

Public Document Pack

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

HYBRID MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Wednesday, 8th March, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALSH

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

4. **Regenerating Places & Improving Infrastructure**
 - (a) Responses from the Department for Infrastructure (Pages 1 - 10)
 - (c) Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 Update (Pages 11 - 16)
 - (e) Lobbying/Advocacy Paper and Regeneration Framework (Pages 17 - 20)

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure
Date:	8th March, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure Roads, in response to the queries raised at its presentation to the Committee on 9th November, and the response from the Permanent Secretary regarding the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><i>Response from DfI Roads – Autumn Report</i></p>
3.2	<p>The Committee, at its meeting in November, received a presentation for the Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to its Autumn Report 2022. During the meeting, Members had requested information on a number of additional matters, which DfI advised would be investigated and a further update submitted to the Committee in due course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road – Safety Concerns for residents regarding access - update on when this would be addressed; • An update on the residents parking scheme review and what, if any, have/ would be delivered across the City; • The need for residents parking scheme's along the proposed new Glider Route; • The need to review College Park Residents Parking Scheme; • Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner; • An update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme – was there a plan in place for what this would be and a timeline for implementation; • Update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive; • Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what had been implemented in the last two years; • Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process; • Potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore Glen/Twinbrook area; • Update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation; and • Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.
3.3	<p>Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to Mr. D. McFarlane, Eastern Divisional Roads Manager, requesting an update on the matters raised at the Committee.</p>
3.4	<p>A response was received for consideration (Appendix 1) which included the following website links:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to the DfI Website DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) • Link to the Autumn Council Report Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) • Link to NI Direct site Public Information Portal https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets
3.5	<p><i>Response from the Permanent Secretary – Belfast Cycle Network</i></p> <p>At its meeting in December, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request confirmation of the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network in the financial year 2022/23.</p>
3.6	<p>Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the matter and the response was received at Appendix 2 for consideration.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – DfI Roads Response to meeting of 9 November</p> <p>Appendix 2 – DfI Perm Sec – Belfast Cycle Network Allocation</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

**DFI Roads
Eastern Division**

Mr John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council

Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ
Telephone: 0300 200 7899
Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference:

Date 10 February 2023

Dear John

QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION AUTUMN 2022 REPORT

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Council on 9 November 2022, I agreed to consider a number of matters. Firstly I would apologise for the delay in responding.

My responses to the outstanding matters received on the evening are as follows:-

The need for residents parking scheme's along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation, and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.

Contact details for the DFI Roads Team can be found on the Department's website, please follow this link:-

[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](http://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

In addition, I have included a link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-

[Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets)

It should also be noted that elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.

The Department has reviewed the pop up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.

Counillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.

Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.

Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.

The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.

Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.

Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process

Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.

Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.

A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?

The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.

Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.

I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.

I hope this information is helpful



DES MCFARLANE
Divisional Roads Manager

This page is intentionally left blank



**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council

mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
Email: Julie.Harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: EMcG. CGR.12.12.2022
Our reference: SCORR-0025-2023
15 February 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

BELFAST CYCLE NETWORK – BUDGET ALLOCATION

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2023 on behalf of Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee enquiring how much funding has been allocated for delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network this financial year. Apologies for my slow reply.

While the initial allocation for schemes identified in the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan was £700k, actual spend is likely to be in the region of £490k as unfortunately progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been slower than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons. The Department has had helpful discussions in recent months with Council colleagues on Transport Strategy and Active Travel in the context of the Climate Act and current operating environment. I am due to meet John Kyle and Sammy Douglas soon to discuss how we can work more effectively together on these issues.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

JULIE HARRISON

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) update
Date:	8 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director, City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Callie Persic, Development Manager, City Regeneration & Development Richard McLernon, Climate Programme Manager (City)

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on Belfast City Council's involvement in the UP2030 funding application, which is funded through Horizon Europe.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that Belfast, represented by Belfast City Council, is a pilot city within the Horizon Europe UP2030 project which will focus on the development of a net zero neighbourhood framework and toolkit and the use of climate tools to support analysis, mapping and engagement in city neighbourhoods. The project will entail

	<p>the exchange of knowledge between cities, including site visits and meetings with partner cities and potentially hosting a visit to Belfast within the project lifetime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note that following the report to City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9 November 2022 an update was brought to the Climate and City Resilience Committee on 9 February that outlined progress, including the project start meeting on 1 and 2 February 2023 and noted the update to CG&R in November, including the queries raised in relation to the location of the project and proposed that the UP2030 includes the Linen Quarter BID district and surrounding city centre neighbourhoods of Sandy Row, Markets and Donegall Pass. • To agree that the geographical location of the UP2030 pilot which will align with A Bolder Vision, Net Zero Roadmap, and provides a holistic mix of local communities, city centre living, commercial and tourism and hospitality.
3.0	Main report
3.1	As reported in November 2022, the Belfast City Council Climate Unit and City Regeneration and Development Division are working together to ensure an integrated approach between urban planning, achieving net zero and aspects of resilience such as supporting play and environmental sustainability through engagement with key stakeholders such as young people, families, and businesses.
3.2	As reported in November 2022, Council was invited at short notice to participate in a Horizon Europe funding application from the UP2030 (Urban Planning 2030) fund. Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion, which looks to tackle climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth and is focused on supporting cities achieve net zero. The approach uses urban planning and design as a vehicle to create better connected, more compact, net-zero neighbourhoods that promote liveability and, through designing with intent, promote mitigation actions. Belfast was selected as one of the pilot cities and have received a Letter of Intent from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to participate as an associate member of the project. This letter provides €204,250 of revenue funding to support research, training and policy development and Officers are working with UKRI to finalise the funding agreement.
3.3	Through the UP2030 funding, we will seek to create a scalable framework that will be applied to cross-cutting projects that integrates tree planting, green infrastructure, play and co-design with young people and supports the integration of play and environmental sustainability into city design. Strategically, this connects A Bolder Vision and the Net Zero Roadmap and will

	<p>test adaptation and mitigation measures to support the emerging Climate Plan. At the CG&R Committee in November the Linen Quarter District was proposed a pilot area given the alignment with the emerging project plans with the 'Creating a Civic Spine' Key Move within A Bolder Vision, and the holistic mixed uses within the area that could lead to the development of a holistic framework that could be easily transferred to any area of a city. Members sought further clarification as to the rationale for choosing the proposed area, and whether it was something that could be further applied to other areas. Following further engagement and participation in the project launch event, this paper will seek for approval to enable the project work to commence in the proposed pilot area. While this work will be undertaken within a defined boundary, the purpose is to produce a framework that can be adapted and used within all communities and districts to set forward net zero approaches, attract funding and deliver climate adaption plans tailored for the issues of that specific district.</p>
3.4	<p>To maintain alignment with A Bolder Vision, the Resilience Strategy and following dialogue with the project organiser, UP2030, the optimal location is one that combines a mix of core city functions and uses. It is proposed to locate the project in a mixed-use environment that contains residential, hospitality, tourism, commercial, public transport corridors and large transport hubs to ensure adequate capture of a holistic concentration of issues to form a framework that can be easily adapted into any area within the city.</p>
3.5	<p>The proposed pilot area includes mixed functions and land uses, including residential and commercial areas with a focus on those communities that bound the city centre. This area encapsulates an area bounded by May Street & Shaftesbury Square, and the Gasworks and Great Victoria Street, and adjacent city centre communities in the Market, Donegall Pass and Sandy Row, providing a total approx. base of 9,000 residents. This would enable us to consider inter-related issues such as the severance and climate issues created by the road infrastructure and other factors such as poor public realm / open space / play provision, air quality and connectivity and specifically the impacts and mitigation measures on existing local communities, newer city centre residents, and mixed commercial uses including offices, hospitality and tourism.</p>
3.6	<p>The intention is to work across Council departments and with city stakeholders to elevate and embed the learning and approaches from this pilot and identify opportunities in other neighbourhoods to bring forward the concept of net-zero districts across the city.</p>

3.7	Members will be aware that given that the UK is no longer within the EU, the status of Council was changed from to being a Partner to that of an Associate which means that funding will be underwritten by the UK government (UK Research & Innovation, UKRI) fund rather than the EU. The funding is for revenue and does not include any capital costs. Council is currently finalising the funding agreement with the UKRI, and project delivery will take place over a three-year period following the kick off meeting in February. Belfast has been assigned a liaison partner, an organisation called Mapping for Change, who will support Belfast throughout the project life span. Further reports will be brought to this Committee and the City and the Climate and City Resilience Committees as the project progresses.																												
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Horizon Europe UP2030 Project is 100% funded. No additional funding is required from Council however a small team drawn from the Climate Unit and City Regeneration and Development will work together to oversee development and support implementation. The funding is for revenue and does not include any capital costs. However, Officers will continue to work with partners to identify potential capital or revenue funding in the future that could support the transition to net zero.</p>																												
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Officers are currently developing the Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Screening and will incorporate within the emerging proposals.</p>																												
4.0	Appendix 1 – see below																												
	<p>Horizon Europe UP2030 project consortium partners:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Participating Organisation</th><th>Country</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV</td><td>Germany</td></tr> <tr> <td>Belfast City Council</td><td>UK</td></tr> <tr> <td>ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNUTZIGE GMBH</td><td>Germany</td></tr> <tr> <td>Buro Happold GmbH</td><td>Germany</td></tr> <tr> <td>Design Clips P.C.</td><td>Greece</td></tr> <tr> <td>GreenAdapt Gesellschaft für Klimaanpassung mbH</td><td>Germany</td></tr> <tr> <td>I-CATALIST SL</td><td>Spain</td></tr> <tr> <td>STICHTING ISOCARP INSTITUTE CENTER OF URBAN EXCELLENCE</td><td>Netherlands</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Stellmach Planning & Architecture</td><td>Germany</td></tr> <tr> <td>TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT</td><td>Netherlands</td></tr> <tr> <td>UNIVERSITAT INTERNACIONAL DE CATALUNYA</td><td>Spain</td></tr> <tr> <td>Global Green Growth Institute</td><td>Hungary</td></tr> <tr> <td>ICLEI EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT GMBH (ICLEI</td><td>Germany</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Participating Organisation	Country	FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV	Germany	Belfast City Council	UK	ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNUTZIGE GMBH	Germany	Buro Happold GmbH	Germany	Design Clips P.C.	Greece	GreenAdapt Gesellschaft für Klimaanpassung mbH	Germany	I-CATALIST SL	Spain	STICHTING ISOCARP INSTITUTE CENTER OF URBAN EXCELLENCE	Netherlands	Thomas Stellmach Planning & Architecture	Germany	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT	Netherlands	UNIVERSITAT INTERNACIONAL DE CATALUNYA	Spain	Global Green Growth Institute	Hungary	ICLEI EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT GMBH (ICLEI	Germany
Participating Organisation	Country																												
FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV	Germany																												
Belfast City Council	UK																												
ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNUTZIGE GMBH	Germany																												
Buro Happold GmbH	Germany																												
Design Clips P.C.	Greece																												
GreenAdapt Gesellschaft für Klimaanpassung mbH	Germany																												
I-CATALIST SL	Spain																												
STICHTING ISOCARP INSTITUTE CENTER OF URBAN EXCELLENCE	Netherlands																												
Thomas Stellmach Planning & Architecture	Germany																												
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT	Netherlands																												
UNIVERSITAT INTERNACIONAL DE CATALUNYA	Spain																												
Global Green Growth Institute	Hungary																												
ICLEI EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT GMBH (ICLEI	Germany																												

EUROPASEKRETARIAT GMBH)	
STICHTING GLOBAL RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK	Netherlands
Urban Climate Change Research Network – European Hub	Italy
AQUATEC PROYECTOS PARA EL SECTOR DEL AGUA SA	Spain
CETAQUA, CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DEL AGUA, FUNDACION PRIVADA	Spain
PRAVO I INTERNET FOUNDATION	Bulgaria
LABORATORIO NACIONAL DE ENGENHARIA CIVIL	Portugal
ANAPTYXIAKI MEIZONOS ASTIKIS THESSALONIKIS AE - ANAPTYXIAKOS ORGANISMOS TOPIKIS AUTODIOIKISIS	Greece
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	Turkey
MAPPING FOR CHANGE CIC	UK
THE CHANCELLOR MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE	UK
UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART	Germany
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL	Belgium
ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS	Greece
FUNDACION CIRCE CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION DE RECURSOS Y CONSUMOS ENERGETICOS	Spain
STICHTING DELTARES	Netherlands
DRAXIS ENVIRONMENTAL SA	Greece
ODTU Gunes Enerjisi Uygulama ve Arastirma Merkezi	Turkey
K3Y	Bulgaria
FONDAZIONE LINKS - LEADING INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE FOR SOCIETY	Italy
MAGGIOLI SPA	Italy
UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE VALENCIA	Spain
Vesela Motika d.o.o.	Croatia
BUDAPEST FOVAROS ONKORMANYZATA	Hungary
AJUNTAMENT DE GRANOLLERS	Spain
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality	Turkey
CAMARA MUNICIPAL DE LISBOA	Portugal
LISBOA E-NOVA - AGENCIA DE ENERGIA E AMBIENTE DE LISBOA	Portugal
COMUNE DI MILANO	Italy
STADT MUNSTER	Germany
GEMEENTE ROTTERDAM	Netherlands
DIMOS THESSALONIKIS	Greece

	GRAD ZAGREB	Croatia	
	EIDGENOESSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZUERICH	Switzerland	



Subject:	Lobbying/Advocacy Paper and Regeneration Framework
Date:	8 th March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Adrian Ferguson, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration and Development

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on work underway in relation to a Funding Lobby & Advocacy Paper and a Regeneration Framework.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. To note the work underway in relation to the commissioning of a Lobby & Advocacy Paper for Place Based Regeneration Funding and the development of a Regeneration Framework and Project Prioritisation Process II. To note the scheduled engagement with Party Group Leaders and Permanent Secretaries as part of a wider engagement plan. III. To note alignment with ongoing work via City & Organisational Services to develop a project pipeline for Council aligned to funding opportunities and city priorities.

3.0	Main report
3.1	It is recognised that NI/Belfast does not benefit from the same regeneration and place based funding abilities as other UK Cities, e.g. Stronger Towns Fund; Future High Streets Fund; Homes England funding etc. which arguably places Belfast at a disadvantage from a regeneration and economic growth perspective. Work is currently underway with Avison Young (strategic regeneration, finance and business consultancy) to consider this in more detail and explore the case for advocating that Belfast receives the equivalent investment and funding powers available elsewhere.
3.2	In addition, in order to help bring forward regeneration schemes at scale and given the number of potential opportunities across the city it was agreed that there was a need to develop a Regeneration Framework and Prioritisation Process aligned to regeneration, economic, social and environmental outcomes. Other UK cities deploy similar Regeneration Frameworks to help inform city priorities aligned to growth propositions and to prioritise funding bids.
3.3	Members will recall the following Committee report in relation to this work: CG&R Committee May 22: <i>Develop a Regeneration Programme Framework for key regeneration projects including partnership projects at a citywide level; to include preparation of feasibility studies and business cases as appropriate. To include regeneration projects to support development and investment for Bolder Vision and housing / mixed uses and wider city regeneration projects.</i>
3.4	SP&R 17 June '23: <i>As part of the agreed non recurrent proposals, agreed to allocation of funding to: Develop a Regeneration Framework; Regeneration Process & Regeneration Programme.</i>
3.5	Party Group Leaders Forum 23 February 2023: <i>Update on work underway in relation to the Lobby Paper and Regeneration Framework as set out in this report.</i>
3.6	Avison Young (AY) have been commissioned to develop both areas of work, high level details of which are provided below.

3.7	<p>Lobby & Advocacy Paper:</p> <p>This centres around the case for devolving aspects of place based regeneration and funding to Belfast City Council. To include exploring the case for ensuring Belfast receives the equivalent investment, funding powers and freedoms that are available in England. The focus should be on place based regeneration and include measures that may promote housing led regeneration (inc city centre living), city centre and wider city regeneration & development and alignment with other strategic priorities. To include the socio and economic impact /outputs from such investment and regeneration aligned to our growth ambitions.</p>
3.8	<p>Subject to further engagement with officers, Members and other stakeholders it is envisaged the work will have three main outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An outward facing proposition for the NI executive focusing on the strategic, economic and financial case for amended place-based and regeneration funding abilities for Belfast 2. An inward facing brief for Belfast stakeholders focusing on the specific benefits to wider communities and geographies derived from programmes and structures designed to regenerate the city. 3. A wider public facing document providing the case for Place Based Regeneration in Belfast and the economic impact and social value of potential initiatives.
3.9	<p>Regeneration Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a 'Regeneration Framework' – A decision-making framework designed to be used in the prioritisation of place-based regeneration initiatives across Belfast. The framework should also allow the Council to identify and develop regeneration schemes into fundable propositions. • A 'Regeneration Scheme Prioritisation and Audit Exercise' – The exercise will consider the potential pipeline of regeneration schemes across the city and assess them against the Regeneration Framework. This exercise will provide a clear, objective assessment of various proposals and enable consideration of a sequencing of activities. • A 'Regeneration Scheme / Programme Level Business Case' – A business case will be prepared for a Regeneration Programme to establish the overarching context for intervention and the programme level governance and assurance processes underpinning the intervention. This will also include a number of individual project schemes /site assessments (to be agreed in due course).

3.10	Part of the Lobby & Advocacy work involves strategic consultation and engagement with relevant public and private sector stakeholders. A programme of engagement is to be progressed, with initial engagement to include the following, but noting that there will be further engagement with a number of other stakeholders:
3.11	<p>21st March – Meeting Permanent Secretaries of DfI, DoF, DfC, DfE</p> <p>Proposed that Avison Young attend a pre-scheduled meeting that the Chief Executive had arranged with Permanent Secretaries in relation to city strategic priorities. Avison Young are being invited to join part of this meeting and use as an opportunity to commence senior level engagement.</p>
3.12	<p>30th March – Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum</p> <p>It is proposed that political representatives are engaged in the upcoming Party Group Consultative Forum. The consultation will discuss the draft proposition paper and potential for a proposed improved approach to delivering funding aligned to the city's strategic priorities.</p>
3.13	<p>Project Pipeline & Funding Opportunities</p> <p>Work is underway via the City & Organisational Services Dept to collate a Project Pipeline and Funding Opportunities across Council for Members consideration and it will be important to consider how this will align to the Regeneration Framework and Project Prioritisation Process.</p>
3.14	<p>Future Reports</p> <p>Future reports will be brought back to both CGR and SP&R Committees as this work progresses.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.16	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices – Documents attached</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>