

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



**Belfast
City Council**

21st October, 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, 25th October, 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) Revenue Estimates 2025-26 Medium-Term Financial Planning (Pages 1 - 6)
- (b) Housing Led Regeneration Programme – Appointment of a Private Sector Partner (Pages 7 - 14)
- (c) Update on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 15 - 30)
- (d) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 31 - 36)
- (e) Update on Hardship Programme 2024/25 (Pages 37 - 56)

- (f) Assets Management (To Follow)
- (g) Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) (Pages 57 - 60)
- 3. **Requests to Present**
 - (a) Request to address the Committee – Cathedral Quarter Trust (Pages 61 - 62)
 - (b) Request to address the Committee – Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) – Belfast Housing Investment Plan 2024-25 (Pages 63 - 64)
 - (c) Request to address the Committee – NILGA re Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development (Pages 65 - 68)
- 4. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**
 - (a) Quarterly Update on Motions (To Follow)
- 5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
 - (a) Belfast City Council response to NI Executive's draft Programme for Government
 - (b) Community Recovery Fund (Pages 69 - 72)
 - (c) NI 30U30 Change Makers Programme (Pages 73 - 102)
 - (d) Update on programme of support for the business owners impacted by the August attacks - Moved to Restricted
 - (e) Modern Slavery Act 2015: updated Modern Slavery Statement and update on corporate action plan
 - (f) Planning Update (Pages 103 - 128)
 - (g) Public Consultation on Validation Checklist (Pages 129 - 142)
 - (h) NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 (Pages 143 - 146)
- 6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
 - (a) Physical Programme
- 7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
 - (a) Contracts (To Follow)
- 8. **Equality and Good Relations**
 - (a) Dual Language Signage at Olympia Leisure Centre - Call In (To Follow)
 - (b) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 7th October 2024 (Pages 147 - 220)

- (c) Diversity Action Plans 2024-27 (Pages 221 - 244)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 245 - 250)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 251 - 258)
- (c) Request for the use of the Council Chamber (Pages 259 - 260)
- (d) Request for Suffolk Winter Wonderland event at Suffolk Community Garden (Pages 261 - 264)
- (e) Minutes of the Meeting of the Disability Working Group 14.10.24 (Pages 265 - 266)

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Request to address the Committee – Cathedral Quarter Trust
Date:	25 th October 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request to receive a presentation from representatives of the Cathedral Quarter Trust in respect of the wider regeneration of the Cathedral Quarter area and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Should the Committee approve the request, it might be considered appropriate if the matter was referred, in the first instance, to the City Regeneration Members' Working Group, given that this group has been established for the said issues.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	A request to present to the Committee has been received from Mr. Brendan Mulgrew on behalf of the Cathedral Quarter Trust.
3.2	<p>The Cathedral Quarter Trust represents a range of businesses, sectors and groups who have expressed concerns regarding dereliction and the current condition of buildings in the area. The correspondence indicates that the Trust has held two recent public meetings, together with a summer school, to examine a range of alternative regeneration plans for the wider Cathedral Quarter, given the delays encountered with the Tribeca development. The purpose of the presentation would be to outline such plans and to encourage dialogue amongst key stakeholders in the future development of the area.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Request to address the Committee – Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) – Belfast Housing Investment Plan 2024/25
Date:	25 th October 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request to receive a presentation from Grania Long, Chief Executive of the NIHE, in respect of the Belfast Housing Investment Plan 2023/26.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the request and to take such action thereon as may be determined. Should the Committee be minded to approve the request, arrangements will be put in place to receive the representatives at a future meeting.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	NIHE publishes a Housing Investment Plans (HIPs) for each Council area, which sets out the organisation's targets and ambitions over a three-year period. In addition, the HIPs inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives that the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
3.2	The Committee will be aware that the People and Communities Committee receives representatives of NIHE on a yearly basis for a presentation in this regard, the last meeting took place on 3rd September. Ms. Long has indicated in her request that a presentation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would provide an opportunity to provide further detail on NIHE's new build programme for the Belfast area as part of its programme.
3.3	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Request to address the Committee – NILGA re: Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development
Date:	25 th October 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request to receive a presentation from representatives of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) in respect of its Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the request and to take such action thereon as may be determined. Should the Committee be minded to approve the request, arrangements will be put in place to receive the representative at a future meeting.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Correspondence (appendix 1) has been received from Alison Allen, Chief Executive of NILGA, requesting that the Committee agree to receive a presentation in respect of its Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development.
3.2	The correspondence explains that the Leadership Programme has been designed to provide Elected Members with a 'co-ordinated toolkit of learning' in accordance with the NILGA Political Skills Framework. It aims also to develop the practical skills which are necessary to enable Members to improve their civic leadership skills in a local political environment. The latest programme will commence in January 2025.
3.3	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – correspondence from NILGA

John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

12th September 2024

Dear John

Re: NILGA Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development

As you know, NILGA coordinates an all-council Regional Programme of Elected Member Development annually, complementing your Council's local training, designed to provide elected members with a co-ordinated toolkit of learning, suited to today's responsibilities and challenges, and in line with the NILGA Political Skills Framework.

This builds on the NILGA-delivered/nationally-accredited Councillor Development Charter and Charter Plus initiatives. The Regional Programme has been co-designed by councils' elected member development groups and councils' member services and human resource officials, working through the NILGA Elected Member Development Network.

A key part of this Regional Programme is the ***CPD-accredited Leadership Programme for Elected Members***, offered by NILGA in conjunction with Governance International. The eight 3-hour modules in this Programme aim to develop the practical skills necessary for a strategic understanding of the context within which councillors work (people, place and systems) and the capabilities they need, using relevant models and concepts to help them improve their strategic leadership approach in a local political environment. This will be the fifth running of this highly commended Leadership Programme and will commence in January 2025, with monthly modules.

NILGA and Governance International would very much welcome an opportunity to come along to one of your Council Meetings in advance of January 2025, to promote the Leadership Programme to your elected members.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued positive approach and engagement with the NILGA Regional Programme for Councillor Development 2024-25. Please feel free to contact

my colleague Fiona Douglas (f.douglas@nilga.org) or myself if you or a senior colleague wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Allen".

Alison Allen
Chief Executive

CC. Fiona Gunning
Jim Hanna



Subject:	Community Recovery Fund
Date:	25 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations 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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To report to committee on 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.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree that Officers Develop and Submit an Action Plan on 28th October under the following 4 Themes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>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.</p>
3.3	<p>Community and voluntary activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Immediate clean-up and repair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs to highways, public buildings, street lighting, bus shelters and other street furniture, including fences and railings or removal where repair is insufficient. • The costs of works to clear debris which are or may be the cause of danger to the public and the cost of clean-up affected areas, including removal of graffiti. • Hire of additional vehicles, plant and machinery that are not those already in use by the authority, and incidental expenses. <p>Associated costs with the above activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The above programmes will be additional to the departments core work, and an Action Plan for the said has to be submitted to the department by 28th October 2024, 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 will have the ability to deliver into the Financial Year 25/26.</p> <p>Officers have initially reviewed the fund criteria above and have concluded that there are four main themes an action plan for delivery could be developed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
---	---

3.8	Officers will submit the draft action plan for 28 th October and inform the funder the plan is subject to Belfast Full Council meeting ratification.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.9	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.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.10	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.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	NI 30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers Programme
Date:	25 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City & Organisation Strategy Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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
1.1	To update members about an approach to Belfast City Council for funding (£8,750 plus VAT) to support the 30U30 (30 under 30) Northern Ireland Climate Change-Maker's programme. The

	<p>programme is coordinated by the leading charity, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and their partner Podiem. This programme is an exemplary example of cross sectoral partnership with support from DAERA, Belfast City Council, Invest NI, Queens University Belfast with broad ranging corporate support including Pinsent Masons, Coca Cola, Danske Bank, Northstone and ARUP. This is a request for continued local authority involvement and support for the programme from Belfast City Council.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the contribution of £8,750 plus VAT to the overall programme costs.
2.2	<p>Whilst Belfast City Council's support represents a modest proportion of the overall budget (circa £100,000 in total) it will be crucial in making the initiative (the themes of which complement and supplement the Council's climate programme) a reality.</p>
2.3	<p>The Council's support will resource the launch along with 6 modules/events featuring world-class speakers/experts taking place from December 2024-May 2025.</p>
2.4	<p>In supporting this initiative Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empower the next generation of climate change makers, equipping young leaders with the tools to enact meaningful climate action and developing a talent pool for Belfast and the wider region; - Foster innovation and leadership: In supporting this programme, Belfast City Council will go beyond its own carbon footprint; proactively inspiring and equipping those who have the ambition to transform industries. This programme will help build an ecosystem that promotes the collaboration between government, companies and individuals that is needed to address the magnitude of the crises facing us and it is an opportunity to align with Belfast City Council's Resilience Strategy.
3.0	Main report
	Background
3.1	<p>The programme supports a network of young people from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures, industries & specialisms with the common goal of becoming planet positive Climate Change Makers. This growing network of aspiring young leaders is equipped to drive meaningful change within their spheres of influence across Northern Ireland, influencing governments, institutions, networks, employers, colleagues and peers to drive carbon reduction and spearhead the transition to a more sustainable, just future. Similar to the pilot year in 2023, the second 30U30 programme which concluded in June 2024, was again oversubscribed with a wider range of sectors involved including environmental conservation, government & policy, construction, energy, academia, transport, agriculture & food production, technology & research and culture & communications.</p>

3.2	<p>Under this cycle of this initiative, 30 young people are competitively selected annually to embark on an impact leadership and capacity building programme that builds literacy across a range of themes to underpin future behaviours, decision-making and help foster collaboration and innovation in leadership. Common knowledge gaps including Finance/Economy/Business, Policy/Politics, Communications/Media & The Art of Persuasion, Purpose and Social Impact, Sustainability Literacy, Leadership/Resilience and Health, Wellbeing & Performance are addressed underpinned by the strategic themes of Inspiring & Informing Action; Cultivating Change-Makers; Sharing Stories & Alternatives and Enabling the Future. Most of the 30U30 modules are being delivered in Belfast City Centre and the vast majority of the participants will either reside or work within the Belfast City Council footprint. The cohort will be diverse with a broad range of backgrounds, sectors and interest/expertise areas represented. Within the current alumni of 60 emerging young leaders, 78% are female and thus the programme is making a tangible contribution to championing the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda in Belfast.</p>
3.3	<p>Within the modular programme participants will learn from globally renowned thought leaders and exemplars across a range of relevant topics. These topics have been carefully crafted to create a cohort of leaders who will return to their fields of expertise with the tools to become planet positive change-makers in the short/long term. Speakers and facilitators from the previous cohorts included globally-renowned individuals such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice Thompson, an international speaker and social business leader who co-founded Social Bite in Edinburgh and helped to establish 'The Worlds Big Sleepout' which took place in 52 cities around the world. • Gerry Hussey, Ireland's leading health, wellbeing and performance coach, who has worked with many leading sports people and teams, and author of 'Awaken Your Power Within'. • Philip Hesketh, an international authority on influence and persuasion, who has worked with clients such as the BBC, Nestle, Walt Disney, Nike, Microsoft and Bank of America among others. • René Carayol MBE who has worked with leaders such as Mikael Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela, Sir Richard Branson, Bill Clinton, and Kofi Annan, and authored the book 'SPIKE'. He has been Chairman, CEO and MD of businesses and served on the boards of Marks and Spencer's and Pepsi. He is an authority on inclusivity and leadership. • Participants in the 3rd cycle of the programme (November 2024- May 2025) will also have the opportunity to have an audience with Mary Robinson. The first female president of Ireland and formerly the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary is a lawyer, politician and diplomat and is the President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice.

3.4	<p>The programme also includes an international element which will encourage and enable the NI climate change-makers to build relationships and collaborations with climate change-makers from other parts of the world through the 30 under 30 programme currently run by the North American Association for Environmental Education. The Northern Irish programme is the only programme operating in the UK presently.</p> <p>Potential benefits to Belfast City Council</p>
3.5	<p>The programme coordinators will ensure that Belfast City Council will be positioned as championing (along with the other partners) the creation and development of the next generation of local leaders who will lead work to address climate change in Northern Ireland. This will support the cities ambition, articulated in the Belfast Resilience Strategy, to “transition to an inclusive, net zero emissions economy in a generation. It provides a tangible programmatic offering to engage young people, one of the areas of focus in the plan, ensuring they are active participants in co-designing a future proofed city and have every opportunity to participate in delivery. With 35% of Belfast’s population under the age of 25, engagement of young people is considered so important in the strategy, it is one of three areas of focus, or multiple problem solvers to restructure the economy and society as climate change advances. This programme also nurtures wider collaborative efforts to create a circular economy and contributes to the green skills/green growth agenda here with scope to connect to wider BCC initiatives including Belfast’s Line Quarter ‘Sustainable District’ and other work underway with the Council’s Climate Unit. In supporting this programme, Belfast City Council will be going well beyond its own carbon footprint and direct activity, it is proactively inspiring and equipping those who have the ambition to transform industries (similar to Artemis and Responsible, both from Belfast) and create global solutions (for example Catagen, also from Belfast) to our most pressing climate and environmental challenges.</p>
3.6	<p>Connections with Belfast City Council are already strong following the Councils previous support of the programme. In September 2020, we took the opportunity to connect the 30Under30 alumni with the Lord Mayor of Belfast to hear how they are planning to create meaningful impact as a direct consequence of the programme.</p>
3.7	<p>In terms of profile, the Belfast City Council brand will be prominent on all of the initiative marketing material which will be launched to ensure mass awareness. The Council brand will also be highly visible at all of the modules (including the finale event) and a Council representative will be invited to participate in the press photos launching the event and at the finale event.</p>
3.8	<p>There is also an opportunity for a member of the Belfast City Council Climate team to present on how a city is playing its part in helping to avert a climate crisis. The cohort will feature some of</p>

	NI's finest future leadership talent (including those from the local government sector), so this content will be very useful and relevant to the participants together with an opportunity to host one of the modules at Belfast City Hall and secure the press coverage associated with that. This would be the ideal follow up event for the Lord Mayor to greet and listen to the incoming group of 30U30 climate change makers and the positive planet impact they plan to create.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.9	£8,750 plus VAT which will be allocated from existing City and Organisational Strategy budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u>
3.10	None.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Series Impact Report from 2024 NI30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers Programme

This page is intentionally left blank



Northern Ireland
CLIMATE
Change-Makers

KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL

SERIES
IMPACT
REPORT

A world-class leadership programme designed to unearth, inspire, and equip 30 'exceptional potential leaders' under the age of 30.

Under
30

ort this journey
e signed the
s in the Community
Action Pledge,
action on
change.

NETZERO BY 40

? Did you know?
Food waste sent to
landfill has a significant
impact on climate change.

Where we are moving towards
the future
the chain,
the source
how we
sell.



Northern Ireland
CLIMATE
Change-Makers

Impact Headlines



- 30 **30** Exceptional Potential Leaders
- 30 **5** Groundbreaking Industry Investors
- 30 **6** Action-Orientated Workshops
- 30 World-Class Speakers
- 30 Transforming Medium-Long Term Change-Maker Trajectories
- 30 **35** Short-Term, Local Impact Projects
- 30 **2** Showcase Events for Influential Stakeholders

Purpose, Why & Impact

Page 83

“An incredible opportunity to meet and connect with others across industries and a journey I cannot wait to continue on.”

“A mind-opening experience that challenged me to look into my inner self. An experience that will no-doubt benefit me in the long run.”

“A great start to the programme and allowed everyone to do a deep dive into their personalities and the true reason they are who they are.”

WORKSHOP 1:

Alice Thompson

Founder of Social Bite & The Big Sleepout

Pinsent Masons

Purpose, Why & Impact

“A fantastic kick off to the 30 Under 30 programme. I’m looking forward to the next few months!”

Page 84

“Alice and Ronan were both amazing...being vulnerable is ok.”

“We all can’t change the world individually but together we can.”

“I will refine my purpose statement and determine how I can achieve in the long and short term.”



WORKSHOP 1:

Rónán Ó Dálaigh

Environmentalist & Founder & CEO of Thriftify

Wellbeing, Performance & Teamwork

“ Brilliant event. I will definitely attend future ones to get more understanding and knowledge. ”

“ One of the best programmes I have come across. ”

“ Great workshop and the SuMMit was fantastic earlier in the day. Brilliant speakers and I really enjoyed it. ”

“ A very inspirational event, giving an insight and guidance on both your career life but also personal life. I will take away a lot from this event. ”

Page 85



WORKSHOP 2:

Gerry Hussey

Ireland's Leading Authority on Wellbeing & Performance

“*Fantastic event with a dedicated team behind the organisation. It's great to see workshops like these making such a vital impact on the world today.*”

“*A really impactful session which really got me thinking about why I'm here and the impact I can make.*”



Page 86

Helen Thompson
Former MD of TOMS &
Titan of Social Business

Gerry Hussey
Ireland's Leading
Authority on Wellbeing
& Performance

**Baroness
Manningham-Buller**
Former Head of MI5

Bobby Healy
Entrepreneur &
AI Implementor

Sir A.P. McCoy OBE
World #1 for
Two Decades



WORKSHOP 2:
30U30 pictured with Sir A.P.
McCoy OBE at the MLN SuMMit

Vision, Niche & Values

Page 88

“Another great workshop with great guest speakers.”

“Very thorough and detailed event, allowed me to develop to further along my career.”

“Really got me thinking about how to develop projects, not just this one but for all aspects of my career and group work.”

“Fantastic programme to get an insight into the various projects and opportunities within the environmental sector.”

WORKSHOP 3:

Alan Mahon

Founder & Executive Chair of Brewgooder

“A really inspiring and insightful workshop. I feel empowered to go forward with pursuing my why.”

“The workshops are great. Really transferable skills to implement in the workplace.”

Page 89

WORKSHOP 3:

Chris Martin

Head of Sustainability at Danske Bank UK

Leadership, Activism & Opportunity

“This event was an insight into how to turn an idea into a larger movement and how to do so sustainably.”

“Really informative outing. Great to see all the hard work big companies are doing in terms of sustainability.”

“I really enjoyed the workshop, and learning about the positive impact companies like Translink and Coca-Cola HBC are taking to become more sustainable.”

WORKSHOP 4:
Conor McKinney
Broadcaster, Conservationist & Founder of Starling Ecology

JACOBS' PHARMACY

“ Very valuable
information I wouldn't
have known about. ”

“ Insightful, inspiring
and thoroughly
enjoyable! ”

“ Make the connections,
build a strong team.
You don't know what
you may not know. ”

Page 91



WORKSHOP 4:
30U30 Site Visit to
Coca-Cola HBC

Leadership in an Age of Disruption & Chaos

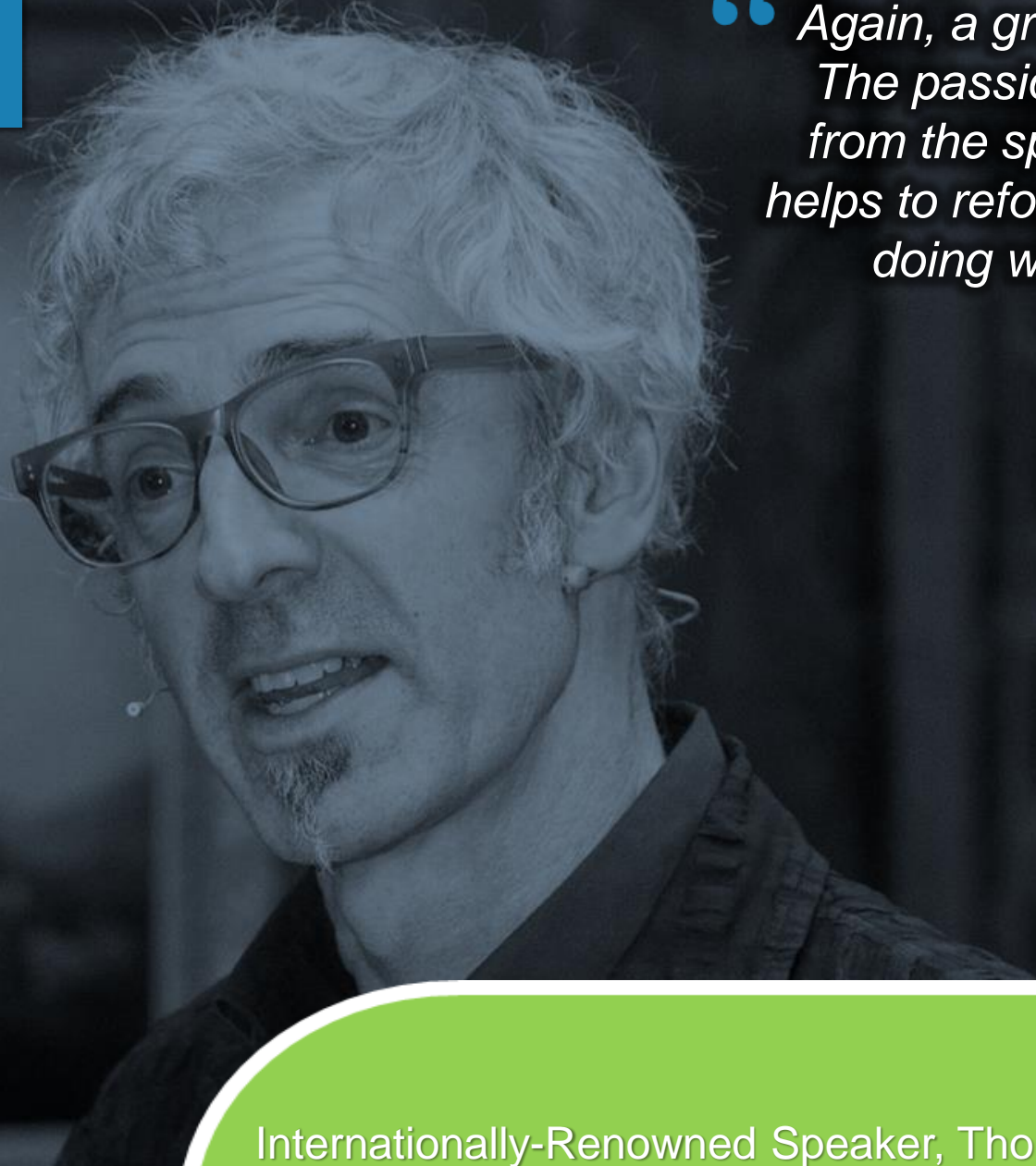
“What an event full
of amazing advice!”

Page 92

“A great opportunity to
refine your skills to make
positive changes!”

“Start small, make
mistakes...that's
how you learn.”

“Again, a great workshop.
The passion emanating
from the speakers really
helps to refocus why we are
doing what we do.”



WORKSHOP 5:
Ian McClean

Internationally-Renowned Speaker, Thought Leader & Writer

“Another superb learning experience.”

“Really made me think about why I do what I do.”

“Inspirational programme that gets you thinking.”



Behavioural Science & Sustainability

“An amazing place to meet some of the best people working in NI right now.”

“Really enjoyed today's workshop. It's a fantastic programme to be a part of!”

“Great workshop, I have learned so much and will apply all I have learned to my work and personal life.”

WORKSHOP 6:
Richard Shotton

Best-Selling Author & Renowned Speaker



“Thoroughly enjoyable
and would do again.”

“Thought-provoking
and engaging.”

“All of the speakers are
captivating and energising.”

Individual Impact Projects Created:

3000 & QUB FURNITURE FAIR

A sustainable solution to student living.

3000 ALGAE BLOOMS IN NI

Combatting the pollution of our beaches and coastlines.

3000 CEMENT-FREE CONCRETE

Environmentally sustainable practices in concrete production.

3000 BIODIVERSITY BULLETIN

Quarterly biodiversity-focused newsletters.

3000 CONNECTION TO NATURE

An office plant initiative for staff.

3000 URBAN GREEN SPACES

Making existing green spaces more pollinator friendly.

3000 ENVIRO-SENSE

Tracking energy conservation within buildings.



Individual Impact Projects Created:

30 ENVIRONMENTAL BENCHMARKING

Empowering NI businesses in minimising their environmental footprint.

30 CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

A new, sustainable direction of the historical programme.

30 NATURE NARRATORS

Skills-based workshops for children.

30 ROOTED

A creation care programme in church communities.

30 AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Increasing sustainability awareness in local communities.

30 ROAM

A travel app to explore next-door.

Individual Impact Projects Created:

30 MAKE POLLUTERS PAY

Legislation to ensure justice and equity of the collective planet.

30 POWERING A GREENER FUTURE

Energising public infrastructure.

30 FARMERS ARE THE SOLUTION

The role of farmers in tackling carbon emissions.

30 FOREVERGREEN NI

Multi-Company Green Spaces & Tree Nursery.

30 GREENSPACES NI

Connecting people with more local greenspaces.

30 CARBON LITERACY

Action-based climate change training for citizens of NI.

Individual Impact Projects Created:

30 NUTRIENTS IN NI WATERWAYS

Reducing the level of excess manure in NI waterways.

30 OPTIMISING SHEEP MANAGEMENT:

Leveraging the role of sheep in shaping our landscapes.

30 COMMUNITY FOR ENERGY ASSESSMENT NI

Uniting Energy Assessors across NI.

30 OUR ODYSSEY

Reducing single-use plastics in the events industry.

30 SOCIAL VALUE IN RIPARIAN BUFFERS

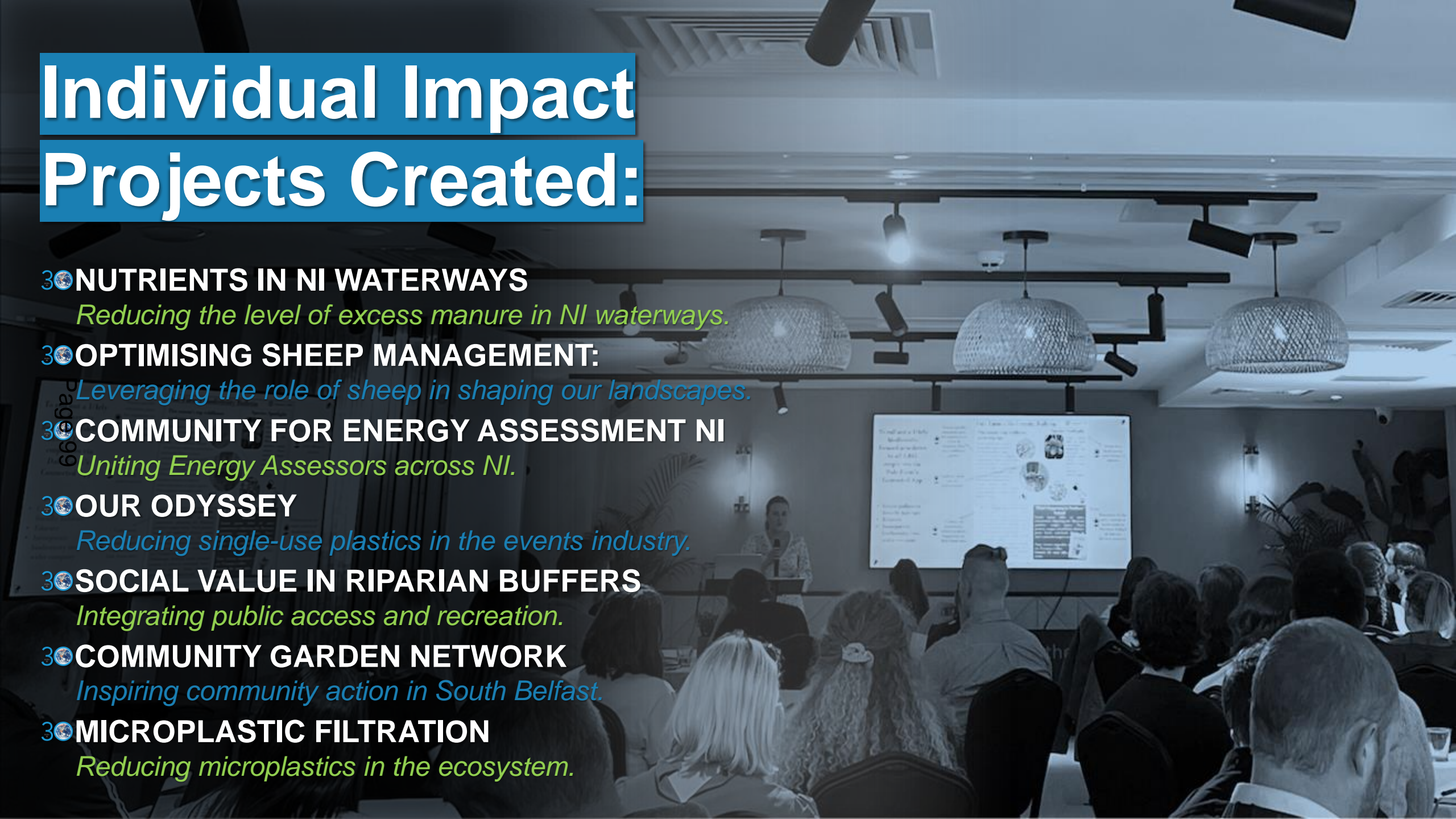
Integrating public access and recreation.

30 COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK

Inspiring community action in South Belfast.

30 MICROPLASTIC FILTRATION

Reducing microplastics in the ecosystem.



Team Impact Projects Created:

30 CLIMATE COMPASS

A hub for sustainable activity in NI.

30 NO RIVER

Tackling NI's dirty rivers.

30 UNEARTHED

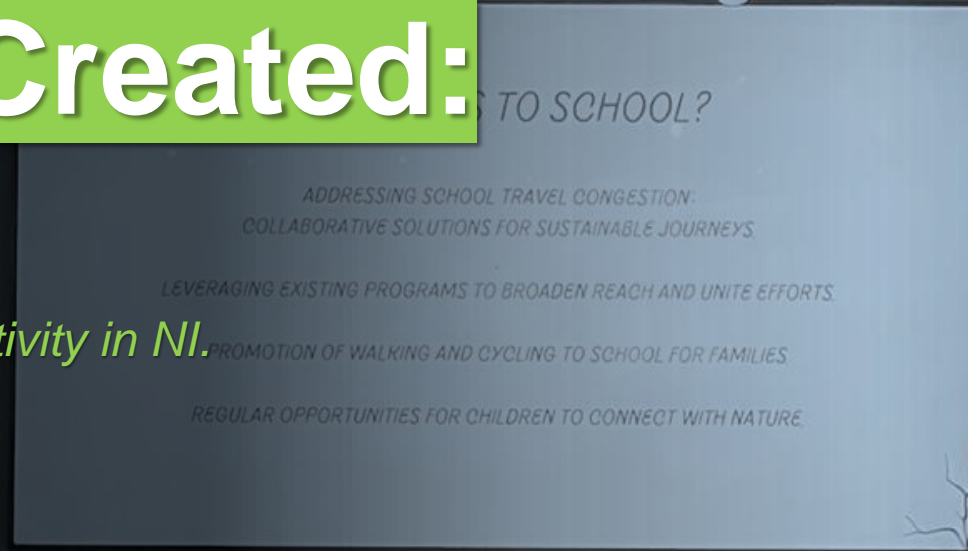
Cultivating the potential of NI soil.

30 GEOFIRMALL

Digging NI into a renewable future.

30 ROOTS TO SCHOOL

Growing fun, green commutes for kids.



Northern
CLIM
Chang



Northern Ireland
CLIMATE
Change-Makers

KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL

SERIES
IMPACT
REPORT

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Planning Information
Date:	25 October 2024
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The report is for notation.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Committee received an update on Planning Performance at its meeting on the 27 th 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.
	<u>Major applications</u>
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.
	<u>Applications determined by Committee</u>
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.
	<u>Conclusion</u>
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
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications associated with this report.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at September 2024
	Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at September 2024

This page is intentionally left blank

Live Major Planning Applications @ 07.10.24

Number	Application No.	Category	Location	Proposal	Date Valid	Target Date	Status
1	LA04/2017/1991/F	Major	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.	20-Sep-17		Case Officer Recommendation
2	LA04/2020/2105/F	Major	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.	21-Oct-20		Case Officer Recommendation
3	LA04/2020/2607/F	Major	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]	16-Dec-20		Case Officer Recommendation
4	LA04/2021/2016/F	Major	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).	26-Aug-21		Case Officer Recommendation
5	LA04/2021/2687/F	Major	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).	02-Nov-21		CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
6	LA04/2022/0612/F	Major	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).	15-Apr-22		Case Officer Recommendation
7	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
8	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

9	LA04/2022/1219/F	Major	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	21-Jun-22		CASE OFFICER CONSIDERATION
10	LA04/2023/2388/F	Major	Lands immediately north of Cross Harbour Bridge, East of Donegall Quay and south of AC Marriott Hotel, City Quays, Belfast	Residential development comprising 256no. units, public realm, and associated access and site works	16-Dec-22	14-Jul-23	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
11	LA04/2023/2390/F	Major	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	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.	22-Feb-23	20-Sep-23	Case Officer Recommendation
12	LA04/2023/2557/F	Major	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.	24-Feb-23	22-Sep-23	Case Officer Recommendation
13	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	SITE INSPECTED
14	LA04/2023/2668/F	Major	Lands bound by Pilot Street, Short Street, the rear of nos. 11-29 Garmoyle Street and, the rear of Nos. 63 & 65a Dock Street and No. 123 Corporation Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of an affordable housing development comprising of 69 No. units with a mix of apartments and townhouses, including an ancillary community hub and offices, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (amended description).	10-Feb-23	08-Sep-23	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
15	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
16	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	Case Officer Recommendation
17	LA04/2023/3649/F	Major	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.	08-Aug-23	21-Nov-23	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

18	LA04/2023/3832/F	Major	Blacks Gate Development (Former Visteon Factory) Blacks Road Belfast, BT10	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	09-Aug-23	06-Mar-24	Case Officer Recommendation
19	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
20	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
21	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
22	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
23	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	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED

24	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
25	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
26	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
27	LA04/2024/0344/F	Major	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.	20-Feb-24	17-Sep-24	Case Officer Recommendation
28	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	SITE INSPECTED
29	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
30	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

31	LA04/2024/0483/F	Major	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.	19-Mar-24	15-Oct-24	SITE INSPECTED
32	LA04/2024/0570/F	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castlevue Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22) and 24-26 Upper Newtownards Road (nos. 24, 26, 28 & 30)	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
33	LA04/2024/0569/O	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castlevue Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22) and 24-26 Upper Newtownards Road (nos. 24, 26, 28 & 30)	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 Castlevue Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
34	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
35	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
36	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
37	LA04/2024/0681/F	Major	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 with Hamilton Road.	18-Apr-24	14-Nov-24	Case Officer Recommendation
38	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 existing Fanum House and Norwood House and erection of a new 17 storey building comprised of 594-bed Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (comprising a mix of clusters and studios) including landscaped roof terraces, and all other site and access works.	19-Apr-24	15-Nov-24	CONSULTATION(S) ISSUED
39	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

40	LA04/2024/1086/F	Major	Unit 1, Connswater Retail Park, Belfast, BT5 5DL	Variation to the wording of Condition 4 of Outline Planning Approval Z/1990/0127, to allow for the sale of bulky and non-bulky goods for a charity shop.	24-Jun-24	20-Jan-25	Case Officer Recommendation
41	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 (895no. rooms) with heights of between 6-10 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
42	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
43	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.			Awaiting information to validate
44	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

Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 07 Oct 2024
(Red issued refusal decision - Amber to be issued - Green issued approval decision)

Decision Description		Totals	
To be Issued		34	
Consent Granted		0	
Consent Refused		0	
Permission Granted		3	
Permission Refused		0	
Total		37	

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	137	No Issue Date	Permission Granted		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2022/1499/F	The Lockhouse 13 River Terrace Belfast BT7 2EN.	Construction of new community wellbeing centre and cafe incorporating refurbishment and change of use of existing house, with a new adjacent community garden and men's shed facility.	LOC	30-Aug-22	C	18/04/2023	33	76	No Issue Date	Permission Granted		07/10/2024	Awaiting survey / report
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	66	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	66	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2023/2324/F	MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRE NORGLIN 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	50	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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.	LOC	03-Jan-19	C	14/11/2023	253	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Referred to DFI
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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	42	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	42	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2388/F	Lands immediately north of Cross Harbour Bridge, East of Donegall Quay and south of AC Marriott Hotel, City Quays, Belfast	Residential development comprising 256no. units, public realm, and associated access and site works	MAJ	16-Dec-22	C	16/01/2024	56	37	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	37	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2023/2668/F	Lands bound by Pilot Street, Short Street, the rear of nos. 11-29 Garmoye Street and, the rear of Nos. 63 & 65a Dock Street and No. 123 Corporation Street, Belfast	Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of an affordable housing development comprising of 69 No. units with a mix of apartments and townhouses, including an ancillary community hub and offices, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (amended description).	MAJ	10-Feb-23	C	16/01/2024	48	37	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	37	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	28	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	28	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	28	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	28	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	15	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	14	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	
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	14	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	

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	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	
------------------	--	---	-----	-----------	---	------------	----	---	---------------	-----------------------	--	------------	--

LA04/2024/0321/LB C	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	7	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	
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 with Hamilton Road.	MAJ	18-Apr-24	C	17/09/2024	21	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	

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	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	
LA04/2024/1086/F	Unit 1, Connswater Retail Park, Belfast, BT5 5DL	Variation to the wording of Condition 4 of Outline Planning Approval Z/1990/0127, to allow for the sale of bulky and non-bulky goods for a charity shop.	MAJ	24-Jun-24	C	17/09/2024	12	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	
LA04/2024/0470/F	Lower Botanical Gardens, Belfast, BT7 1LP	To develop a community garden for sustainable food growth and education purposes	LOC	17-May-24	C	17/09/2024	17	2	2	Permission Granted	04 Oct 2024	07/10/2024	
LA04/2023/4162/F	51 Rosemary Street Town Parks Belfast Antrim BT1 1QB	Change of use from retail unit to amusement arcade and adult gaming centre.	LOC	10-Oct-23	C	17/09/2024	49	2	2	Permission Granted	07 Oct 2024	07/10/2024	Deferred for Site Visit
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	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	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	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		07/10/2024	Deferred for Site Visit
LA04/2023/3879/F	Vacant lands at access road to Olympia Leisure Centre – directly opposite and approx. 70m east of, Nos 9-15 Boucher Road, Belfast, Belfast	Vary of condition 11 of LA04/2021/2815/F to extend opening hours.	LOC	31-Aug-23	C	17/09/2024	54	2	2	Permission Granted	04 Oct 2024	07/10/2024	



Subject:	Public consultation on Validation Checklist
Date:	25 th October 2024
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	On 1 st October 2024, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) made legislation which enables a council to publish a Validation Checklist. The purpose of a Validation Checklist is to extend the minimum level of information for an application to be legally valid so as to improve the quality of applications on submission. This should contribute to the Planning Service being able to process applications in a more efficient and effective manner, and in turn help to improve performance against statutory KPIs.
1.2	The legislation comes into operation from 1 st April 2025, which gives councils time to prepare and consult on their proposed Validation Checklist ahead of the operation date.
1.3	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is asked to agree the preparation and consultation on the Council's Validation Checklist.
1.4	This matter was also considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 15 th October 2024. The Planning Committee noted the proposal and agreed that a Planning Committee Workshop should be arranged on the Validation Checklist.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to the preparation and consultation on the draft Validation Checklist.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	At its meeting on 19 December 2022 (item 25), the Planning Committee considered public consultation undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) on 'Improving the Quality of Planning Applications'. DfI's proposal was to enable councils to publish a "Validation Checklist" that stipulates the minimum level of information needed with applications on submission above the basic requirements set out in legislation.
3.2	The report to the 19 December 2022 Committee set out the background to the consultation, why Validation Checklists are considered to be of fundamental importance to improving the quality of planning applications on submission and how this would have a significant impact on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the NI planning system, and in turn performance against statutory Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

3.3	The Planning Committee resolved to ' <i>fully support the introduction of Planning Application Validation Checklists and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the consultation response.</i> ' The Council provided its formal response to the consultation on 21 December 2022.
3.4	DfI subsequently confirmed to councils its intention to legislate for Validation Checklists, as referenced in the report to the 23 August 2024 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (item 5h) on Planning Performance.
	<u>Current information requirements</u>
3.5	The bar for submission of a planning application in NI is currently especially low and this is the root cause of many of the system's problems from a Development Management perspective.
3.6	<p>Article 3 of the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 sets out the minimum level of information needed with an application for it to be "valid" and processed. The information that is required only includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written description of the proposal • Address of the application site • Name and address of the applicant (and agent where applicable) • A plan identifying the application site showing its relationship with other land ("red line") • A plan identifying neighbouring land owned by the applicant ("blue line") • Such other plans that describe the proposal • Ownership certificate • Planning fee <p>There is also a requirement for Major applications to be accompanied by a Pre-Application Community Consultation Report and certain applications to be supported by a Design and Access Statement¹.</p>
3.7	There are specific additional requirements for applications for outline planning permission, approval of reserved matters and renewal of planning permission.

¹ Required for applications for Major development, Listed Building Consent and for one or more dwellinghouses, and proposals that are equal a greater than 1,000sqm and are in a Conservation Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, World Heritage Site or Area of Townscape Character.

3.8	<p>However, there is currently no legal requirement for applicants to provide other essential information, despite many of them being a planning policy requirement. For example, there is currently no legal requirement for an application to be accompanied by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual design information such as streetscapes, 3D modelling or CGIs • Heritage statement • Archaeological investigation report • Demolition justification statement • Transport Assessment • Parking survey • Contaminated land report • Noise and odour assessments • Air quality assessment • Lighting assessment • Drainage Assessment • Flood Risk Assessment • Ecological report • Viability appraisal • Planning Statement
3.9	<p>Belfast City Council contacted the Department as far back as 2016, raising the importance of statutory Planning Application Validation Checklists. Both the Public Accounts Committee and NI Audit Office reports on the NI planning system² include recommendations on improving the quality of applications on submission.</p>
3.10	<p>The inability for councils to mandate the minimum level of information supplied with applications has a seriously detrimental impact on the whole process. It significantly adds to processing times, places additional burdens on staff and consultees, wastes time assessing proposals without the key information, sets up conflict with customers, frustrates communities, residents and third parties and creates system failure.</p>

² See Planning Committee reports of [15 February](#) and [14 April](#) 2022 on the NIAO and Public Accounts Committee reports respectively.

	<i>Belfast City Council Application Checklist:</i>
3.11	Recognising the crucial importance of this issue, the Council first published its Application Checklist in November 2018. This provides non-mandatory guidance to customers on the information they need to provide with their application at the start of the process, depending on the nature of the proposal, its scale and whether the site is subject to any particular constraints.
3.12	The <i>Application Checklist</i> has had a positive impact on the quality of planning applications on submission and has now been culturally embedded in the process, particularly for larger scale and more complex applications. However, the <i>Application Checklist</i> has limitations because it is advisory and does not have statutory weight. In effect, it has been a “work-around” of the previous legislation. Ultimately, the Council is unable to compel applicants to provide the information. Whereas in England and Wales, Planning Authorities have been able to publish Validation Checklists for many years, mandating the information that must be provided with applications for them to be processed.
3.13	Councils are measured on the average time for processing Major and Local applications with “Day 1” being the date when the bare minimum level of information is provided. The clock does not stop to allow for the submission of the necessary additional information to properly assess and process the application. This significantly lengthens application processing times and makes it difficult for Planning Authorities to achieve statutory targets.
	<u>New Legislation</u>
3.14	On 03 October 2024, DfI wrote to councils to announce the publication of legislation which empowers councils to publish a Validation Checklist that expands on the level of information required with planning applications on submission. A copy of this letter is provided at Appendix 1.
3.15	The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 was made on 1 st October 2024. A copy of the legislation is provided at Appendix 2.
3.16	The legislation comes into operation from 1 st April 2025, which gives councils time to prepare and consult on their proposed Validation Checklist ahead of the operation date.

3.17	The legislation enables a council to specify additional information requirements for applications for full planning permission, outline planning permission and approval of reserved matters, according to the “nature, scale and location” of the proposed development. The information requirements must be “reasonable” and proportionate and be “material” to the consideration of the application.
3.18	The Validation Checklist must be reviewed and re-published by the council at no more than 3-year intervals.
3.19	Where an application is submitted not in compliance with the Validation Checklist, councils will normally request the additional information from the applicant on an informal basis. However, councils may ultimately issue a formal “notice” of non-compliance with the Validation Checklist. The applicant will have the ability to lodge an appeal to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) within 14 days from the date of the notice. The PAC will then preside over the appeal and determine whether the additional information in question is necessary. Where the appeal is allowed, the applicant may resubmit the application to the council without the originally requested information.
3.20	The statutory average processing time will be measured from the date of the last information required to make the application valid in accordance with the published Validation Checklist.
3.21	DfI has been preparing best practice guidance on the publication and implementation of Validation Checklists with support from councils. The best practice guidance has not been published at this time but is expected to be in due course.
	<u>Public consultation</u>
3.22	Whilst there is no legislative requirement for councils to publicly consult on their proposed Validation Checklist, it is good practice to do so. The Planning Service therefore intends to carry out a public consultation exercise over the coming months to align with the legislative timetable set out by the Department. Officers are exploring options for consultation with the aim of adoption and publication of the final Validation Checklist by April (when the legislation comes into operation).
3.23	Feedback from the consultation will inform the proposed final version Validation Checklist before it is brought to Members for adoption.

3.24	The Planning Service proposes to base the draft Validation Checklist for consultation on its current Application Checklist, which it will review and update.
3.25	<p>The Council intends to target the following stakeholders as part of the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning agents and architects • RSUA • Developers • Statutory and non-statutory consultees • Relevant community groups • Public – residents and businesses
3.26	Consultation will include an online questionnaire and targeted engagement with key stakeholders. The Planning Committee has agreed that a committee workshop should be arranged on the Validation Checklist.
3.27	The outcome of the consultation and proposed final Validation Checklist will be reported to the Planning Committee for feedback before referral to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for agreement and adoption, subject to ratification by Full Council.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.28	The Council's ability to specify information requirements for particular types of application will have an impact on efficiency and timely processing of planning applications.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.29	The draft Validation Checklist will be subject to a Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment. This information will be made available as part of the consultation and any feedback received will be used to inform the development of the draft Validation Checklist.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – DfI letter of 03 October 2024 announcing legislation on Validation Checklists</p> <p>Appendix – Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



Council Chief Executives
& Heads of Planning

James House
2-4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
BELFAST
BT7 2JA

Tel: 0300 200 7830

Email: rosemary.daly@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
julie.maroadi@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

3 October 2024

Dear Chief Executives & Heads of Planning

Planning Application Validation Checklists

I am writing to advise you that the Department for Infrastructure has made a Statutory Rule entitled "The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2024" (S.R. 2024 No.176), which comes into operation on 1 April 2025. The interim period between laying and making the SR and its commencement is to give time to councils to prepare and consult upon their proposed statutory validation checklists (including engaging with agents in the local area), and to allow the PAC time to develop, consult upon, and put in place its approach to the associated dispute mechanism including drafting potential advice and guidance. A copy of the Order is attached and will be available on the Legislation website in due course: Legislation.gov.uk

This Order amends Articles 3, 5, and 20 of The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 (S.R. 2015 No. 72) (the 2015 Order) and introduces a number of new provisions enabling councils to prepare and publish planning application validation checklists to address 'poor quality' or 'incomplete' applications entering the planning system.

A validation checklist will help inform applicants, (above the current minimum statutory requirements which remain unchanged), on the level and type of information required to be submitted with a planning application. Such a list will set out the additional supporting information required to accompany different types of planning applications made to a

council, specific and proportionate to the type of development proposed, including its nature, scale and location.

The Statutory Rule also introduces an associated appeals mechanism in circumstances where an applicant disagrees with a council's decision (by way of notice issued by the council) not to validate a planning application, and is to be conducted upon application, by the Planning Appeals Commission.

The Department has also taken the opportunity (in the amending Order) to make three technical amendments to the 2015 Order, namely: amending the interpretation of 'outline planning permission' in Article 2 to align with the definition of 'outline planning permission' at section 62 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011; and amending Articles 13 and 15 to allow statutory consultees 30 days to consider planning applications that are accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The latter amendments would align the 2015 Order with the timeframes currently required by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. These technical amendments do not represent a new policy, or substantive change to any existing policy.

These provisions form part of the Department's Planning Improvement Programme, arising from the recommendations contained in the First Report on the Implementation of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, and in addition to recommendations contained in both the NIAO and PAC reports on Planning published in 2022.

The overall objective of such the amendments is to enhance the quality of applications entering the system, to front-load the decision-making process, resulting in better processing times and more efficient consultee responses.

Finally, I wish to put on record the Department's gratitude to councils for their contributions and assistance in developing the amending legislation.

Copies of the Rule may be purchased from the Stationery Office at www.tsoshop.co.uk or by contacting TSO Customer Services on 0333 202 5070 or viewed online at www.legislation.gov.uk.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



ROSEMARY DALY
Director

Encl

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2024 No. 176

PLANNING

**The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment)
Order (Northern Ireland) 2024**

Made - - - -

1st October 2024

Coming into operation

1st April 2025

The Department for Infrastructure makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 32, 40(1), and 247(6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011(a) and now vested in it(b).

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2025.

Amendment of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

2.—(1) The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015(c) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (9).

(2) In Article 2(1) interpretation—

(a) after the definition of “the Department” insert—

““EIA application” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations”;

(b) for the definition of “outline planning permission” substitute—

““outline planning permission” means planning permission granted in accordance with the provisions of a development order, conditional on the subsequent approval by the council or, as the case may be, the Department of the particulars of the proposed development (referred to in this Order as reserved matters)”.

(3) In Article 3(3) (applications for planning permission)—

(a) in paragraph (3)(h) omit “and”;

(b) in paragraph (3)(i) after “Regulations” omit “.” and insert “; and”;

(c) after paragraph (3)(i) insert—

(a) 2011 c.25(N.I.)

(b) S.R. 2016 No. 76 – see Article 8 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

(c) S.R. 2015 No. 72

“(j) by such particulars and be verified by such evidence, as may be specified by a direction in writing given by a council made under this Order and published on its website.”.

(4) In Article 5 (application for approval of reserved matters)—

- (a) in paragraph (5)(b) after “permission;” omit “and”;
- (b) in paragraph (5)(c) after “required” omit “.” and insert “; and”;
- (c) after paragraph (5)(c) insert—

“(d) shall be accompanied by such particulars and be verified by such evidence, as may be specified by a direction in writing given by a council made under this Order and published on its website.”.

(5) After Article 5 insert—

“Validation particulars specified by direction

5A.—(1) Subject to paragraph 2 the council may specify by direction published on its website what particulars or verifying evidence shall accompany any application—

- (a) for planning permission; or
- (b) for approval of reserved matters.

(2) Paragraph (1) only applies if the direction is—

- (a) reasonable having regard, in particular, to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development;
- (b) about a matter which it is reasonable to think will be a material consideration in the determination of the application; and
- (c) published or reviewed and re-published by the council during the 3 year period immediately before the date on which the application is made.”

(6) After Article 12 (applications made under planning condition) insert—

“Notice confirming non-compliance with direction

12A.—(1) This Article applies where any application is made to the council—

- (a) for planning permission; or
- (b) for approval of reserved matters,

and the council has made a direction under this Order specifying the particulars, or such verifying evidence, which shall accompany the application.

(2) In the case of any application—

- (a) for planning permission mentioned in paragraph (1)(a); or
- (b) an application for approval of reserved matters mentioned in paragraph (1)(b),

the council shall give notice to the applicant if it considers the application has not been accompanied by such particulars, or verified by such evidence, as specified in the direction made under this Order.

(3) A notice given under paragraph (2) shall be in writing and set out the council’s reasons for issuing the notice and shall specify the particulars or evidence as are reasonable for the council to request.

(4) A notice given under paragraph (2) shall be deemed a refusal for an approval required under a development order under section 58(1) of the 2011 Act.

Appeal against a notice of non-compliance with direction

12B.—(1) If a council gives notice to an applicant under Article 12A(2) the applicant may by notice in writing stating the applicable grounds of appeal, appeal to the planning appeals commission.

(2) Any notice under this Article shall be served on the planning appeals commission and the council within 14 days from the date of the council's notice under Article 12A(2).

(3) The appeal may be brought on any of the following grounds—

- (a) the application was accompanied by such particulars, or was verified by such evidence, as specified in the direction;
- (b) the identified particular, or such evidence verifying the particular, which the council asserts did not accompany the application has not been specified in the direction;
- (c) the council's request specifying the particulars or evidence under the notice issued under Article 12A(2) is unreasonable; or
- (d) that the application is not one to which the direction applies.

(4) The planning appeals commission may—

- (a) allow the appeal;
- (b) dismiss the appeal; or
- (c) vary the notice issued under Article 12A(2) to give effect to its determination on the appeal.

(5) The planning appeals commission decision on the appeal is final.”

(7) In Article 13(4)(b)(ii) for “28” substitute “30”.

(8) In Article 15(2)(a) after “the period of 21 days” insert “, or 30 days in the case of an EIA application, in either case”.

(9) In Article 20(3) (time periods for decisions)—

- (a) in paragraph (3)(b) omit “and”;
- (b) in paragraph (3)(c) after “council” omit “.” and insert “; and”;
- (c) after paragraph (3)(c) insert—

“(d) any direction made by the council under this Order specifying the validation particulars or verifying evidence which shall accompany the application has been complied with.”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Infrastructure on 1st October 2024.



Rosemary Daly
A senior officer of the Department for Infrastructure

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (the 2015 Order), to enable local council planning authorities to prepare and publish planning application validation checklists.

Article 5A is inserted to enable councils to specify by direction validation particulars or verifying evidence that is required by the council to accompany an application for planning permission or for approval of reserved matters.

Article 12A is inserted requiring councils to issue a notice (notice of non-compliance with direction) to an applicant where an application does not comply with the specified information requirements in the direction.

Article 12B is inserted and sets out four grounds for appealing against a notice of non-compliance with direction. Appeals are to be to the Planning Appeals Commission.

This Order includes three technical amendments to the 2015 Order, namely amending the interpretation of ‘outline planning permission’ in Article 2 to align with the definition of ‘outline planning permission’ at section 62 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011; and amending Articles 13 and 15 to allow statutory consultees 30 days to consider planning applications that are accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The latter technical amendments would align the 2015 Order with the timeframes currently required by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

The Explanatory Memorandum is available alongside the instrument on the Government’s legislation website: www.legislation.gov.uk



Subject:	NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 (22 October 2024)
Date:	25 th October 2024
Reporting Officers:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty.

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	After Council Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Never	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
After Committee Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								
After Council Decision	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								
Never	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								

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	To bring forward for Members consideration a recent request received seeking financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024 (22 October 2024).

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider a request received to provide financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024, which took place on 22 October 2024.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	As Members will be aware, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) is a membership and representative umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. With over a thousand members - ranging from household name charities to grass roots community groups - NICVA lobbies and campaigns to advance the interests of the people and communities that their members support. NICVA offers a wide range of practical services, products and support to their members to help them find innovative solutions for social challenges.
3.2	<p>NICVA's strategic goals are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support - Helping the VCS to innovate, develop and improve to meet the needs of the communities it serves; 2. Influence - Helping the VCS to influence policy; 3. Develop - Helping the VCS consolidate and develop the use of data, digital and technology; and 4. Invest - Ensuring continuous improvement to provide the best service to our members.
3.3	<p>Officers have received a request for Council to provide financial support for the NICVA Future Thinking Summit 2024, which was held on 22 October 2024 in W5 and W5 Life, Belfast. Unfortunately, due to the timing of this request, it was not possible to bring the request to SP and R Committee ahead of the NICVA Summit taking place.</p>
3.4	The Future Thinking Summit was modelled after the successful Scottish Gathering and the renowned annual Wheel Conference. The summit was designed to bring together leaders, influencers, and changemakers to address key issues, share best practices, and drive meaningful social change.
3.5	<p>The Key Outcomes from the Summit were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value : demonstrate the breadth and depth of the voluntary and community sector and the significant impact it makes. • Inspire: Gain insights from innovators and industry leaders who are shaping the future of the voluntary sector, as well as influencing policymakers with insights and evidence from the sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect: Network with peers, build new relationships, strengthen existing ones within the community, and foster partnerships that will drive real and meaningful social change. • Strengthen: Equip the VCSE with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate effectively and build a stronger, more connected sector.
3.6	<p>The Summit was developed with and for the Voluntary and Community sector, covering themes including digital transformation, green economy, mental health, poverty, place-based collaboration. The summit used a variety of formats including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Sessions: Inspiring talks from leading influencers and policymakers. • Parallel Sessions: Member-led discussions showcasing best practices and innovative approaches. • Networking Opportunities: Facilitated sessions for building meaningful connections. • Resource Hub: Access to vital information and learning materials.
3.7	<p>To ensure this event was accessible to all, NICVA made the Summit free for attendees, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Leaders: voluntary and community organisations. • Policymakers: Government officials and policymakers focused on civic issues. • Practitioners: On-the-ground staff and volunteers driving change. • Stakeholders: Businesses and organisations invested in community well-being.
3.8	<p>Further details on the summit can be found at: NICVA Summit 2024 Programme — NICVA Summit.</p>
	<p><u>Request for Financial Support</u></p>
3.9	<p>NICVA has requested that Elected Members consider how this summit provided opportunities for capacity building, connections and confidence within the sector and is asked to consider providing financial support the following aspects of the summit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue and Logistics: Contribute to costs of the venue, equipment, and other logistics. • Speakers and Sessions: Contribute towards the cost of travel and honoraria for key speakers and session facilitators. • Materials and Resources: Contribute towards providing attendees with high-quality materials and access to resources.

3.10	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> It is proposed that this request is supported via £10,000 from the in-year City and Organisational Strategy budget, which is in line with level of support provided to similar events in the recent past. There are no additional finance or resource implications contained within this report.
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
4.0	<u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u>
	None



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 7 th October 2024
Date:	23 rd October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager (6015)

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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 7 th October 2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 7 th October 2024 including:
2.2	<p><u>Presentation from MEARS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the contents of the presentation detailed in the minutes.
2.3	<p><u>Presentation from Migrant Help</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the contents of the presentation detailed in the minutes.
2.4	<p><u>Good Relations – Quarter 2 Update</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the contents of the report, including the reprofiling of £7,500 within BCC9 to refresh the Good Relations Strategy and undertake an Audit to inform and develop a 3-year Good Relations Action Plan, through a co-design process. This project will continue as part of the 2025/26 Action Plan; and Agrees that the Chair of the Partnership issue the recently launched report, 'Segregation and the Environment, Breaking Down Barriers', to all NI Executive Ministers.
2.5	<p><u>PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan – Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.
2.6	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the verbal update from Ms. A Roberts EBCDA who gave an overview of the work which had been undertaken in collaboration with a number of community and voluntary groups in the creation of a 'welcome pack' which was being distributed to new residents in the greater east Belfast area. The Partnership agreed the request of Fr. M. Magill, that Members would undertake a walking tour on the Forth Meadow Greenway in west Belfast at a future date.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<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>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the 7th October 2024 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Papers of 9th September 2024

3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from the MEARS Group • Presentation from Migrant help • Good Relations – Quarter 2 Update • PEACEPLUS – Theme 1.1 – Local Action Plan Update • AOB – update from EBCDA on new Welcome Pack, and Invitation from Father M McGill for Members to walk a section of the Forth Meadow Greenway <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 MEARS in Appendix 2; and a Presentation from Migrant Help Appendix 3.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></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.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 7th October 2024 • Appendix 2 – Presentation from Mears • Appendix 3 – Presentation from Migrant Help

This page is intentionally left blank

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 7th October, 2024

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

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

External Members: Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities;
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Fr. M. Magill, Faith Representative;
Ms. T. Mimna, The Executive Office;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Dr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum;
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
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 Ms. T. Mimna to her first meeting in her capacity as the representative of The Executive Office in the place of Ms. A. Tohill.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman S. Copeland and Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector, and Mr L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th September, 2024, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Presentations

Further to the Partnership's decision of 9th September, the Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. N. Lynch, Mr. T. Salman, Mr. R. McMahon, Ms. M. Magee, Mr. D. Ward, Ms. M. Holmes and Ms. C. Lindsay, who were representing Mears Housing Group. In addition, the Chairperson welcomed Ms. L. Vellem, who was in attendance to make a presentation on behalf of Migrant Help.

MEARS

The Partnership was informed that the Mears Group had been appointed by the Home Office to manage Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) in Northern Ireland. The organisation provided support to individuals or families seeking accommodation and was one of several methods by which the government met its duty to provide support for those seeking international protection.

Several representatives outlined the obligations and standards which oversaw the work of the housing group. It was explained that dispersal accommodation was categorised as either family homes or HMO accommodation, whilst housing stock consisted of privately rented properties. It was pointed out that the rise in the number of new arrivals to the United Kingdom since 2021 had resulted in an increase in housing demand, which had resulted in Mears contracting hotel rooms to provide emergency accommodation to service users.

The Partnership was given an overview of the structure and governance of the Mears Group; its partnership working at a local level and on a multi-agency basis.

Migrant Help

Ms. Vellem advised the Partnership that Migrant Help had been appointed by the Home Office to provide support services to asylum seekers through the management of the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Contract (AIRE). The key role of the organisation was to provide impartial and independent information, advice, guidance and assistance to help service users currently within the Asylum Support System. The Partnership was informed that Migrant Help assisted families and individuals in applying for accommodation, accessing financial support and any other advice needed during their asylum process. The organisation provided support throughout the post-decision period, regardless of the outcome of the process.

Several Members paid tribute to the work which had been undertaken by both organisations, particularly throughout the disturbances which had occurred in the city over the summer period.

A Member raised issues relating to the levels of guidance provided to both refugee and asylum seekers to assist them to integrate more effectively within local communities, given particularly the divided nature of society in Northern Ireland. The Member suggested that it was concerning that disinformation persisted on the role of Mears in the provision of housing and an erroneous perception that local families were being displaced. It was suggested there was an onus on the organisation to address such perceptions in a robust and transparent manner.

In response, it was acknowledged that there existed a range of unhelpful misconceptions and theories linked to the role of Mears, particularly the manner in which accommodation was sourced and provided. The organisation, it was pointed out, worked actively to discredit such misconceptions and operated in an open and transparent manner. It was clarified that Mears did not provide accommodation to any individuals under eighteen years-of-age and such views, if expressed within the community, were mistaken.

During further discussion, the following points were noted:

- that Mears would be content, should prior notification be received, to facilitate visits by Members, together with community and voluntary representatives, to view accommodation overseen by the organisation;
- that an invitation would be extended to both organisations to attend a future meeting of the West Belfast Partnership Board to enable a wider discussion to take place with stakeholders within that area of the city;
- that information regarding specific contact details for both Mears and the Migrant Forum would be circulated for the use of members of the Partnership;
- that several questions which had been posed in writing by an external Member would be considered and addressed outside of the meeting; and
- that Mears would consider further how levels of community enhancement could be enhanced and coordinated across Belfast.

Arising from discussion, the Partnership agreed, given the levels of race related violence which had occurred across Belfast during the summer period, that it would be beneficial if a member of the Mears organisation be co-opted onto the Partnership on an interim basis. It was agreed that the Good Relations Manager would seek legal advice in this matter and update the Partnership at its meeting in November.

The Chairperson thanked the representative from both organisations for attending the meeting and for the information which had been provided.

Good Relations – Quarter 2 Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To update the Shared City Partnership on the delivery of the Council’s Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 2 which covers the period July – September 2024.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they:**

1. Note the contents of the report, including the reprofiling of £7,500 within BCC9 to refresh the Good Relations Strategy and undertake an Audit to inform and develop a 3-year Good Relations Action Plan, through a co-design process. This project will continue as part of the 2025/26 Action Plan; and
2. Agree that the Chair of the Partnership issue the recently launched report, 'Segregation and the Environment, Breaking Down Barriers', to all NI Executive Ministers.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council receives 75% of funding from The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of its annual Good Relations Action Plan.
- 3.2 The current total value of the Action Plan is £493,079.59. Within this the 75% contribution from TEO consists of £369,809.69 with the remaining 25%, or £123,269.90 being contributed by the Council. Of this overall total, £365,000 is allocated towards programmes.
- 3.3 It should also be noted that the Council contributes more to Good Relations work than merely its 25% match funding to the Action Plan, contributing a total of £413,320.10.
- 3.4 Following confirmation of budgets and a revised Action Plan, delivery continued during quarter 2. In Q1, £181,714.48 was allocated. In Q2, a further £109,420 has been allocated, giving a total allocation thus far of £291,134.48. It should be noted that the Action Plan does not include the £128,000 allocated to the Council for work on refugee integration, or the Asylum Dispersal allocations. These funds are in addition to the Action Plan.
- 3.5 The following is a summary progress update on activity and allocations during Q2:

Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 1	Total allocated
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£155,000	43 projects awarded funding for Good Relations projects.	£0 (all allocated)
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	£20,000	Programme preparation underway	£0

BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	£20,000	Beacon Programme delivered. 15 Beacons deployed on 11 July.	£20,000
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£20,000	Good Relations Week Research Launch event Black History Month projects	£550 £3,000
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme	£60,000	September meeting of migrant forum took place. 3 projects allocated support	£27,300
BCC6	Embedding Good Relations Programme	£0	This programme will not proceed because of budget shortfall	£0
BCC7	Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism and racism	£60,000	Engagement with groups to develop proposals.	£58,570 allocated to 14 projects
BCC8	Shared Education Schools Programme	£20,000	Programme preparation underway.	£0
BCC9	Strategic Connections and Support Programme	£10,000	Proposal to use this resource to undertake a new Good Relations Audit to refresh and update future Good Relations Strategy and Action Plans	£0
	TOTAL	£365,000		£109,420

- 3.6 Members will also recall that a launch of the recently completed research: 'Segregation and the Environment; Breaking Down Barriers', took place during Good Relations Week at 2 Royal Avenue. Following representations from officials at DEARA, it is suggested that the Chair of the

Partnership issue a copy of the report to all NI Executive Ministers.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.7 All costs within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan are covered within existing agreed budgets.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.8 All activity within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan seek to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds."**

After discussion, the Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

1. It notes the contents of the report, including the reprofiling of £7,500 within BCC9 to refresh the Good Relations Strategy and undertakes an audit to inform and develop a three-year Good Relations Action Plan, through a co-design process, and that project would continue as part of the 2025/26 Action Plan; and
2. It agrees that the Chairperson of the Partnership would circulate the recently launched report, 'Segregation and the Environment, Breaking Down Barriers', to all Executive Ministers at the Assembly.

PEACEPLUS - Council Local Action Plan Quarter 2 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 Application Status

The PEACEPLUS Steering Committee met on 12 August 2024 and fully approved the Belfast PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

Members of the PEACEPLUS team met with the Joint Secretariat from the SEUPB on 12 September to assist in the progression of the Letter of Offer. A Letter of Offer is expected to be issued in the coming weeks.

3.2 Official Programme Launch

The official project launch was held in the Great Hall of Belfast City Hall on Friday 20 September. Over one hundred people attended the event with Barra Best as compere, engaging speeches were given by our guest speakers including the Lord Mayor, Cllr Duffy, Cllr McLaughlin and representatives from our funders (SEUPB, The Executive Office and the Department of Rural and Community Development). Dr Raja Harun and Fr Martin Magill provided us with some very thought-provoking comments in relation to International Day of Peace and there was also entertainment provided by the North Belfast Youth Choir and later by the South Asian Dance Academy.

The team would like to extend thanks to all speakers and attendees.

3.3 Mobilisation and Implementation

The team have continued to progress the procurement timeframe, the first procurement exercise, which is for TPC3 Empowering Youth project, was advertised on 6 September with a closing date of 8 October 2024. This will allow an approximate contracting date in November.

TPC1 Community Empowerment is now also live with a closing date of 28 October allowing an approximate contracting date in December.

All other procurements will continue to be released in line with the indicative timetable provided at the August SCP meeting.

Pre-market engagement (PME) sessions are now continuing for all other procurements, they will take place at least 2 weeks before the tender advertisement date to allow for any changes required based on feedback from the market.

3.3 Staff Recruitment

Recruitment has concluded for the Project Officer role and an offer of employment made. A start date will soon be agreed.

Interviews for the Programme Support Assistant took place on Wednesday 2 October, and we await the outcome.

Recruitment of the 3 Project Support Officers that will support the Project Managers is likely to commence in the coming weeks.

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

A Letter of Offer start date of 1 January 2024 has been requested from the JS Case Officer. A £ Sterling Letter of Offer has been requested in line with the direction provided by the Programme Board.

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

Once the Letter of Offer is processed and returned to the SEUPB, a request will be submitted for the €100,000 lump sum. An advance of 20% of the value of the Letter of Offer will also be request, this will assist with cashflow until the claims process is confirmed.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

Prior to considering this matter, the Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that tender processes relating to PEACEPLUS were currently open and, as such, any questions or queries in this regard should be referred to the designated formal procurement processes.

The Partnership noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the PEACEPLUS – Local Community Action Plan, in particular the following matters were drawn to the Members:

- that the PEACEPLUS team had met with the Joint Secretariat from SEUPB on 12th September and the associated Letter of Offer to the Council was anticipated in due course;
- that the official programme launch for PEACEPLUS had taken place in the Belfast City Hall on 20th September;
- that a request for a Letter of Offer start date of 1st January 2024 - and in pounds sterling - had been submitted to SEUPB, in line with the direction provided by the PEACEPLUS Programme Board; and

- that a further request for the €100,000 lump sum, together with a 20% advance, would be submitted to SEUPB once the Letter of Offer had been received and accepted.

Any Other Business

Ms. A Roberts gave an overview of the work which had been undertaken in collaboration with a number of community and voluntary groups in the creation of a 'welcome pack' which was being distributed to new residents in the greater east Belfast area.

At the request of Fr. M. Magill, the Committee agreed that Members would undertake a walking tour, commencing at the Forth Meadow Greenway in west Belfast, at a future date.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

MEARS

Page 161

Briefing on Mears
Delivery of AASC to
Shared City
Partnership



Agenda

- ▶ Key Definitions & The Refugee Journey
- ▶ AASC & AIRE Contracts
- ▶ MEARS Organisational Structure
- ▶ Dispersal Accommodation
- ▶ Contingency Accommodation
- ▶ MEARS Partnerships
- ▶ Safeguarding

Definitions of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Status



Asylum Seekers:

- Flee their homeland;
- Arrive in another country, whichever way they can;
- Make themselves known to the authorities;
- Submit an asylum application; and
- Have a legal right to stay in country while awaiting a decision
- Have no recourse to public funds;
- Usually no right to work (some are permitted if granted by Home Office and after 12 months of waiting for decision)



Refugees:

- Has proven to the authorities that they would be at risk if returned to their home country;
- Has had their claim for asylum accepted by the government; and
- Can now stay here either long-term or indefinitely;
- Entitled to same rights as a citizen;
- Recourse to public funds;
- Right to work

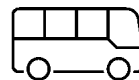
The Asylum Process



Asylum Seeker
presents at HO in
Belfast or Police
Station



Initial assessment
carried out by HO
(Section 98)



Mears transports service
user to contingency
accommodation



HO approves service user
to be moved to Dispersed
Accommodation after
checks (Section 95)



Mears supports service users
introducing them to their
new home and community
and signposting to
additional services and
activities



HO continues with
processing of
assessment



HO reaches
decision on
application



If successful: status changes
to Refugee status and under
NIHE provision

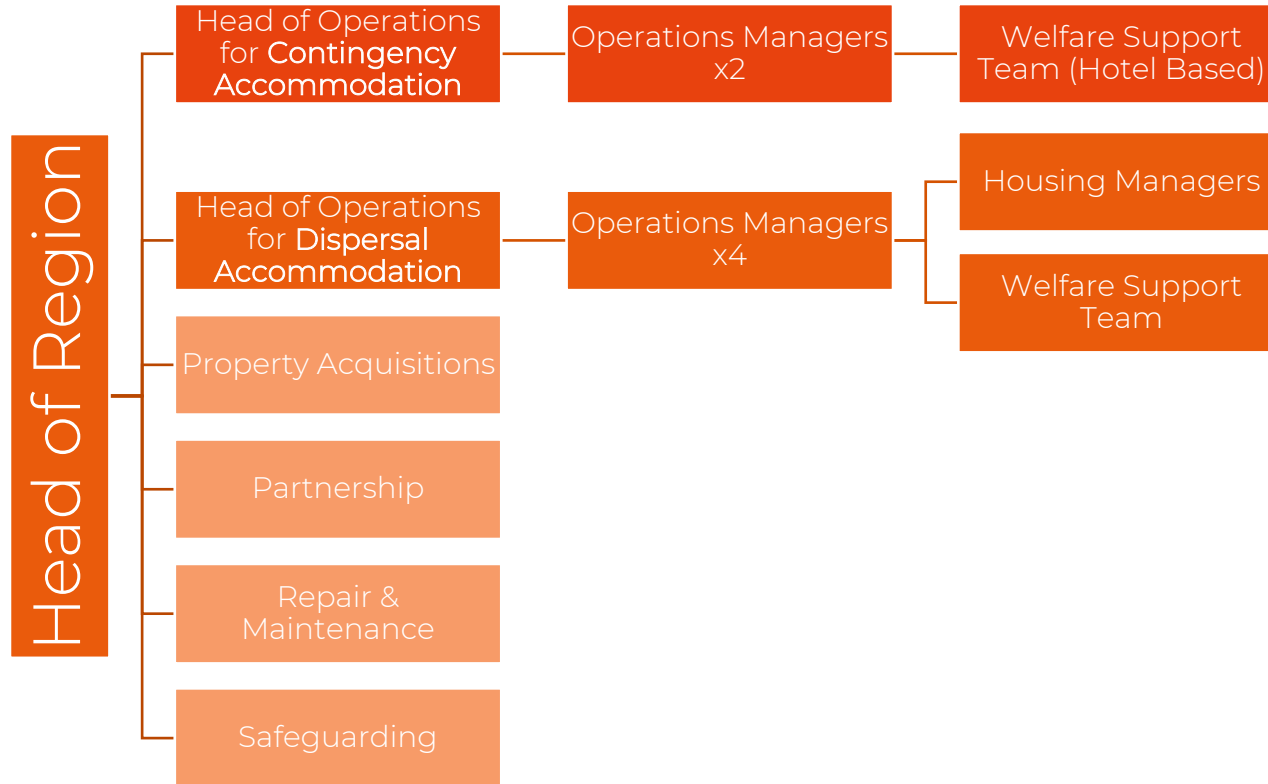
AASC and AIRE Contracts

- AASC Contract: Accommodation and Support Services Contract awarded to and delivered by Mears
- AIRE Contract: Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Contract awarded to and delivered by Migrant Help

The Asylum Accommodation & Support Contract

- AASC Contract awarded to Mears in **2019** and managed by Home Office over a period of **10 years**
Provision of Housing and Support to families & individuals seeking asylum who are facing destitution
- The 2019 Contract placed greater emphasis in standards of homes, with **150 properties returned due to not meeting standards**
- Recognition of the unique needs & potential vulnerabilities of those using our service, with the implementation of a welfare support & signposting service

Organisational Structure



Dispersal Accommodation

- ▶ Dispersal Accommodation can be categorised into family homes and HMO Accommodation
- ▶ Housing stock consists of privately rented properties
- ▶ Families will receive an offer of accommodation from the Home Office following stay in hotel accommodation
- ▶ In 2022, Mears began to procure properties outside of Belfast due to ongoing demand; dispersal accommodation spans 7 Council Areas at present. However, Mears have approval to procure in all remaining council areas as of July 2024.
- ▶ A structure of Housing Management and Welfare Support provides wrap-around care for families and individuals living in our accommodation



Key provisions for our residents in Dispersal accommodation

Suitable Housing: Family Homes
or HMO Accommodation

Asylum Payment of £49.18 per
week, per person

Utilities including electricity &
gas or oil

Essential inventory / furnishings

Allocated Welfare Support
Officer & Housing Manager

Housing Manager Role

- ▶ Monthly property visits to report any issues arising to Repair & Maintenance
- ▶ Relocations from contingency to dispersal accommodation
- ▶ Induction into property on arrival
- ▶ Pre-relocation 'Property Readiness' inspection

24/7, 365 days on-call rotation

Welfare Support Role

- ▶ Welfare Check within 48h of arrival to dispersal property
- ▶ Signposting to key services including health, education & CVS
- ▶ Provision of Local Information Guide & other key resources
- ▶ Safeguarding & Escalation
- ▶ Managing caseload of complex cases – families & individuals with additional vulnerabilities

Contingency Accommodation

Due to a rise in the number of new arrivals from 2021, within the context of unprecedented housing demand, Mears began to contract hotels & B&Bs to provide emergency initial accommodation for our service users.

Prior to this time, residents would have entered community housing immediately on arrival.

Number of hotels at height across NI: 22

Number of hotels at present across NI: 9



Key provisions
for our residents
in Contingency /
hotel-style
accommodation
:

Full room and board



Essential Toiletries



Asylum payment of £8.86 per
week, per person



Welfare Support Officer: on-
site for induction, signposting
to services, & safeguarding

Welfare Support in Hotel Accommodation

- ▶ Induction within 24 hours of arrival to property
- ▶ Signposting to Health, Education & CVS
- ▶ Provision of Local Information Guide & other key resources
- ▶ Safeguarding & Escalation
- ▶ Record-keeping & incident reporting

Additionally:

- Facilitated GP registration for all residents (until August 24)
- Support with access to services including GP where language barrier is present
- Active engagement with partners delivering on-site in hotels

24/7, 365 days on-call
rotation

Our Partnership Working

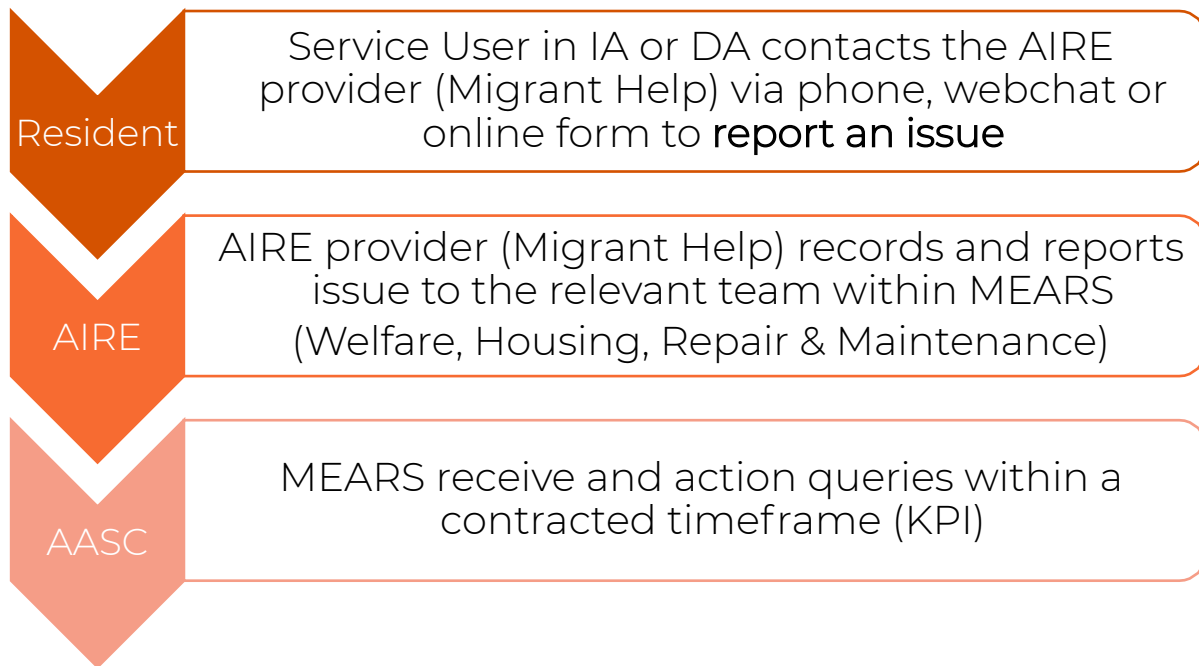
At every stage of accommodation provision, our partners are key in supporting families & individuals seeking asylum.

We work closely with all Health Trusts, Councils & CVS across NI, sitting on key stakeholder forums, to facilitate collaborative working in support of families and individuals in our accommodation.



AASC & AIRE: Issue Reporting Procedure

Page 175



AIRE (Migrant Help) also manage a robust **complaints procedure** which allows for escalation and resolution of issues reported to MEARS. Complaints are closely monitored and must be responded to and addressed within timeframe, with full response provided to the resident.

Information Sharing

- ▶ ISA with Health – (For consenting residents)
- ▶ ISA with Education – (For consenting residents)
- ▶ Information shared in the **All Council TEO** Meeting about number of bedspaces within each Council Area – Detailing whether an individual or a family.
- ▶ We are currently discussing with Home Office Data Hub on potential for a specific information sharing agreement with Council. (This can only be agreed by Home Office).

Part of our role in the Mears Partnership Team is to:

❖ **Record and relay the needs presenting to our partners**

We work closely with our front-line teams, and conduct 6-weekly Resident's Forums, to better understand and amplify the voices of our resident, whilst working to adapt our services.

❖ **Liaison with Councils, Health Trusts, & CVS**

We attend key stakeholder meetings to collaborate on support implementation for our residents, liaising with Councils, Health Trusts, and community voluntary organisations across NI.

Overcoming Barriers

❖ NINES Family Help Clinic

Improving access to key services for families, including Health & Social Work, Education, SureStart

❖ GP Registration (until August 2024)

Voluntary support in registering families & individuals in contingency & dispersal accommodation, as well as supporting with access & appointment booking.

❖ DFI's 'Local Links' Travel Pilot & Consultation

Voluntary distribution by Mears of 3000 travel passes from October 23 – March 24; voluntary organisation & facilitation of consultations across NI to capture the value of the project.

❖ Dispersal across NI & Council Engagement

❖ On-site delivery in contingency

Working with CVS to bring in ESOL Classes, Family Programs, Sport Sessions, etc

Anti-Immigration / Civil Unrest

- **PSNI liaison** – Direct line of communication throughout unrest for real-time updates & to inform strategy.
- Additional security and welfare teams stood up across hotel accommodation.
- **PSNI Resident Engagement** facilitated across all sites NI wide to offer the opportunity for residents to gain first-hand updates on unrest & scheduled protests & ask questions. Personal safety devices distributed.
- **Communications with residents:** daily wellbeing meetings in contingency accommodation to create a safe space for residents to receive information and share concerns; email comms to residents in dispersal accommodation on hate-crime reporting; HelpInHand information distributed and added to induction packs.
- Additional Welfare Support implemented in dispersal accommodation with relocations offered to residents in areas perceived to be high-risk.
- Donations of toys, food, welcome cards, safely delivered by our partners in CVS.

Safeguarding

Mears Housing Management is committed to safeguarding the welfare/wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults that we encounter through the services that we provide, whether directly or indirectly and, that living a life free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person. We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of vulnerable adults; children and young people, to keep them safe.



Reporting & Recording a Safeguarding Concern

In all instances where an employee or sub-contractor has a suspicion or a concern that harm may have occurred or might occur if no preventative measures are taken.

Page 181



Throughout the asylum accommodation period Mears Housing Management receive information from the Home Office in relation to Service Users with specific needs or identified risks. Mears Housing Management will refer and signpost Service Users to the relevant statutory and/or voluntary services where appropriate.

We assess risk to properties and Service Users from protests/violent disorder/unauthorised access, sharing intel of such with Home Office, HSCT and Police, liaising with those partners regarding their adequate staffing and other arrangements to mitigate those risks.

Liaising with the NHS and HSCT regarding individual Service Users needs (both physical and mental health); attending Complex or Multi -Disciplinary Team meetings to ensure Care Plans and/or Occupational Therapy accommodation adaptations assessments are implemented/completed.

Notifying and liaising with Public Health of any infectious risk or management of outbreaks, adhering to expert recommendations.

Signposting to how Service Users can access health and relevant local activities and groups to ensure their integration into the community and ongoing mental wellbeing.

Ensuring via induction that Service Users are aware of UK/devolved law and their entitlement to report racist/hate/LGBTQIA+/ crime against the person to Police (and via Third Party) reporting, along with signposting to relevant support.

Identifying concerns of individual suspected trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery to Police/ Home Office , but also to liaise with same statutory bodies regarding access to evidence or mitigating risk to premises of concern.

To support police ongoing investigations or to prevent risk

- Questions and Discussion

Working together to support people seeking asylum



Tesfay Waldemichael
Head of Regional Services,
Relationships & Partnerships
North

9 September 2024



AIRE overview

Page 186

- Advice and Guidance
- Issue Reporting
- Eligibility



FRC(First Response Centre) (Single point of contact)

- **Available 24 / 7 for all clients** whether in hotels/contingency accommodation, core IAs, DA or private accommodation
- Work closely with the Home Office and accommodation providers around any trends in calls coming through, ensuring we are **consistent** with our advice and have detailed processes and guidance in place.
- Handle all queries relating to **Issue Reporting**. Close links with the accommodation providers and Home Office Safeguarding team to ensure we are putting the needs of clients first.
- Able to provide a **basic level** of advice and guidance and signposting but will triage more complex and specialised queries to EAGL during their working hours or arrange for a call back.



Issue Reporting

Page 188

- **Issue Reporting** queries are passed on to the appropriate provider within 30 minutes of being raised.
- Advisers also able to call through **emergency cases** to ensure they are picked up straight away and addressed.
- **Maintenance**
- **Payments**
- **Requests For Assistance** – able to report on and alert the relevant accommodation provider of any concerns within a property or concerns for clients wellbeing
- **Complaints** – ensure clients understand the process, that lodging a complaint would not impact them or their claim and pass on to the relevant party for investigation.



FIRST RESPONSE CENTRE

Issue Reporting - Feedback

Page 189

- **Feedback** - encourage clients to provide feedback for all providers, MH and Home Office to part of continuous improvement.
- **Service User Experience** - we have worked with the Home Office to put in place surveys which focus particularly on services provided in IA, Issue Reporting, Move On and dispersal.
- Anonymous
- Available in 11 languages
- Links sent at the end of calls, FRC, EAGL and regional teams to ensure that clients are aware of how to provide feedback and what we will do with the information.
- QR code in hotels
- Results are fed into our Continuous Improvement Group internally and reported to the Home Office quarterly.



EAGL

ELIGIBILITY, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE LINE

Page 190

- 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and calls triaged to EAGL by FRC

- **Advice and guidance** - for more complex and specialised queries.

- **Eligibility** - assist with S98 applications, ASF1s for non-IA clients and any changes to circumstances as stipulated in their Support T&Cs.

- **Signpost** - where MH unable to provide advice or there are other organisations more appropriate, we will signpost to other agencies to ensure the client gets the help and support that they need.

- EAGL can also assist with all queries that are handled by FRC as well should they be transferred through.



Contacting us

Page 19

Most common ways of contacting Migrant help are below and call back can be requested using the online enquiry form

Asylum Services

[Free asylum helpline](#) (open 24/7/365): 0808 8010 503

You can also contact us via our [webchat](#) or via an [online enquiry form](#).

Email addresses for various queries can be found [here](#).



Regional Operations

Page 192


- Co-located with AASCs in 9 'Core' Initial Accommodation settings nationally
- IA Service – Induction, ASF1, Q & A, CoC, ASPEN
- Contingency Accommodation / Hotels
- Communication methods and challenges

CLCs

Community Liaison Coordinators

- Our Community Liaison Coordinators participate in all local meetings and work closely with all NGOs to ensure we have up to date information of the services provided by them and agree referral processes.
- Referrals include requests for clothes, counselling/therapeutic services, online ESOL, etc.





(COC)changes to circumstances

Page 194

This includes:

- changes to names or addresses
- adding or removing dependents
- change of relationship status
- hospitalisation or imprisonment
- requests to move accommodation.
- pregnancies, childbirth, or death



Move on - Negative

Page 195

- Migrant Helps EAGL team deliver Negative Move On support nationally by telephone.
- Face to face if required it is available through Migrant Helps National Outreach team during the grace period.
- Our Negative Move on Service includes;
- Grace period explanation
- Voluntary return service – information

Outreach

Page 196

- Specific service for additionally vulnerable clients
- Need identified – referrals from internal teams and external partners
- Third party referral (email outreach@migranthelpuk.org) – referral form to include explanation of the need
- Case assessed and potentially a face-to-face appointment arranged
- Mix of direct Migrant Help provision and partners via the Commissioning Framework



Safeguarding Team

Page 197

- Dedicated Safeguarding team recruited in 2022 – Manager, specialist Age Dispute Advisor, specialist Disability Advisor and an Administrator.
- Complete review of Migrant Help Policies and procedures.
- Complete review of Migrant Help internal training and guidance notes to staff.
- Continual program of case reviews and lessons learnt.

Commissioning framework

Page 198

- An opportunity for other organisations to partner with Migrant Help and work alongside our AIRE services (completion of Change of Circumstances, ASF1s and Move-On)

** Guide in your conference pack*



Move On

Page 199

We deliver positive move on support over the 28 days grace period and deliver nine key touch points, primarily by telephone, face to face can be provided for the most vulnerable by Migrant Help's Outreach team

Our impact 2023

Page 200

In 2023 We have answered:

- 124,000 calls by EAGL
- 9,200 webchats by EAGL (went live 24 August 2023)
- 690,000 calls answered by FRC
- 65,500 webchats by the FRC

In 2023, we have submitted:

- 34,000 in- IA/ Hotel ASF1's
- 7,130 non-IA ASF1's
- 2,700 S4 ASF1's
- 11,000 S98 applications
- 19,300 Change of Circumstances requests
- 25,300 Proof of Support requests

In 2022/23 , 13 Millions of Minutes of telephone interpreting provided by Clear Voice

In 2023 We have completed:

- 32,900 Inductions
- 6,000 Outreach appointments
- 30,000 Move On appointments
- 325,500 Advice and Guidance queries, resolved on first contact
- 244,000 Issue Reporting (maintenance, complaints, feedback, payment issues and requests for assistance) tickets passed on for resolution.

We have issued:

- 29,750 ASPEN cards

Any questions?



info@migranthelpuk.org
www.migranthelpuk.org
Free asylum helpline: 0808 8010 503
Head office: 01304 203 977



This page is intentionally left blank

Working together to support people seeking asylum



Tesfay Waldemichael
Head of Regional Services,
Relationships & Partnerships
North

9 September 2024



AIRE overview

Page 204

- Advice and Guidance
- Issue Reporting
- Eligibility



FRC(First Response Centre) (Single point of contact)

- **Available 24 / 7 for all clients** whether in hotels/contingency accommodation, core IAs, DA or private accommodation
- Work closely with the Home Office and accommodation providers around any trends in calls coming through, ensuring we are **consistent** with our advice and have detailed processes and guidance in place.
- Handle all queries relating to **Issue Reporting**. Close links with the accommodation providers and Home Office Safeguarding team to ensure we are putting the needs of clients first.
- Able to provide a **basic level** of advice and guidance and signposting but will triage more complex and specialised queries to EAGL during their working hours or arrange for a call back.



Issue Reporting

Page 206

- **Issue Reporting** queries are passed on to the appropriate provider within 30 minutes of being raised.
- Advisers also able to call through **emergency cases** to ensure they are picked up straight away and addressed.
- **Maintenance**
- **Payments**
- **Requests For Assistance** – able to report on and alert the relevant accommodation provider of any concerns within a property or concerns for clients wellbeing
- **Complaints** – ensure clients understand the process, that lodging a complaint would not impact them or their claim and pass on to the relevant party for investigation.



FIRST RESPONSE CENTRE

Issue Reporting - Feedback

Page 207

- **Feedback** - encourage clients to provide feedback for all providers, MH and Home Office to support of continuous improvement.
- **Service User Experience** - we have worked with the Home Office to put in place surveys which focus particularly on services provided in IA, Issue Reporting, Move On and dispersal.
- Anonymous
- Available in 11 languages
- Links sent at the end of calls, FRC, EAGL and regional teams to ensure that clients are aware of how to provide feedback and what we will do with the information.
- QR code in hotels
- Results are fed into our Continuous Improvement Group internally and reported to the Home Office quarterly.



EAGL

ELIGIBILITY, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE LINE

Page 208

- 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and calls triaged to EAGL by FRC

- **Advice and guidance** - for more complex and specialised queries.

- **Eligibility** - assist with S98 applications, ASF1s for non-IA clients and any changes to circumstances as stipulated in their Support T&Cs.

- **Signpost** - where MH unable to provide advice or there are other organisations more appropriate, we will signpost to other agencies to ensure the client gets the help and support that they need.

- EAGL can also assist with all queries that are handled by FRC as well should they be transferred through.



Contacting us

Page 209

Most common ways of contacting Migrant help are below and call back can be requested using the online enquiry form

Asylum Services

[Free asylum helpline](#) (open 24/7/365): 0808 8010 503

You can also contact us via our [webchat](#) or via an [online enquiry form](#).

Email addresses for various queries can be found [here](#).



Regional Operations

Page 210


- Co-located with AASCs in 9 'Core' Initial Accommodation settings nationally
- IA Service – Induction, ASF1, Q & A, CoC, ASPEN
- Contingency Accommodation / Hotels
- Communication methods and challenges

CLCs

Community Liaison Coordinators

- Page 211
- Our Community Liaison Coordinators participate in all local meetings and work closely with all NGOs to ensure we have up to date information of the services provided by them and agree referral processes.
 - Referrals include requests for clothes, counselling/therapeutic services, online ESOL, etc.





(COC)changes to circumstances

Page 212

This includes:

- changes to names or addresses
- adding or removing dependents
- change of relationship status
- hospitalisation or imprisonment
- requests to move accommodation.
- pregnancies, childbirth, or death



Move on - Negative

Page 213

- Migrant Helps EAGL team deliver Negative Move On support nationally by telephone.
- Face to face if required it is available through Migrant Helps National Outreach team during the grace period.
- Our Negative Move on Service includes;
- Grace period explanation
- Voluntary return service – information

Outreach

Page 214

- Specific service for additionally vulnerable clients
- Need identified – referrals from internal teams and external partners
- Third party referral (email outreach@migranthelpuk.org) – referral form to include explanation of the need
- Case assessed and potentially a face-to-face appointment arranged
- Mix of direct Migrant Help provision and partners via the Commissioning Framework



Safeguarding Team

Page 215

- Dedicated Safeguarding team recruited in 2022 – Manager, specialist Age Dispute Advisor, specialist Disability Advisor and an Administrator.
- Complete review of Migrant Help Policies and procedures.
- Complete review of Migrant Help internal training and guidance notes to staff.
- Continual program of case reviews and lessons learnt.

Commissioning framework



Page 216

- An opportunity for other organisations to partner with Migrant Help and work alongside our AIRE services (completion of Change of Circumstances, ASF1s and Move-On)

** Guide in your conference pack*



Move On

Page 217

We deliver positive move on support over the 28 days grace period and deliver nine key touch points, primarily by telephone, face to face can be provided for the most vulnerable by Migrant Help's Outreach team

Our impact 2023

Page 218

In 2023 We have answered:

- 124,000 calls by EAGL
- 9,200 webchats by EAGL (went live 24 August 2023)
- 690,000 calls answered by FRC
- 65,500 webchats by the FRC

In 2023, we have submitted:

- 34,000 in- IA/ Hotel ASF1's
- 7,130 non-IA ASF1's
- 2,700 S4 ASF1's
- 11,000 S98 applications
- 19,300 Change of Circumstances requests
- 25,300 Proof of Support requests

In 2022/23 , 13 Millions of Minutes of telephone interpreting provided by Clear Voice

In 2023 We have completed:

- 32,900 Inductions
- 6,000 Outreach appointments
- 30,000 Move On appointments
- 325,500 Advice and Guidance queries, resolved on first contact
- 244,000 Issue Reporting (maintenance, complaints, feedback, payment issues and requests for assistance) tickets passed on for resolution.

We have issued:

- 29,750 ASPEN cards

Any questions?



info@migranthelpuk.org
www.migranthelpuk.org
Free asylum helpline: 0808 8010 503
Head office: 01304 203 977



This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Diversity Action Plans
Date:	25 October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, Corporate Human Resources Manager (Development)

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To agree the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and LGBTQIA+ Action Plan for 2024 – 27 including resources to deliver year 1 activity.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and LGBTQIA+ Action Plan for 2024 – 27 and associated year 1 costs.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Our Equality and Diversity Action Plan outlines how we will promote equality and diversity in our ambitions to create a city in which people love to live, learn, invest, work and visit. It also contributes to our compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>Actions are categorised under the following corporate plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing an inclusive economy • Living here • Cross cutting • Organisational priorities
3.2	<p>As part of the Equality and Diversity Action Plan the Council has committed to developing and delivering a Gender Action Plan, LGBTQIA + Action Plan and a Race Equality Action Plan. The Women’s Steering Group has developed and agreed a three-year GAP for delivery between April 2024 to March 2027. Year 1 has been costed and is being presented to Committee for approval. HR has developed a three-year LGBT+ Action Plan for 2024-27, in collaboration with the LGBTQIA + staff network and this is also being presented, with costs for year 1, for approval.</p> <p>Gender Action Plan (GAP)</p>
3.3	<p>Gender inequalities are deeply embedded in our social, economic and cultural systems. There is overwhelming evidence that women disproportionately experience disadvantage and discrimination, a reflection of historical unaddressed inequality, but also that inequalities have been exacerbated by austerity, welfare reform and by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Statistics affirm the persistence of gendered inequalities, which continue to inhibit women’s life opportunities in Northern Ireland. Men will benefit from gender equality as they too face gender-specific issues such as lower life expectancy, bad health, lower education levels and are impacted negatively by rigid gender norms.</p>
3.4	<p>The proposed GAP 2024-27 (see Appendix One) has been developed following a facilitated workshop to agree the overall vision and aim of the Gender Action Plan, take stock of progress to date and the current situation with regard to gender equality issues,</p>

	<p>generate ideas and proposals for the future and agree actions for the 2024-2027 action plan. The feedback from the workshop and consultation process with the Women's Steering group and the Women's Network Group has been incorporated into the draft 3 year plan. Members will be aware of the recently launched Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and it is planned that a representation from TEO will attend CMT in the coming weeks to discuss in more detail how the Council can work with TEO to help deliver the Strategic Framework</p> <p>Request for additional funding for the annual International Women's Day rally in the city.</p>
3.5	<p>At its meeting in January 2014, Strategic Policy and Resourcing Committee agreed recurring annual expenditure of £6000 to fund the annual International Women's Day rally in the city. The annual funding was increased to £6500 following approval at the Committee in January 2019. To date, the costs, like other Gender Action Plan costs, have been met through the Organisational Development (OD) budget. In December 2023, representatives from Reclaim the Agenda, organisers of the annual rally attended Women's Steering Group (WSG) to request an increase in the funding provided, to account not only for additional costs caused by inflation but also so those arising as a result of the increase in size and scope of the event. The group requested an additional £8,900, making the total request for funding £15,400. Going forward, Reclaim the Agenda has ambition to develop further the scope and size of the annual IWD celebrations and programme, in particular for 2025, the 50th anniversary of the United Nations officially adopting 8th March as International Women's Day.</p>
3.6	<p>WSG requested a breakdown of the event costs and undertook to explore the feasibility of increased funding. Reclaim the Agenda was also advised to explore the possibility of additional funding with other organisations, including those which have made contributions to the event in recent years (e.g. Equality Commission for N Ireland and various trade unions) and other organisations, in particular those that will benefit from the rally increasing its presence in the city.</p>
3.7	<p>The OD budget, which has not been increased for a number of years, funds a variety of activities and projects being delivered as part of the People Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including officer learning and development, equality, diversity and inclusion and health and wellbeing initiatives. Other OD initiatives, for example, the elected member development programme, are also funded through the OD budget. OD commitments for 2024/25 and the next two years of the People Strategy years have been</p>

	<p>considered and in light of current and continuing demands on the OD budget, it is possible to allocate an additional £3500 each year to the IWD rally. It is therefore proposed that the allocation in the GAP increases to £10,000 for 2024/25 and annually going forward.</p> <p>LGBTQIA+ Action Plan</p>
3.8	<p>HR has developed a three year LGBTQIA+ Action Plan for 2024-27, in collaboration with the staff network “Proud” and this is also being presented, with costs for year 1, for approval. Please see Appendix Two. The plan has been developed to ensure that our organisational culture and working environment allows staff to feel comfortable to be their whole selves at work and that policies and practices empower talent development at all levels and the removal of any form of discrimination. It also aims to increase the understanding of the wider workforce of issues facing the LGBTQIA+ communities.</p> <p>Disability Action Plan</p>
3.9	<p>Members should also note that the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (“DDA”) Section 49 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons, and to the need to encourage participation by disabled persons in public life. Our current Plan runs, approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and reported on annually, runs from 2022 until 2025.</p> <p>Detail on all of the actions delivered as part of the Disability Action Plan, the Gender Action Plan and the LGBTQIA+ Action Plan are included in the annual report to the Equality Commission.</p> <p>Race Equality Action Plan</p>
3.10	<p>Members will be aware that the Director of City and Organisational Strategy, as Executive Sponsor for Race, has been leading on the development of the Race Equality Action Plan. The development of the plan has considered how we deliver our services and actions that we can take as an employer to create a more diverse workforce, and as a city leader, to influence and bring about change. Directors and senior managers have undertaken Cultural Competence and Anti Racism Training and CMT has participated in one-to-one coaching with Dr Lucy Michael to identify and develop appropriate individual departmental actions. Members should also note that that Dr Michael briefed party group leaders on progress with development of the plan on 26 September 2024.</p>

	Financial & Resource Implications
	Financial
3.11	The cost of delivery of the proposed Gender Action Plan 2024 - 2027 year 1 activities is estimated at £28 000. The cost of delivery of the LGBTQIA+ Action Plan 2024-2027 year 1 is estimated at £10 200. Both plans will be met from the Organisational Development budget.
	Human Resources
3.12	The plans also identify the role that individual business units and departments have in delivery of the plans.
	Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications
3.13	The delivery of the Gender and the LGBTQIA+ Action Plans will result in positive outcomes. The promotion of equality and diversity entails more than the elimination of discrimination, it requires proactive action. The actions contained within both plans will not only impact on internal operations but also have a positive impact externally on women and the LGBTQIA+ community in our city.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix One - Gender Action Plan 2024-2027 Appendix Two - LGBTQIA Action Plan 2024-2027

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix One

GENDER ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2027

DRAFT

Year 1 April 2024 to March 2025

Year 2 April 2025 to March 2026

Year 3 April 2026 to March 2027

Gender inequalities are deeply embedded in our social, economic, and cultural systems. There is overwhelming evidence that women disproportionately experience disadvantage and discrimination. Please see attached Appendix A. This is a reflection of historical unaddressed inequality, but inequalities have also been exacerbated by austerity, welfare reform and by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the 25 years since the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement's commitment to the 'full and equal participation of women in public life', statistics affirm the persistence of gendered inequalities, which continue to inhibit women's life opportunities in Northern Ireland. Men will also benefit from gender equality as they too face gender-specific issues including lower life expectancy, bad health and lower education levels and are impacted negatively by rigid gender norms.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE COUNCIL to ensure that Belfast City Council organisational culture, policies and practices empower talent development at all levels, for elected members and officers alike, and remove any form of discrimination			
Action	Year	Who	Budget year 1
Fund and develop a programme of events for Women's Network Group	1, 2, 3	WNG	£4,000
Hold annual IWD and IMD events/celebrations for staff	1, 2, 3	HR WNG	£6,000
Prepare for NI Diversity Chartermark assessment with the goal of attaining Gold level accreditation	2	HR	n/a Year 2
Ensure effective promotion of Belfast City Council as an employer that values and supports equality and diversity (interlink, external website, job information for potential applicants, media releases, City Matters, social media.)	Ongoing	HR P&E MarComms Staff networks	Staff resources

Retain Onus Domestic Violence Charter 'platinum level' status by continuing to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse issues, support staff experiencing domestic violence and abuse and ensure employees know what support is available	1,2,3	HR	£2,000
Review and relaunch and recommunicate gender /family friendly policies.	1, 2	HR	Staff resources
Deliver activity to develop skills for working in a political environment - e.g., mock committee sessions	1	HR Democratic Services	£1000 Staff resources
PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE COMMUNITY with the purpose of increasing the representation of women in leadership positions throughout communities across Belfast by ensuring that processes are in place to increase women's involvement in decision making in communities			
Fund annual external IWD event.	Ongoing	Equality and Diversity Unit	£10000
Hold a series of events for female elected members to promote work of WSG, GAP and engage with women in their constituencies.	2, 3	HR Depts	n/a Year 2, 3
Work with TEO to deliver Strategic Framework to EVAWG	1, 2, 3	All depts	Staff resources
Hold an event for WSG/ WNG to engage with the Youth Forum and to identify opportunities for future collaboration on gender issues	1	HR WSG CNS / YF	£1,000
PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE ECONOMY to ensure all council policies and strategies influence and facilitate the active and fair participation of both women and men in the economy			
Review frontline job opportunities including apprenticeships, and associated working arrangements and facilities, to make these opportunities more attractive to female applicants. Deliver targeted employability outreach to get more women into work by promoting Belfast City Council role models	Ongoing	CNS HR Place and Economy MarComms	Staff resources / Employment Academies
Enterprise support for underrepresented groups – Belfast City Council offers a programme of support to enable underrepresented groups (including women)	1	Enterprise and Business Growth	£207,207 (indicative pro-rata spend based on

<p>to overcome the barriers to starting a business or accessing employment opportunities.</p> <p>Working in partnership with a range of organisations across the city we will put in place targeted interventions to engage women in this support and engage female entrepreneurs in business start-up activity, helping them to develop ideas and create networks to support them to start a business.</p> <p>Through the Enterprise Support Service (Go Succeed) we are working towards a target of 50% of female led organisations supported through the service. If successful, this will equate to 511 female start-ups and 380 growth potential female-led businesses supported in 24/25.</p>			female engagement through community outreach and mentoring)
<p>Employability support for underrepresented groups – Belfast City Council programme of support to enable underrepresented groups (including women) to overcome the barriers to accessing employment opportunities through the delivery of Employment and Upskilling Academies.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement with women-specific provision to encourage and actively support women into under-represented sectors through access to Employment Academies in fibre, tech, logistics/transport and construction. - Upskilling Academies in female-dominated sectors (education, health and social care, working with children sectors) which include Level 2 through to Level 5 qualifications to enable people to access better jobs within these sectors. - Active barrier-removal to participation on Employment Academies – such as embedding childcare provision, travel and subsistence expenses etc. - 	1,2,3	Employability and Skills	£300,000 (indicative spend pro rata, based on female engagement in Employment Academies)
Develop understanding of gender budgeting and how it might be applied in BCC - for directors , finance officers and Belfast Agenda team	1	HR Finance CMT	£1000

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CITY to ensure that the needs of women across the city are identified and used to influence and impact upon the regeneration of the city including social infrastructure design and community facilities provision			
As part of the ongoing baseline audit of all council assets, determine if our assets meet the needs of all genders and that gender needs are considered as part of the development of any new council asset.	1, 2, 3	Property and Projects Department C&NS Place & Economy Dept	Staff resources Potential cost if additional works required
Working in partnership Queen's University Belfast and other stakeholders, we will design and develop interventions that help to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in public spaces in Belfast and help change attitudes, behaviours and social and cultural norms. Included in this initiative is data collection on users, development of gender inclusive engagement practices and embedding co-design at the earliest stages. We will work together to host workshops with women girls and other stakeholders to 'sense check' the proposed policies and interventions and develop an action plan with stakeholders to end VAWG in public spaces in Belfast.	1, 2	Property and Projects Department C&NS Place & Economy Dept	Externally funded project
Work with city partners to retain Onus Safe City status by funding training and awareness raising across the city.	1,2,3	HR CNS ONUS and other external partners	£3,000 + PCSP resource
Work with the TEO to implement The Period Products (Free Provision) Act 2022	1,2,3	Facilities	TEO funded
Enhance our engagement process to ensure that women and girls are given the opportunity to participate in the consultation on capital projects from the earliest stage to ensure better outcomes.	Ongoing	Property and Projects Department	Staff resources
Carry out research into developing a set of guidelines with women and girls in mind in relation to the design of capital projects.	2,3	Property and Projects Department	Staff resources
Total draft plan for Year 1			£28, 000

Appendix A - Gender Inequality in N Ireland 2024

1. Women's Employment, Austerity, Poverty and the Gender Pay Gap

- In the most recent NISRA statistical bulletin, which covers 2020-21, statistics show that women are more than 2.5 times less likely to be **self-employed than men**. Women are also more likely to be **part-time workers** than men and this gap is particularly pronounced when they are parents, with 60% of mothers and 94% of fathers working full time. This is further reflected in the **relative earnings and career progression** of women; fewer women than men received earnings above the Real Living Wage (by 5 percentage points) and women also reported lower levels of opportunities for career progression (by 9pps).ⁱ This gap is due in part to women accounting for three quarters of all part-time workers, as part-time work tends to be low paid.ⁱⁱ
- A NISRA survey of employee earnings in Northern Ireland in 2022 reported that “The **gender pay gap** for all employees (regardless of working pattern) in NI is in favour of males. Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) for females (£12.82) was 4% below those for males (£13.99).ⁱⁱⁱ
- The majority of complaints of discrimination received by the Equality Commission NI relate to **sex discrimination**; with many relating to **pregnancy or maternity**. Complaints to the Commission of **sexual harassment in the workplace** have risen significantly from an average of 14% of complaints per year to 22% in 2022.^{iv}
- Women are 7 times as likely to be **economically inactive due to looking after the home or family**. This rises to 10 times more likely when comparing women and men in their 30s.^v 81% of carers in Northern Ireland are women.^{vi}
- Only **7%** of disabled people are in **employment** and **disabled** women earn **22.1% less** than able-bodied men, and 11.8% less than disabled men^{vii}. Covid significantly worsened this data, with a disproportionate number of disabled women being furloughed or laid off and **58% of disabled mothers reported struggling to make ends meet** (compared to 38% of non-disabled mothers).^{viii}
- Women have **70%** chance of providing **care** in their adult life; compared to 60% for men. By the time they are 46, **half of all women** have been a carer (11 years before men)^{ix x}
- In 2020 it was estimated that **austerity** since 2010 will have cost **women** a total of **£79bn**, against £13bn for men. It showed that, by 2020, men will have borne just 14% of the total burden of welfare cuts, compared with **86% for women**^{xi}. While these statistics have not yet been updated, they are indicative of the state of affairs before the impact of Covid and the cost of living crisis were factored in.
- The group with the highest poverty throughout and worst impacted by welfare reform and the Cost of Living Crisis have been **lone parents**^{xii} in Northern Ireland; of which **93% are women**^{xiii} an increase since 2020.

- Hunger and **foodbank** use disproportionately impacts women, as women are twice as likely to be food insecure as men and **lone parent households account for 18% of referrals to food banks**, as opposed to 8% of the population as a whole^{xiv}.
- **Disabled single mothers** are losing the most from these tax and benefit changes since 2010. By 2021, they had **lost 21%** of their net **income** if they did not have a disabled child and 32% if they did have a disabled child too. 1/3 of this loss is due to **Universal Credit**^{xv}.
- Women are more likely to need access to **Discretionary Support grants** and accounted for 67% of recipients; this is going to be harder to access due to budget cuts in the year 2023-24 and will have a knock-on effect on poverty.^{xvi}
- Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK without a government-funded **Childcare** Provision. **Lone parents** and families with a **disabled child** are less likely to be able to afford formal childcare and face further barriers to employment.^{xvii}
- **Rural** women suffer further due to the centralisation of services and access poverty; only **1.3%** of government funding for women's groups goes towards rural women, a decrease of 10% from 2006.^{xviii}

2. Violence Against Women & Girls

- From Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 there were 33, 071^{xix} recorded **domestic abuse incidents** in Northern Ireland. This represents an increase on the previous 12 months of 0.4 % (or 144 incidents).
- From Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 there were 20, 691^{xx} recorded **domestic abuse crimes** recorded in Northern Ireland. This represents a decrease on the previous 12 months of 7.1 % (or 1,590 incidents).
- In 2022/2023 there were 8^{xxi} domestic abuse related homicides in Northern Ireland.
- In 2022/23 **crimes with a domestic abuse motivation** represented 20% ^{xxii} of all recorded crime.

To contextualise these figures, statistical trends for domestic violence have been on an upwards trajectory since 2004. For example, domestic abuse crimes were more than two and a quarter times higher in 2022/23 than in 2004/05.

- From Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 there were 4,184^{xxiii} **recorded sexual offences** in Northern Ireland. Of this total number of sexual offences, 1,186^{xxiv} were **reports of rape**.
- From Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 there were 4,153 **recorded offences of stalking and harassment in Northern Ireland**. The new offences below above have contributed to a rise in stalking and harassment statistics.
- **New offences:** The Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceeding Act (Northern Ireland 2001) was amended to **include coercive and controlling behaviour**, emotional and economic abuse. These offences are recorded as part of the stalking and harassment classification and recording began in Feb 2022. The Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 created offences to provide protection from stalking and threatening behaviour. These offences are recorded as part of the stalking and harassment classification and recording began in April 2022.

3. *Politics, Public Life, Peacebuilding and Decision-Making*

- In NI politics, women represent **45% of Lord Mayors**^{xxv} in the year 2023-24, **31% of Local Councillors**^{xxvi}, **37% of MLAs**^{xxvii} and just **22% of MPs**.
- In Public Appointments, the most recent statistics from 2022 show that women represent **23% of Chairs** and **38% of all Public Appointments** – a lower figure than when these statistics were last gathered.^{xxviii}
- Following the appointment of Lady Chief Justice Siobhán Keegan, women represent **100% of Lady Chief Justice** but **0% of Lord Justices of Appeal**, just **9% of High Court Judges** and **26% of County Court Judges**.^{xxix} Aside from the highest position being held by a woman, all of these statistics are remarkably lower than when this data was last gathered.
- In the PSNI, **zero women** hold the position of **Chief or Deputy Chief Constable** and only **20% are Assistant Chief Constables**^{xxx}. Women represent **32% of police officers** and **57% of all PSNI staff**^{xxxi}.
- In the Civil Service, although a woman is now the head of the NI Civil Service women represent **11% of Permanent Secretaries**; **35% of Senior Civil Servants** and **50% of the total NICS workforce**.^{xxxii}
- In the Education Sector, women represent **25% of University Chancellors** or Pro/Deputy Vice Chancellors, **33.33% of FE College Principals** and **61% of School Principals**; despite **77% of all teachers** being women^{xxxiii}.
- In the Health and Social Care Sector, women make up **78% of all staff** as of 2023^{xxxiv} but just **40% of Trust Chairs** and **80% of Trust CEOs** which represents a considerable improvement on the last time this data was gathered.
- In Local Government, women are just **27% of Council CEOs** although, in the most recently available statistics, they represent **42% of the workforce**^{xxxv}.

4. *Equality*

Given the statistics outlined above, it is necessary that these hard-fought rights currently at risk are protected *and* enhanced. Some of the rights achieved through EU membership include **equality** between men and women^{xxxvi}^{xxxvii}, the right to **equal pay** for equal work^{xxxviii}, protection against **discrimination** on the ground of **pregnancy** and **maternity**^{xxxix}, creating measures to provide specific advantages to the **underrepresented gender**^{xl}, prohibition of discriminations on the **grounds of sex**^{xli} and the introduction of **paid holidays**^{xlii}.

Thankfully, **Article 2 of the Windsor Framework** is set up to ensure no diminution of rights, and a **Dedicated Mechanism Unit** has been set up jointly by the Equality Commission and the Human Rights Commission to monitor this. Despite this, the erosion and potential further erosion of rights across the UK does put rights at risk everywhere in the UK and the fears and **concerns of women in Northern Ireland around the outworkings of Brexit** are catalogued in a recent report by the Equality Commission^{xliii}.

Further rights at risk include:

- The **removal** of the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** from all applications in UK law and judiciary systems. Whilst the UK government would still be required to abide by the **European Convention of Human Rights** (ECHR), the removal of the EU Charter is deeply worrying as it has a much broader level of protection for human rights^{xliv}.
- Existing EU case law through the **Court of Justice of the European Union** can now be **overturned** in future cases in UK courts and a departure from current jurisprudence may lead to a divergence on human rights standards on either side of the border in NI.
- The EU human rights framework is much more robust than the **UK Human Rights Act**, however, the **removal** of both the **Human Rights Act** and the **EU Charter** will make it much more difficult for people to access their rights through the courts, as the **ECHR** is nowhere near as broad or strong as a standalone human rights framework.
- The **Retained EU Law Bill** has already impacted the rights of many in Britain and there have been recent discussions by politicians including the Prime Minister about the possibility of leaving the **European Convention on Human Rights**. This would have a devastating impact on all citizens in the UK, not least because it is the basis upon which the **Belfast/Good Friday Agreement** is built.

In the context of the devolved NI Assembly which has not been operational during 5 of the last 7 years and which has still not adopted a Programme for Government for this term following its return, 'New Decade, New Approach'^{xlv} (NDNA) represents the most recent plan of action for the Assembly. In that document, there are zero references to women throughout the entire agreement. Further rights that need to be addressed through the Northern Ireland Assembly include:

- Further legislation to implement all Gillen Review recommendations;
- Tackling gender pay gaps and discrimination;
- Implementing the Social Inclusion Strategies that are currently in draft form, including the Gender Equality Strategy;
- Scrapping the Universal Credit Two-Child Limit;
- Addressing the historic underinvestment in rural women;
- Rectifying the under-representation of women in politics, public life and decision-making;
- Tackling the rise of misogyny as a hate crime, particularly towards trans women, BME women and disabled women;
- Improving RSE and tackling rape culture;
- Updating and unifying Equality Legislation;
- Fully supporting and financing perinatal mental health services and much more.

A full list of Women's Policy Group NI recommendations to each Government Department is [available on WRDA's website](#).

-
- ⁱ NISRA, Women in Northern Ireland, 2022, <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/women-in-northern-ireland-2020-2021>
- ⁱⁱ TUC, Jobs & Recovery Monitor: Gender and Pay, 2023, <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/jobs-and-recovery-monitor-gender-and-pay>
- ⁱⁱⁱ NISRA, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2023, <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/annual-survey-hours-and-earnings>
- ^{iv} Equality Commission NI, Making Women Welcome at Work, 2023, <https://www.equalityni.org/Footer-Links/News/Employers-Service-Providers/VFTC-%E2%80%93-Making-Women-Welcome-at-Work>
- ^v TUC, Jobs & Recovery Monitor, Gender & Pay, 2023 <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/jobs-and-recovery-monitor-gender-and-pay>
- ^{vi} Carers NI, State of Caring 2023, <https://www.carersuk.org/media/yfwjwk5g/the-impact-of-caring-on-health-in-northern-ireland.pdf>
- ^{vii} UK Women's Budget Group, (2018), 'Disabled Women and Austerity', <https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Disabled-women-October-2018-w-cover-2.pdf>
- ^{viii} UK Women's Budget Group (2021), Disabled Mother's 3 Times More Likely to have Lost Work During the Pandemic, <https://wbg.org.uk/media/disabled-mothers-three-times-more-likely-to-have-lost-work-during-the-pandemic/>
- ^{ix} Carers UK (2019), 'Will I care? The likelihood of being a carer in adult life': http://www.carersuk.org/images/News_campaigns/CarersRightsDay_Nov19_FINAL.pdf
- ^x Carers NI and Women's Regional Consortium, 2024, Career or Care? <https://www.womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Career-or-care-Women-unpaid-caring-and-employment-in-Northern-Ireland.pdf> p.7
- ^{xi} Keen, R., Cracknell, R. (2017), 'Estimating the gender impact of tax and benefit changes', Commons Briefing Papers SN06758, <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06758/SN06758.pdf>
- ^{xii} UK Women's Budget Group, (2016), 'A cumulative gender impact assessment of ten years of austerity policies', https://wbg.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/De_HenauReed_WBG_GIAtaxben_briefing_2016_03_06.pdf
- ^{xiii} Women's Regional Consortium, Women & The Cost of Living Crisis, 2023, <https://www.womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Womens-Experiences-of-the-Cost-of-Living-Crisis-in-NI-2.pdf> p.30
- ^{xiv} The Trussel Trust, 2022, [https://www.trusselltrust.org/2021/05/13/people-forced-to-use-food-banks-at-the-start-of-the-pandemic-faced-extreme-poverty/#:~:text=And%20single%2Dparent%20families%20are,the%20general%20population%20\(8%25\).](https://www.trusselltrust.org/2021/05/13/people-forced-to-use-food-banks-at-the-start-of-the-pandemic-faced-extreme-poverty/#:~:text=And%20single%2Dparent%20families%20are,the%20general%20population%20(8%25).)
- ^{xv} UK Women's Budget Group, (2018), 'Disabled Women and Austerity', <https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Disabled-women-October-2018-w-cover-2.pdf>
- ^{xvi} Department for Communities, Changes to the Discretionary Support Scheme, 2023 <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/communities/dfc-changes-to-the-discretionary-support-scheme-egia.pdf>
- ^{xvii} Employers for Childcare, Northern Ireland Childcare Survey, 2023, <https://www.employersforchildcare.org/report/northern-ireland-childcare-survey-2023/>
- ^{xviii} NI Rural Women's Network, 15 Years of NIRWN, 2021, <https://www.nirwn.org/15yearsofnirwn/>
- ^{xix} Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2024) 'Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland' <https://www.psn.police.uk/system/files/2024-02/1121995173/Domestic%20Abuse%20Bulletin%20Period%20Ending%2031st%20December%202023.pdf>
- ^{xx} Ibid.

-
- ^{xxi} Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2023) 'Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Polic in Northern Ireland: 2004/05 to 2022/23' <https://www.psnl.police.uk/system/files/2023-11/1764853713/Domestic%20Abuse%20Incidents%20and%20Crimes%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%202004-05%20to%202022-23.pdf>
- ^{xxii} Ibid.
- ^{xxiii} Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2024) 'Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Update to 31st Dec 2023', p7 <https://www.psnl.police.uk/system/files/2024-01/1914095467/Police%20Recorded%20Crime%20Bulletin%20Period%20Ending%2031st%20December%202023.pdf>
- ^{xxiv} Ibid.
- ^{xxv} Lauren Harte, Belfast Live, 2023 <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/new-faces-dominating-top-positions-27063639>
- ^{xxvi} Brendan Hughes, Belfast Live 2023 <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/call-gender-quotas-ni-elections-27016090>
- ^{xxvii} House of Commons Library, Women in Politics & Public Life, 2024, <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01250/#:~:text=Women%20make%20up%2043%25%20of,and%20in%20Wales%2C%2028%25>.
- ^{xxviii} The Executive Office, Public Appointments Report for Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/annex-a-public-appointments-report-for-northern-ireland-201920%3B%20202021%3B%20202122.pdf>
- ^{xxix} Judiciary of Northern Ireland, <https://www.judiciaryni.uk/judicial-members>
- ^{xxx} PSNI, Our Leadership Team, 2024 <https://www.psnl.police.uk/about-us/leadership-team>
- ^{xxxi} PSNI, Workplace Composition Statistics, 2024 <https://www.psnl.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/our-publication-scheme/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/workforce>
- ^{xxxii} NISRA, Equality Statistics for the Northern Ireland Civil Service 2024, https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/NICS-Equality-Statistics-2024-Report_0_0.pdf
- ^{xxxiii} Department of Education, Teacher Workforce Statistics Bulletin 2022/23 <https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/DEStatistics/Teacher-Workforce-Statistics-Bulletin-202223.html>
- ^{xxxiv} Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Workforce Census 2023 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscwc-march-23.pdf>
- ^{xxxvi} NI Assembly Research and Information Service, (2020), 'Who Runs Northern Ireland? A Summary of Statistics Relating to Gender and Power in 2020', http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2017-2022/2020/assembly_exec_review/0120.pdf
- ^{xxxvii} The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- ^{xxxviii} Article 119 Treaty establishing the European Economic Community
- ^{xxxix} Ibid2.
- ^{xl} Ibid24.
- ^{xli} Ibid 24 (Article 21)
- ^{xlii} According to the NIRWN, Rural Voices Report (2018, p.30): 'Many of the two million workers who had no paid holiday before the Working Time Directive, were part-time working women': <https://www.nirwn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NIRWN-Rural-Voices-Research-Report-March-2018.pdf>
- ^{xliii} Equality Commission NI, 2024 The Impact of Brexit on Women [https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DMU/Brexit-Impact-on-Women\(Feb2024\).pdf](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DMU/Brexit-Impact-on-Women(Feb2024).pdf)
- ^{xliv} Human Rights Consortium (2018), 'Rights at Risk Report', <http://www.humanrightsconsortium.org/rights-risk-brexit-process/>
- ^{xlv} NIA (2020), 'New Decade, New Approach', <https://static.rasset.ie/documents/news/2020/01/new-decade-new-approach.pdf>

Appendix Two - Belfast City Council – LGBTQIA+ Action Plan 2024-2027

Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Deliver LGBTQIA+ awareness raising training including on Bi and Trans identities in the annual corporate training schedule, and make available to all staff	Increased awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues including bias and its impact on staff and service delivery	<i>Training and Development</i>	1,2,3	Corp HR	£600
Fund 4 places for network at appropriate conferences	Increased awareness of emerging issues within the community for network to address	<i>Training and Development</i>	1,2,3	Corp HR/ Network	£ 800
Deliver LGBTQIA+ awareness training to target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> senior leadership procurement team customer hub births, deaths, marriages community centres play staff front of house staff 	Increased awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues including bias and its impact on staff and service delivery	<i>Training and Development</i>	1,2,3	Corp HR	£600
			1		

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Belfast
City Council

Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Sign up to Stonewall's Diversity Champion's Programme	Best practice research and resources available to source/ access	<i>Senior Leadership and training and development</i>			£2500
Develop peer mentoring and reverse mentoring with senior champion, Kate Bentley and other members of CMT, including development of guide for this activity	Increased awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues Including bias and its impact on staff and service delivery	<i>Training and Development</i>	1,2,3	Senior Champion/ Corp HR/ Network/ Senior Staff	Staff Resource
Allocate 5 places each year on Mental Health First Aider course to Proud members. Participate in Mental Health Awareness Week and LGBTQIA+ Awareness Weeks each year (cross sectional with other Diversity Networks)	Better mental health awareness	<i>Training and Development</i> <i>Health and Wellbeing</i>	1,2,3	Corp HR Corp HR	Corporate Training Programme Staff resources
Review any relevant existing policies in terms of language, terminology and gender neutrality and inclusion including an effective consultation mechanism for all staff	Inclusive policies with appropriate language	<i>Promoting positive attitudes and behaviours</i>	1,2,3	Corp HR	Staff resource
			1,2,3	Network	Staff Resource

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Continue to use online, Intranet, and all promotional aids (posters, pop up stands etc) as channels to promote Proud activities and membership and in particular the importance of allyship Provide promotional materials e.g. pens, lanyards and reusable water bottles for example	Increase Proud Membership Improve awareness and accessibility to Network	<i>Visibility and Network Growth</i> <i>Visibility and Network Growth</i>		Network	£700
Joint event addressing a cross-sectional issue or event e.g. Disability/Race	Collaborate with other Diversity Networks in BCC to promote the wider Diversity and Inclusion message	<i>Visibility and inclusive growth of all Networks</i>	2	Network	£300
Hold a network planning day	Appropriate time out for network to plan effectively	<i>Visibility and inclusive growth of all Networks</i>	1	Network	£600
Participate in Belfast Pride including BCC vehicles and staff as part of the official parade.		<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>	1,2,3	ALL	

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
<p>Use opportunity to communicate other important messages around sustainability / looking after our city etc. Flying of LGBTQIA+ flag on City Hall</p> <p>Promote early to build participation with Network members and wider workforce to increase ally and senior management support</p> <p>Hold annual Pride Walk at an agreed location open to all staff</p>	<p>Fully participate in Belfast Pride demonstrating BCC as an inclusive service provider and employer in the community</p> <p>Visible and practical support for local LGBTQIA+ charity/organisation. Communication of positive impacts</p> <p>Networking, group social activity</p>	<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>		<p>Network</p> <p>Network</p>	£1500
<p>Hold a fundraiser internally to support LGBTQIA+ organisations bake sale or sponsored event and feedback from charitable cause on how the fundraising is used to improve LGBTQIA+ lives</p>	<p>Visible and practical support for local LGBTQIA+ charity/organisation. Communication of positive impacts</p>	<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>	1,2,3	Network	Staff resources

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Host the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance event in November each year. Use of City Hall for the event. Flying Trans flag to demonstrate support	Increased awareness of issues specifically affecting Transgender community Celebration of LGBTQIA+ contributions	<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>	1,2,3	Network/ Corp HR	£1500
Develop an annual LGBTQIA+ calendar plan to include: TDOR TDOV LGBTQIA Awareness week Bi Visibility Lesbian visibility etc	Increased awareness of issues specifically affecting all LGBTQIA+ stands	<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>	1	Network/Corp HR	Staff Resource
Hold an annual engagement event with the sector - e.g lunch and learn event	Increased knowledge of sector needs, increased knowledge of potential opportunities for sector	<i>Community engagement and visibility</i>	1,2,3	CNS P&E Staff network	£500
Determine if feasible to expand existing Gender Neutral facilities provision in BCC workplaces	Explore option for expansion of gender neutral facilities in BCC buildings	<i>Visible inclusivity in the workplace and as a service provider.</i>	1	Corp HR/Facilities/F&R /WM	Existing PMU/WM budgets

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Contribute to and host events facilitated by local LGBTQIA+ service providers and other Networks across NI	Improved visibility, networking and learning	<i>Social Networking and community engagement.</i>	1,2,3	Network Chair	£600
Carry out a voluntary monitoring exercise for all staff when feasible	Improved knowledge of workforce mobility and demographics	<i>Monitoring/Organisational analysis</i>	1	Corp HR	Staff Resource/ Comms
Carry out a staff survey to inform action plan and work of network	Better awareness of what LGBTQIA+ staff want from the network	<i>Organisational Analysis / continuous improvement</i>	1	Corp HR and Marcomms	Staff resource
Explore opportunities for collaboration with suppliers on Employability and Diversity issues i.e. Matrix, Bryson, OH/EC	Understanding needs of LGBTQIA+ community and service users	<i>Clients, customers and service provision.</i>	2	Corp HR	Staff Resource
Explore options to improve monitoring of service users	Understanding needs of LGBTQIA+ community and service users	<i>Clients, customers and service provision</i>	3	EDU Depts Customer Hub	Staff resource

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Actions	Expected Outcomes	Themes	Year	Activity Lead	Indicative (year 1)
Use BCC social media more to promote BCC as an inclusive service provider. E.g. Pride/TDOR/TDOV/LGBTQIA+ History month (profile local LGBTQIA+ Champion)	Understanding needs of LGBTQIA+ community and service users	<i>Clients, customers and service Provision, visibility</i>	1,2,3	Corp Comms	Staff Resource
Develop a legacy/ oversight document	Insight for new members and committee	<i>Visibility and Network Growth, Sustainability</i>	1	Network	Staff Resource

Total budget Year 1 is
£10, 200.

Prepared	June 2024
Date agreed by Proud Network	4 September 2024
Date agreed by CMT	
Date agreed by Committee	



Belfast
City Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 17th October 2024

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Jenna Maghie (*for Councillor Long*)
Councillor Ryan Murphy
Councillor Áine Groogan
Councillor Sarah Bunting
Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive
Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services
David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Jim Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager (for Items 1, 4 & 10)
Pól Hamilton, Lead Officer, Community Provision (for item 1)
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place & Economy
Lisa Toland Senior Manager, Economy (for Item 3)
Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development (for Item 10)
John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Summer Community Diversionary Festival Fund - Dr Jonny Byrne

The Chief Executive welcomed Dr Jonny Byrne who presented the findings from his review of the Summer Community Diversionary Festival Fund (SCDFF) programme along with an update on the Beacons programme. He outlined the key observations derived from the review along with proposed options/recommendations in relation to the programme going forward. Members highlighted the tight timescales involved in previous years and the impact this then had on organisations applying for the funding. Following detailed discussion in relation to the aims of the programme and the need for them to be reviewed it was agreed a report will be brought back to the Forum for further consideration.

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. The Director outlined the work that has been undertaken to date and advised that Departmental estimates and growth proposals

have now been submitted for further consideration. Members noted the timeframes involved and that Party Group Briefings will be scheduled imminently in order that priorities and any budgetary gaps can be identified in a timely manner. A report will be brought to October SP&R Committee for Members consideration.

3. Update on programme of support for the business owners impacted by the August Attacks

The Senior Manager, Economy provided an update on the support provided to date for those businesses affected by the attacks in August 2024. She outlined the engagement that has taken place with the affected businesses and the key challenges identified. Members discussed the proposed next steps and what potential additional support might be required in conjunction with other departments and agencies. Some Members highlighted a number of issues for consideration in terms of additional support and the Senior Manager to further consider in advance of a report being brought to October SP&R Committee. It was also noted that this item be added to the agenda for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting with the Department of Justice.

4. The Community Recovery Fund

The Neighbourhood Services Manager referred to a report previously circulated in relation to the Community Recovery Fund and outlined how the financial package could potentially support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place in Belfast between July and August 2024. He outlined the suggested approach for the available funding and that a report outlining the proposed approach will be brought to October SP&R Committee for consideration.

5. Draft Amenity Byelaws - City Centre

The City Solicitor provided a briefing in relation to the consultation undertaken on the new draft amenity bye laws for the City Centre. Following detailed discussion, it was agreed a workshop would be arranged for Members to further discuss the consultation responses and any proposed changes to the byelaws in advance of a report going to SP&R Committee. It was noted that this item also be added to the agenda for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting with the Department of Justice.

6. Aisling Awards

The Chief Executive outlined correspondence he had received in relation to Council representation at the Aisling Awards in November. A report will be brought to October SP&R Committee outlining the options discussed in relation to proposed attendance.

7. The Executive Office (TEO)– Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the proposals being brought forward by TEO to provide funding to councils to support the implementation of the recently published Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls. He also advised that TEO were proposing that the Council adopt a lead role for the allocation of funding to support a region-wide programme. There were a number of issues raised by Members in relation to how this would be resourced, the specifics around the allocation of funding particularly in relation to Belfast, and the challenging timeframe being proposed. The Director noted these and advised they would be raised with TEO. A report on the proposals outlined will be brought to October SP&R Committee. It was noted that this item should also be added to the Ministerial meeting being arranged with TEO.

8. Forth Meadow Community Greenway – Signage

The City Solicitor provided an update for Members in relation to the erection of dual language signage at the Forth Meadow Community Greenway which had previously been subject to call-in. She advised that equality screening has now been undertaken and following review by the City Solicitor it is anticipated a report will be brought to October SP&R Committee.

9. Planning Update

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and provided an update on the applications considered at the October Planning Committee and also informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months. There was an issue raised by a Member in relation to Environmental Health resources connected to planning applications. The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services to follow up with the Member.

10. AOB

Illuminate Requests

The City Solicitor outlined for Members a number of illuminate requests received. Members noted the following requests would be agreed under the City Solicitors delegated authority.

- **Caleb's Cause** - 5th November 2024
- **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls** - 6th November 2024
- **Holocaust Memorial Day 2025** - 27th January 2025

Human Rights Day 2024

A Member raised a query in relation to a previous approval to fly the Human Rights Day flag and the United Nations flag from the City Hall to mark Human Rights Day and if this had been for one year only or included subsequent years. The City Solicitor advised that it had been for one year only.

Following discussion there was consensus to fly both from the City Hall on 10th December to mark Human Rights Day 2024. Members noted that this would be agreed under the City Solicitors delegated authority for this year. A report will go to a future SP&R Committee for subsequent years.

NICVA Future Thinking Summit

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy advised that Officers had received a late request for Council to provide financial support for an upcoming NICVA Future Thinking Summit due to be held in October. Given the timing of the request the event will have taken place before consideration at October SP&R Committee, however it was noted that the support could be met from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy budget. There was consensus for the request outlined and Members noted that a subsequent report would then be brought to October SP&R with the detail discussed.

Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS)

The Director of City Regeneration & Development advised that a report had gone to October CG&R Committee outlining the emerging findings from the BCCRIS 10 year stock take, in the context of the existing strategy. Members were asked to provide any further comments to inform the final report and a summit event will be organised in November to launch the key

messaging. The details of the event will be brought back to Party Group Leaders in due course.

Housing Led Regeneration Programme - Private Sector Partner

The Director of City Regeneration & Development provided an update for Members on the public procurement exercise to appoint a Private Sector Partner for delivery of housing led regeneration at scale as part of the housing led regeneration programme. She advised that the procurement process has successfully been concluded and that a detailed report will be brought to October SP&R Committee with recommendation on appointment.

Request for Memorial Bench

The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined a request that had been received for a memorial bench at Olympia Leisure Centre. There was consensus for the request made. Following discussion, it was also noted that consideration is given to guidelines for any future memorial requests at council owned sites. The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services to bring a report back to a future meeting.

A Member also referred to a previous request raised in relation to the erection of a memorial in City Hall and how this and other such requests should be discussed in relation to City Hall and City Hall grounds. It was agreed that the request go to a future meeting of the Installations - City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group for consideration.

Portrait Former Lord Mayor

Following a request received the Forum agreed to remove the portrait of a former Lord Mayor. The Chief Executive advised that this would be done immediately.

Safeguarding

It was noted that safeguarding awareness sessions will be arranged with the Council's Safeguarding Compliance Manager, timing of these to be agreed with Members.

Dual Language Signage at Olympia Leisure Centre

The Chief Executive provided an update on the counsel opinion only just received on the recent call-in in relation to dual language signage at Olympia Leisure Centre. It was noted that this will be brought to October SP&R Committee.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	25 October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition 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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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 11 October 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
	<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	<p>Functions permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not. • functions which demonstrably enhance the city's image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination. • 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. • functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.
3.3	<p>Functions not permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms. • 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. • functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities. • 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. • functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Committee will recall that at its meeting on 24 th May 2024, it considered an update on the City Hall Income Generation Project. Committee was advised that charging for the use of

	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 & Civic Services to depart from the existing charging structure and negotiate room hire charges for commercial type events.
3.5	The standard charging structure will apply to the event listed in the Schedule at Appendix 1.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.6	None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 11 October 2024

This page is intentionally left blank

OCTOBER 2024 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED
2024 Functions					
Newstart Education Centre	11 December 2024	35th Anniversary Youth Celebration of Achievement of non-political, community-led organisation who deliver large-scale peace funded, cross-border, cross-community youth intervention programme called STRIVE for young people vulnerable to racism and sectarianism as well as manipulation from criminal/paramilitary gangs. Numbers attending – 100	C	Current rate free as not for profit	Yes, Wine and Soft Drink reception as significant anniversary
Chartered Institute of Marketing Ireland	12 December 2024	Celebrate 15 years of the Chartered Marketer - the reception to celebrate the dedication, excellence, and achievements in personal development to becoming a Chartered Marketer. Numbers attending – 40 – 50	C	Room hire £450	No hospitality as Corporate Sponsor involved with reception.
2025 Functions					
Immaculata Football Club	18 January 2025	Celebration of 80 years of Immaculata Football Club - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, and entertainment organised in conjunction with Grosvenor Community Centre. Numbers attending – 250 - 300.	C & D	Current rate free as charity	Yes, Wine and Soft Drink reception as significant anniversary

OCTOBER 2024 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

4 Corners Festival	4 February 2025	Celebrating Local Peacebuilding for a Shared Home – celebration of the contribution of local organisations to peacebuilding in Belfast with particular reference to the creation of a shared home in line with the Festival's 2025 theme of 'Home?'. Numbers attending – 50	D	Current rate free as charity	Yes, Tea and Coffee reception as charity
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	13 February 2025	Live Here Love Here Community Awards – an awards night to celebrate the work of volunteers and groups who participate in our Live Here Love Here Campaign, working towards the vision of a beautiful Northern Ireland by inspiring people to take responsibility for creating cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities. Numbers attending – 130	B and C	Current rate free as charity	Yes, Wine and Soft Drink reception as charity
Queen's University Computing Society	13 March 2025	Gala Dinner for colleagues and student of the Computing Society – reception, speeches, dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending – 350 - 400	D	Room hire £1250	No Hospitality.

OCTOBER 2024 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

ASG – Anderson Spratt Group	20 March 2025	NI Hummingbird Awards – daytime event to celebrate equality, diversity, and inclusion within workplaces and across communities in Northern Ireland. Numbers attending – 100	C	Room hire £450	No hospitality as Corporate Sponsors involved with the event.
Food Standards Agency NI	29 April 2025	FSA UK & International Affairs Celebration to showcase the work of protecting food businesses, environmental health, and ports to colleagues from England and Wales. Numbers attending – 150	B	Room hire £450	No hospitality
Ormeau Runners	27 September 2025	10th Anniversary celebration of this community racing club , established to raise awareness of running fitness for mental health, social interaction and physical health. Numbers attending – 100	C	Current rate free as voluntary group	Yes, Wine and Soft Drink reception as significant anniversary

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Request for the use of the Council Chamber
Date:	25th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services
Contact Officer:	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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To consider a request for the use of the Council Chamber for a group of young people from Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club to participate in a mock debate as part of a Democracy Works? programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the use of the Council Chamber for this event.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The High Sheriff, Councillor Sammy Douglas, will be hosting a group of young people from Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club on their visit to the City Hall as part of a “Democracy Works?” programme.
3.2	Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club is a full-time youth centre based in Inner East Belfast, offering a wide range of personal and social development opportunities to young people aged from 5 to 25 years old.
3.3	The Democracy Works? Programme explores local and national politics; how politics affects peoples’ lives, who are the decision makers and how to influence change. The programme provides a broad introduction to democracy and politics and includes capacity building in conflict resolution and skills based working, and in exploring prejudice and perceptions. The group will next visit the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of Parliament.
3.4	The group’s visit to the City Hall will include a discussion with the High Sheriff and a tour of the building.
3.5	The group have also requested the use of the Council Chamber to hold a mock debate.
3.6	It is anticipated that the mock debate will last up to an hour on the evening of Thursday 7th November, 2024.
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Request for Suffolk Winter Wonderland event at Suffolk Community Garden
Date:	Friday 25 th October 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a late request to host a Christmas event at Suffolk Community Garden. This request has therefore missed the October meeting

	of the People and Communities Committee. Ratification of any decision needs to go to Council in November to allow for the event to proceed.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plan and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Suffolk Winter Wonderland – Suffolk Community Garden</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council have received a request from Suffolk Events Circle to host a winter wonderland at Suffolk community garden on the 29th & 30th of November & 1st of December 2024. The event is aimed at children between the ages of 0-16 and will allow them to experience a magical Christmas experience along with a visit from Santa & his elves. There will also be a live reindeer in attendance to make it feel authentic.</p>
3.3	<p>The group also plan on having a range of lights and displays to animate the garden to make it a memorable experience. The group have informed the council that there will be a fee of £5 per child however this will be discounted for families with multiple children. The income that is generated from the event is invested back into the community for future events. This event took place last Christmas and passed off without any incidents. The money raised from that event allowed the organisers to host an easter event.</p>

3.4	<p>Key Dates:</p> <p>Set-Up – 3pm on Friday 29th November 2024</p> <p>Main Event – 5pm to 8pm on Friday 29th, Saturday 30th November & Sunday 1st December</p> <p>De-Rig – 9pm on Sunday 1st December 2024</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>There are no known financial or resource implications with this request.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.6	<p>There are no known implications with this request.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank

Disability Working Group

Monday, 14th October, 2024

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors R. Brooks and Doherty.

In attendance: Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer;
Ms. J. Beck, Sign Language Interpreter;
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Resolved – that Councillor R. Brooks be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Disability Working Group until the date of the Annual Meeting.

Disability Champion

The Working Group was reminded that former Councillor G. McAteer had been appointed as a Disability Ambassador, on behalf of Belfast City Council, and therefore a replacement was required.

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Doherty would replace former Councillor G. McAteer as the Council's Disability Champion (Ambassador).

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Smyth.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Disability Advisory Panel

The Policy, Research and Compliance Officer reminded the Members that following the information presentation from the Disability Advisory Panel to the Disability Working Group on 12th June, the Panel had subsequently been invited to a meeting of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) to discuss its work, along with suggestions on improving disability access and inclusion at council premises, parks, events and other council services.

The officer advised that a further update would be submitted to the Disability Working Group once the meeting with the CMT had taken place.

Noted.

International Day for Persons with Disabilities

The Members were advised that International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was held every year on 3rd December. The day was about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development and to raise awareness.

Several of the Members stated that they would be keen to participate in this event.

The Language Officer advised that he was currently liaising with the Equality Commission and Disability Action who were working in partnership with the Council to organise the event regarding the agenda, and he undertook, when available, to forward more information to the Members of the Working Group.

Noted.

Next Meeting

The Chairperson advised that she would be keen to have another meeting of the Working Group before Christmas and the Democratic Services Officer undertook to identify a date and to let the Members know.

Chairperson