WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND  
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);  
Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors Doherty, McLaughlin and McAteer.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Mr. J. Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. K. Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty;  
Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision;  
Mr. C. Tubridy, Hardship Programme Co-Ordinator;  
Mr. B. Carr, Portfolio Manager; and  
Mr. C. Mealey, Committee Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th September were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

#### **Hardship Programme 2024/25**

The Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty presented an update report on the current budget position in respect of the development and delivery of a Hardship Programme for 2024/25 to support those vulnerable people most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis across the city. He also provided a detailed overview of the 2023/24 Hardship Programme, including a breakdown of the total funding allocated, themes supported and funding per District Electoral Area.

He reminded Members of the Council's Anti-Poverty Networking Event, held on 29th October, and the launch of its cost-of-living support guide. He informed the Members that the networking event had provided valuable engagement with key stakeholders and highlighted the positive feedback received.

The Working Group was advised that the current funding available to support a Hardship Programme in 2024/25 was £100,773, which was significantly lower than previous years, and that the Department for Communities was currently not allocating any hardship funding for this period. Members were reminded that, at its meeting in October, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed that £1million of VAT receipts be ringfenced towards the Hardship Programme. Accordingly, the current budget position for the programme was £1,100,773.

In addition to the current budget for a 2024/25 Hardship Programme, it was reported that £785,744 had been secured through the Department for Communities, to support social supermarkets across the city.

The Working Group was advised that the proposed funding allocation for 2024/25 focused on the key themes and design principles, that had been previously agreed by the Working Group.

### **Thematic Focus**

- Support to children and young people and families;
- Support to individuals/families in emergency need; and
- Support for older people.

### **Design Principles**

- Dignity – delivered in a way that maintains the dignity of the person accessing support;
- Needs driven – targeted at those most in need and can demonstrate this;
- Wraparound – any individual accessing emergency support should be offered access to other wraparound services to help address need on an ongoing basis;
- Promote sustainability – not displace/ duplicate but add value to what is already in existence; and
- Delivery Infrastructure – proper infrastructure (internally within BCC and externally within other organisations) is in place to support the delivery of support.

The Working Group was provided with details of the proposed funding allocation and delivery model as set out below:

Theme	Proposed Delivery Partners	2023-24 Allocation	2024-25 Proposed Allocation
Support to children, young people, and families	Schools via Education Authority	£250,000	£250,000
	Sponsored/Community Day Care	£24,000	£25,000
	Family Support Hubs	£175,000	£200,000
	Save the Children	£100,000	£150,000
Support to individuals/families in emergency need	Society of St Vincent de Paul	£75,000	£100,000
	Trussell Trust	£30,000	£50,000
	Fareshare	£40,000	£50,000
Support for older people	National Energy Action	£75,000	£150,000
	Age NI	£50,000	£100,000
	Winter Wellbeing Programmes	£15,000	£25,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>£1,100,000</b>

The Working Group was informed that officers would continue to engage with Age NI in relation to its capacity to deliver the proposed allocation of £100,000, and that an update in respect of that would be provided to the Members in due course.

During discussion, Members thanked officers for the work carried out to date in respect of the development of the programme and highlighted the benefit of the 2023/24 programme in supporting those vulnerable people across the city that were most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.

Taking account of the planning and preparation required by officers and delivery partners in respect of a Hardship Programme for 2024/25, it was proposed that the delivery period for partners be extended to June 2025, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Members agreed that the proposed extension would be of benefit to the delivery partners.

Members expressed concern in respect of the hardship faced by older people over the winter months that had been exacerbated by changes to winter fuel payment eligibility. Members highlighted the need to, should additional funding be obtained, provide further support to older people, and ensure it is spread equally across the city.

### **Next Steps**

The Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty informed the Working Group that its discussions and recommendations would be collated and reported back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Working Group agreed that the report be brought to the November meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the date and time of the next meeting would be agreed in conjunction with the Chairperson.

Chairperson