

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

20th January, 2025

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, 24th January, 2025 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
- (d) Request to present Linen hall Library (in relation to Item 7 (b)) - Restricted

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Revenue Estimates 2025/26 & Medium-Term Financial Planning (Pages 1 - 16)
- (b) Update on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 17 - 32)
- (c) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 33 - 38)
- (d) Update on Review of the Property Maintenance Service (Pages 39 - 58)

- (e) World Irish Dancing 2027 bid (Pages 59 - 62)
- (f) Requests for Funding (Pages 63 - 86)
- 3. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**
 - (a) Notice of Motion - Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community (Pages 87 - 92)
- 4. **Governance**
 - (a) Revisions to Scheme of Allowances
 - (b) Appointment to Outside Body - Belfast Hills Partnership Board (Pages 93 - 94)
- 5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
 - (a) Planning Update report (Pages 95 - 108)
 - (b) Response to Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (Pages 109 - 114)
 - (c) Proposal for Belfast to join UK Network of Learning Cities (Pages 115 - 118)
 - (d) Response to Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget (Pages 119 - 122)
 - (e) Community Recovery Fund
 - (f) Review of Illuminate Policy (Pages 123 - 132)
 - (g) Pest Control (To Follow)
 - (h) Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update (Pages 133 - 136)
 - (i) Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2025-26
- 6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
 - (a) Physical Programme
 - (b) Assets Management (Pages 137 - 140)
- 7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
 - (a) Contracts Update
- 8. **Equality and Good Relations**
 - (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 13th January 2025 (Pages 141 - 164)
- 9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 165 - 168)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 169 - 174)
- (c) Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition in June 2025 (Pages 175 - 188)
- (d) Use of City Hall Grounds - Multiple Events in 2025 (Pages 189 - 192)
- (e) Minutes of the Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Working Group 07.01.25 (Pages 193 - 194)

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community |
| Date: | 24th January, 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 | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> |

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to the Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 7th January. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report. |
| 2.2 | At this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications. However, the Council has already agreed to consider potential for rates relief as set out in paragraph 3.3. Therefore the Committee is asked to note that this work is ongoing and agree to close the notice of motion. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 7th January, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 9th January: <u>Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community</u> "That this Council recognises the difficulties that small businesses in Sandy Row are facing since the closure of the Boyne Bridge and the crisis that some find themselves in due to loss of trade. Agrees to look into a rates break to try and help them through the testing time of the Boyne Bridge closure and recognises that some will not survive without this Councils intervention." Proposer: Councillor Tracy Kelly Seconder: Councillor Sarah Bunting |
| 3.2 | The motion calls upon the Council to look into a rates break for Sandy Row businesses - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for finance matters and the setting of the rate and in the first instance the motion has been referred to this Committee. |
| 3.3 | As pointed out above, at this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs |

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| | <p>implications. However, it should be noted that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 4 December, already considered a motion on Retail Business in Sandy Row (an extract of the minute is appended to the report). In agreeing that a report to be submitted to a future meeting, that Committee also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses be investigated as part of that report. This decision was ratified by the Council on 9th January. It should be noted also that, as the Council does not the power to grant rates exemptions, the report to come back to Committee will look at the possible options available to LPS</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.4 | <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> |
| 3.5 | <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p> |
| 4.0 | Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 - Extract of minute of City Growth and Regeneration of 4 December. |

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Extract from minute of:

CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

4th December 2024

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Notice of Motion – Retail Business in Sandy Row

The Committee considered the following motion which had been referred by the Standards and Business Committee held on 21st November, and proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brooks:

“That this Council recognises the importance of small businesses and the creation of a thriving economy in communities across our city; accepts that changes to infrastructure can have a significant impact on local businesses in the surrounding area; agrees that businesses in Sandy Row have been disadvantaged by the closure of the Boyne Bridge as part of the Grand Central Station development and recognises the struggle of business owners in the area to survive given the reduction in footfall; and calls on this Council to look at options of re-opening the Boyne Bridge, create a Taskforce, alongside the Department of the Economy, Department for Communities, Translink and local business owners, to explore how businesses can be urgently supported.”

During discussion, Councillor Kelly highlighted the urgent need for an emergency plan and stakeholder group, together with animation and Christmas lights for the area.

Members also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses was investigated and the economic impact of business closures was considered as part of the report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed the motion and that a report, outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications and economic impact would be submitted to a future meeting.



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| Subject: | Appointment to Outside Body: Belfast Hills Partnership Board |
| Date: | 24th January, 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To consider a request from the Belfast Hills Partnership to increase the Council's representation on its Board to 2 Councillors. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to consider the request and to note that, if it is minded to agree, the nomination will be made in accordance with Committee's decision of 26th June, 2023 in relation to additional appointments to outside bodies. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Correspondence has been received from the Partnership Manager, Belfast Hills Partnership, indicating that its Articles of Association have been updated to allow for two Councillors from Belfast City Council to become Board members. |
| 3.2 | The Council currently has one position, and this is held by the Sinn Fein Party following the selection process for appointments to outside bodies under the St. Lague Order of Choices which was agreed at the Committee meeting held on 26th June, 2023. |
| 3.3 | Also at that meeting the Committee <i>"agreed a process to deal with any additional requests from outside bodies for Council representation during the Council term, in that the Party or Parties who would have had the next available choice(s) under the Saint Lague table would be asked to nominate a representative(s)"</i> . |
| 3.4 | Accordingly, if the Committee accepts the request the position will be offered in the first instance to the next Party on the list, namely, the Alliance Party. |
| | <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> |
| 3.5 | None associated with this report. |
| | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> |
| 3.6 | None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | None. |



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| Subject: | Planning Information |
| Date: | 24 January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer(s): | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control |
| Contact Officer(s): | Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management) |

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| 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: 30px; 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: 5%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><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"/> | | | | | | | | |

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

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| 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. |

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| 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 January 2025 Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at January 2025 |

Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 15.01.25

| Number | Application No. | Category | Location | Proposal | Date Valid | Target Date | Status |
|----------|------------------|----------|--|--|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | LA04/2022/0809/F | Major | Lands to the south and west of Woodland Grange to the north of Blacks Gate and to the east of Moor Park Mews Belfast. | Amendments to approved schemes ref. Z/2008/0993/F (erection of 53 No. dwellings) & ref. Z/2013/0120/F (erection of 46 No. dwellings); to reduce overall density from 99 No. dwellings to 94 No. dwellings and associated and ancillary works. | 21-Apr-22 | 17-Nov-22 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 2 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 3 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| Page 305 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 5 | LA04/2024/0015/F | Major | Lands at Cabin Hill, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 | Erection of 53 residential units (including 43 dwellings and 10 apartments) including creation of access, internal roads, landscaping and associated works (amended description and plans). | 22-Dec-23 | 19-Jul-24 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 6 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 7 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |

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|----|------------------|-------|---|--|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| 8 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 9 | LA04/2024/0569/O | Major | STORMONT HOTEL 587 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD BALLYCLOGHAN BELFAST BT4 3LP | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 10 | 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 Summerhill Park (nos. 37 & 39). | Change of use of from hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space. | 04-Apr-24 | 31-Oct-24 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 11 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 12 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 13 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 14 | 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 Class B1(a) office and/or Class B1(c) research and development. | 09-Aug-24 | 07-Mar-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 15 | LA04/2024/1458/F | Major | Divis and The Black Mountain National Trust Site, Divis Road, Hannahstown, Belfast, BT17 0NG. | Alterations to the site include refurbishing and repurposing of 3no existing vernacular buildings and replacing 1 shed, a small garage and an agricultural structure with a new amenity building. Enhancements to the existing pond network, introduction of signage interpretation and a suite of site-appropriate furniture. Wider site improvement works are proposed including path enhancements and new routes, installation of site furniture and interpretation signage. | 20-Sep-24 | 18-Apr-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 16 | 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) (3 storeys), for the erection of 103 no. apartments (mix of 1-bed, 2-bed and 3 bed units) (7 storeys), with provision of private amenity, and internal and external communal amenity spaces; and associated site and infrastructure works. | 20-Sep-24 | 18-Apr-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|---|--|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| 17 | 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 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 18 | LA04/2024/1761/R M | Major | Land forming Plot 9 of the Kings Hall development as approved by LA04/2020/0845/O. | Application for approval of reserved matters application for a medical facility in accordance with outline planning permission LA04/2020/0845/O, seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping details | 15-Oct-24 | 13-May-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 19 | LA04/2024/1836/F | Major | Lands between Ballygomartin Road and Upper Whiterock Road and to the west (rear) of Moyard Parade and New Barnsley Crescent, Belfast Co. Antrim BT13 3QZ | Proposed development of new walking trails linking Black Mountain Shared Space Project building (approved under LA04/2022/0853/F) on the Ballygomartin Road with the Upper Whiterock Road and Moyard Parade. Proposal to include gated accesses, stockproof fencing, seated areas, information signage, landscaping and associated site works. | 25-Nov-24 | 23-Jun-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 20 | LA04/2024/1837/F | Major | Lands north of 14 Mill Race and 15 Belfield Heights and south of 2-15 St Gerards Manor Ballymurphy Belfast Co. Antrim | Vary condition 20 from previous planning permission LA04/2022/0129/F | 17-Nov-24 | 15-Jun-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| 21 | LA04/2024/2044/F | Major | Lands at 39 Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3BA | Erection of 895 room Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) across 9-20 storey building blocks with communal facilities, internal and external communal amenity space including landscaped courtyard and roof terraces and ancillary accommodation. With additional use outside term time (no more than 50% of the rooms) as short-term let accommodation and (no more than 50% of the rooms) accommodation for use by further or higher education institutions | 26-Nov-24 | 24-Jun-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |
| Page 397 | LA04/2024/2134/F | Major | Site of the former Dunmurry Cricket Club, Ashley Park, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0QQ, located north of 1-10 Ashley Park and south of 1-20 Areema Grove and Areema Drive, Dunmurry. | Mixed use scheme for new community recreational facilities, including basketball court, parkland and residential development comprising 40no social/affordable housing units with landscaping and associated works. | 21-Dec-24 | 19-Jul-25 | UNDER CONSIDERATION |

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Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 15 Jan 2025

| Decision Description | Totals |
|----------------------|-----------|
| To be issued | 32 |
| Consent Granted | 1 |
| Consent Refused | |
| Permission Granted | 4 |
| Permission Refused | 1 |
| Total | 38 |

| Application No. | Location | Proposal | Category | Date Valid | Delegated Committe | 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 | 152 | No Issue Date | Decision to be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2022/2059/F | Lands south of 56 Highcairn Drive Belfast BT13 3RU Site located at junction between Highcairn Drive and Dunboyne Park | 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 | 80 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 80 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2023/2324/F | MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRE NORGLLEN GARDENS BALLYMURPHY BELFAST ANTRIM BT11 8EL | Proposed redevelopment comprising demolition of an extant building and development of two apartment blocks (12 units category 1 over 55s tenure) and change of use/alterations of existing retail unit to apartments (8 units private tenure), communal amenity, parking, site access alterations, landscaping and ancillary site works | LOC | 13-Dec-22 | C | 17/10/2023 | 44 | 65 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |

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|------------------|---|---|-----|-----------|---|------------|-----|----|---------------|-----------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------|
| LA04/2020/1858/F | Hillview Retail Park Crumlin Road Belfast. | Proposed residential development of 18 no. social housing units, comprising two terraces. Development includes associated car parking, gardens, landscaping, site access and all other site works. (amended plans uploaded to the Planning Portal on the 5th April 2023 that revise the proposed access and road layout, including the introduction of a traffic island). | LOC | 08-Jan-21 | C | 14/11/2023 | 148 | 61 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 57 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 52 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 52 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |

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|------------------|---|---|-----|-----------|---|------------|-----|----|---------------|-----------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 | 48 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 43 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 43 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 43 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 30 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| 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 | 17 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |

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|--------------------|--|--|-----|-----------|---|------------|----|----|---------------|-----------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------|
| LA04/2024/0483/F | 34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast | Proposed change of use from Office (B1) and restaurant (Sui Generis) to Hotel comprising of 88 no. bedrooms, two storey rooftop extension, restaurant and bar offerings, gym facilities, including new dormer windows on roof, internal and external refurbishment and alterations, and all associated site works. | MAJ | 19-Mar-24 | C | 15/10/2024 | 30 | 13 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2024/0480/DCA | 34-44 Bedford Street and 6 Clarence Street, Belfast | Part demolition of existing buildings (stripping back of roof, shopfront and other external alterations to facilitate change of use and extension of buildings to hotel use. | LOC | 29-Mar-24 | C | 15/10/2024 | 28 | 13 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2024/0393/F | 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. | MAJ | 21-Mar-24 | C | 12/11/2024 | 33 | 9 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2024/0369/F | 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. | MAJ | 08-Feb-24 | C | 12/11/2024 | 39 | 9 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |

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|--------------------|---|--|-----|-----------|---|------------|-----|---|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| LA04/2022/1206/F | 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. | MAJ | 05-Aug-22 | C | 12/11/2024 | 118 | 9 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |
| LA04/2022/1458/LBC | 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) | LOC | 08-Jun-22 | C | 12/11/2024 | 126 | 9 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |
| LA04/2020/0568/F | 21 Queen Street Belfast BT1 6EA. | Demolition of building and structures at rear, refurbishment and alteration of frontage building and erection of 9 storey extension to rear to form hotel (74 bedrooms) with associated restaurant, bar & ancillary facilities and works (amended description). | LOC | 04-Mar-20 | C | 10/12/2024 | 248 | 5 | 1 | Permission Granted | 20 Dec 2024 | 15/01/2025 | |

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| LA04/2024/0122/F | 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. | MAJ | 19-Jan-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 46 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2023/4405/F | 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. | MAJ | 20-Dec-23 | C | 10/12/2024 | 50 | 5 | No Issue Date | Permission Granted | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |
| LA04/2023/3691/F | Little Patrick Street and Little York Street, Belfast, BT15 1BH | Public realm scheme: Reconfiguration of Little Patrick Street to single lane carriageway, including localised shared space, traffic calming and restricted access to enable servicing / emergency access. Traffic calming measures provided to Little York Street. Other works to include installation of planters with integrated seating, tree planting, rain gardens, bespoke lighting pillars, catenary lighting and surface improvements. (Amended Plans and Information Received). | LOC | 13-Jul-23 | C | 10/12/2024 | 73 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |
| LA04/2024/1591/F | 20 Deramore Park, Belfast, BT9 5JU | Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a two-storey replacement dwelling with accommodation in the roof, new garden store, widened site access, new gates and pillars and associated site works. | LOC | 17-Sep-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 12 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |
| LA04/2024/1593/DCA | 20 Deramore Park, Belfast, BT9 5JU | Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a two-storey replacement dwelling with accommodation in the roof, new garden store, widened site access, new gates and pillars and associated site works. | LOC | 17-Sep-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 12 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting issuing |

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|--------------------|---|---|-----|-----------|---|------------|----|---|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| LA04/2024/1623/F | 49 Woodcot Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5JB | Change of use from 4 bed dwelling (C1) to 5 bed House of Multiple Occupancy (Sui Generis) | LOC | 26-Sep-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 10 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Deferred for Site visit |
| LA04/2024/1744/LBC | Belfast City Hall, 2 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS | Installation of metal gates to the Titanic Memorial Garden at the ground of Belfast City Hall | LOC | 16-Oct-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 7 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Deferred for Site visit |
| LA04/2024/2016/F | Ulster Hall 30 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF | Erection of a life-sized statue of Rory Gallagher on the existing patio area to the side of Ulster Hall | LOC | 04-Dec-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 0 | 5 | 3 | Permission Granted | 02 Jan 2025 | 15/01/2025 | |
| LA04/2024/1141/DCA | Lands including and to the rear of 24-54 Castle Street, 2-6 Queen Street, 1-7 & 21 Fountain Street, Belfast | Demolition of existing buildings and construction of Purpose Built Multi Storey Managed Student Accommodation (821no. rooms) with heights of between 6-9 storeys and associated shared/ancillary spaces with ground floor retail/retail service units, resident's gym/cinema and ancillary development/uses | LOC | 28-Jun-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 23 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2024/1046/F | Duncrue Complex, Duncrue Road, Belfast BT3 9BP | Erection of a store to be used as a workshop for Eurobins. | LOC | 29-Oct-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 6 | 5 | 1 | Permission Granted | 23 Dec 2024 | 15/01/2025 | |
| LA04/2024/0626/F | 1 Havelock House Havelock Place, Ormeau, Belfast, BT7 1EB . | Erection of 104no. residential units across two detached blocks [ranging between 3 and 5 storeys] including 84 no. Social Rented Housing Units (comprising a mix of General Social Housing and Category 1 over 55's accommodation), landscaping, communal and private amenity space, ancillary cycle and car parking provision, and other associated site works | MAJ | 17-Apr-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 33 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2024/1020/F | 6 Paxton Street, Belfast, BT5 4NU | Proposed change of use from dwelling (C1) to 3-Bedroom HMO (Sui generis) including partial demolition of existing rear extension to create new flat roof, fenestration changes and new roof light window to front. | LOC | 11-Jun-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 26 | 5 | 2 | Permission Refused | 30 Dec 2024 | 15/01/2025 | |

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| LA04/2024/0475/F | 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. | MAJ | 18-Apr-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 33 | 5 | 4 | Permission Granted | 10 Jan 2025 | 15/01/2025 | |
| 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 | 10/12/2024 | 93 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | 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 | 10/12/2024 | 213 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2019/0081/F | Lands at former Maple Leaf Club 41-43 Park Avenue Belfast. | Erection of 12No. apartments (social/affordable housing units comprising 3No. one bed & 9No. two bed) with provision of community pocket park, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works (Amended site location plan / site layout) | LOC | 04-Oct-24 | C | 10/12/2024 | 9 | 5 | No Issue Date | Decision To Be Issued | | 15/01/2025 | Awaiting Section 76 Agreement |
| LA04/2020/0569/LBC | 21 Queen Street Belfast. | Demolition of building and structures at rear, part demolition to internal features, refurbishment and extension to listed building (amended description). | LOC | 17-Feb-20 | C | 10/12/2024 | 251 | 5 | 1 | Consent Granted | 20 Dec 2024 | 15/01/2025 | |



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| Subject: | Response to Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) |
| Date: | 24 th January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance |
| Contact Officer: | Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance |

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| 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: 30px; 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 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"/> | | | | | | | | |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the Department of Communities consultation on the draft statutory guidance on the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | Members are asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission to the Department of Communities (DfC), subject to any comments or amendment provided. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | After reforming public service pension schemes in 2014 and 2015, the Government introduced transitional protections for older members. However, in December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled that younger members of the judicial and firefighters' pension schemes had been unlawfully discriminated against because the protections did not apply to them. |
| 3.2 | This ruling is called the 'McCloud judgment'. As a result of the ruling, changes have been made to the Local Government Pension Scheme(LGPS) to remove the age discrimination. These changes are known as the 'McCloud remedy'. |
| 3.3 | In 2015, the LGPS in NI changed from a final salary scheme to a career average scheme. Older members who were closer to retirement were protected from these changes. Members were protected if they met these conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • born before 1 April 1957 • joined the LGPS before 1 April 2012 (or another <u>public service pension scheme</u>) • under age 65 and an active member between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022 • took their pension straight away when they left the LGPS. |
| 3.4 | When a protected member retired, their pension fund compared the career average pension they built up before age 65 with the pension they would have built up in the final salary scheme. If the final salary pension was higher, the difference was added to their pension. This protection is called the underpin. |
| 3.5 | The LGPS rules changed from 1 October 2023 because of the McCloud remedy. The changes are backdated to 1 April 2015, when the career average scheme started. If a |

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| | <p>member qualified for underpin protection, they will be protected even if they have already left the LGPS or taken their pension.</p> |
| 3.6 | <p>The McCloud remedy means two main changes for LGPS members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualifying younger members are now protected by the underpin too. This removes the discrimination found in the McCloud judgment. 2. The new underpin rules are much more detailed. This means that the underpin works fairly and consistently for all protected members. If you were protected by the ‘old’ underpin rules when you took your pension before 1 October 2023, your pension might increase under the ‘new’ rules. |
| 3.7 | <p>In 2020/21 and 2023 DfC consulted on proposals to remove unlawful discrimination found by the courts in the “McCloud” case.</p> |
| 3.8 | <p>Members are advised that on 11th December 2024 DfC issued a further consultation and are now seeking further views on draft statutory guidance to implement the McCloud remedy in LGPS (NI). It outlines the topics the draft statutory guidance should cover.</p> |
| 3.9 | <p>Members should note that the closing date for responses is 19th February 2025. A copy of the draft response to the consultation is attached as appendix 1 and a summary of the key issues are outlined below.</p> <p>A Link to the Consultation is detailed below.</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-statutory-guidance-implementation-mccloud-remedy-local-government-pension-scheme-northern-ireland</p> |
| 3.10 | <p>DfC are seeking consultees’ comments on the content of the guidance, but in particular on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether you agree with the approaches proposed • Whether the guidance is clear and contains sufficient information on each topic • Whether there are any other topics that should be covered in the guidance |
| 3.11 | <p>In summary the key areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall Approach to McCloud Remedy 2. Technical Matters 3. Compensation |
| 3.12 | <p>The draft guidance is intended to support the Scheme Manager in the implementation of the LPGA (NI) McCloud remedy in the following ways:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing the Department's view on the approach that should be taken for a number of key issues in order to achieve a consistent application of the remedy across the LGPS(NI). • By providing additional guidance on how certain technical issues that may arise should be approached. • By providing an overview of the legal framework for McCloud compensation. |
| 3.13 | The Key issues identified in the draft guidance cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Data Collection and verification • Identifying members in scope • Qualifying scenarios • Case prioritisation |
| 3.14 | In relation to the technical issues, these have been identified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers – Issues regarding retrospection • Multiple sets of underpin figures • Unpaid additional pension contributions • Deaths of beneficiaries before payment made |
| 3.15 | In relation to Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the conditions that must be met for direct or indirect compensation to be possible • examples of where compensation may be payable in the context of the LGPS(NI) |
| 3.16 | Members are asked to consider the draft response in Appendix 1 and approve its submission to the Department for Communities. |
| | Financial & Resource Implications |
| 3.17 | There are no implications associated with this report |
| | Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment |
| 3.18 | There are no implications associated with this report. |
| 3.19 | Members are advised that DfC have undertaken an equality screening assessment on the proposed guidance and this is available on their website. |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 - Draft consultation response |

Appendix 1: Draft Consultation Response

The Council notes the significant administrative impact the McCloud remedy is currently placing on pension and payroll administrators and welcomes the guidance to be issued by the department.

The council agrees with the proposed approach to be taken in the guidance and whilst acknowledging that certain areas of the guidance will, by necessity, be technical in nature. Due to the specialised nature of pensions, and specifically in relation to the McCloud Remedy, the Council believes the guidance to be clear and containing sufficient information on each topic, with examples to aide understanding, however, it would note the guidance needs to be kept under review, especially during the McCloud Remedy implementation phase and updated if further topics come to light.

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| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Proposal for Belfast to join UK Network of Learning Cities |
| Date: | 24 th January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty |
| Contact Officers: | Patricia Magee, Policy and Performance Analyst |

| | |
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| 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 type="checkbox"/></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 | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To seek approval for Belfast Learning City to join the UK Network of Learning Cities, following an invitation from Swansea Learning City, and to endorse attendance at the network's inaugural meeting and launch in late January 2025, coinciding with International Day of Education. |

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| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Consider and agree that Belfast joins the emerging UK Learning Cities Network. ii) Consider and agree that officer representation (maximum of 2) from the Belfast Learning City's Network attend the inaugural meeting and launch of the UK Learning Cities Network to be held in Swansea in late January 2025. Members to note the meeting takes place in advance of February Council ratification. |
| 3.0 | Key Issues |
| 3.1 | <p>Background</p> <p>Belfast joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2018 in recognition of the City's commitment to promoting lifelong learning for all. This aligns with the vision of the Belfast Agenda, to promote Belfast as a great place to live and work for all.</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>Since joining the UNESCO network, Belfast has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened partnerships with local education, community and business stakeholders: Under the auspices of community planning, a cross-sectoral 'Learning Cities Leadership Group' currently exists and comprises representatives from QUB, UU, BMET, BHSC, PHA, Education Authority, Libraries NI, community partners and Council. Other key partners, including the Open University and Belfast Healthy Cities, are engaged and plan to join the Leadership Group. • Strengthened partnerships with Learning Cities across the island (Dublin, Derry and Strabane, Limerick, Cork and Waterford): These relationships have been formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), enabling collaboration, exchange of best practices and access to joint funding opportunities to deliver shared projects that have directly benefited Belfast's learning programmes particularly in areas such as community engagement and skills development. • Delivered annual Belfast Learning Festivals: These festivals have provided a platform to celebrate and showcase formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities across the city, with participation from schools, businesses and community groups helping reinforce the city's commitment to narrowing educational inequalities and fostering a culture of lifelong learning. The city has also administered grant funding to enable not-for-profit organisations to host a learning event as part of this celebration. • Supported initiatives that enhance skills development and community wellbeing: For example, Belfast Learning City recently funded the Aisling Educational Bursary Awards which supported individuals from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds to access further or higher education. • Strengthened partnerships with Learning Cities across the globe: This has included informal learning exchanges with cities across Europe, South Africa and Australia. |

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| <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> | <p>The Irish Network of Learning Cities</p> <p>In 2019, Belfast joined the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC), with the Lord Mayor signing a Memorandum of Understanding between participating cities including Derry and Strabane, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Belfast. The MOU was renewed and re-signed in May 2022.</p> <p>The INLC meets several times a year to share knowledge, experience and support each other on their learning city journey. The network recently secured and implemented a Shared Island funded initiative which enabled and encouraged learning exchanges and joint initiatives across the INLC.</p> <p>UK Network of Learning Cities</p> <p>There are 7 designated learning cities across the UK (including Bristol, Derby, Glasgow, Kirklees, Manchester, Swansea and Wolverhampton). Reflecting on the approach adopted by the all-island Irish Network of Learning Cities (UNESCO promotes the collaborative approach as an exemplar), Swansea are leading an initiative to create a UK network of Learning Cities. Swansea has invited both Belfast and Derry and Strabane Learning Cities to join the Network.</p> <p>Joining the UK Network will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster further collaboration with many UK Core Cities, enabling and encouraging the sharing of good practice and amplifying impact of lifelong learning on a national scale. • Showcase Belfast’s achievements and ongoing work, enhancing our city’s profile both nationally and globally. • Position Belfast as a leader in lifelong learning, increasing opportunities for external funding and partnerships. • Provide a collective platform to influence regional and national policies in support of learning initiatives. <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Subject to the consideration and approval of the Council’s Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the proposed next steps are set out below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belfast Learning City Steering Group will confirm its intention to join the UK Network of Learning Cities. 2. Representatives of the Belfast Learning Cities Steering Group will attend the inaugural meeting and launch event of the UK Network of Learning Cities in Swansea in late January 2025. 3. Opportunities for collaboration within the network will be identified and reported to future meetings of the Committee. |
| | <p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> |
| <p>3.8</p> | <p>There are no membership fees for joining the UK Network of Learning Cities and participation in network activities will align with ongoing Learning City Work.</p> |

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| 3.9 | Attendance at the inaugural meeting and launch of the network in Swansea, if agreed, will incur travel and subsistence costs which can be funded through existing budget assigned for Belfast Learning Cities. |
| | Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment |
| 3.10 | There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications contained in this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |



| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Response to Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget |
| Date: | 24 th January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance |
| Contact Officer: | Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the Department of Finance consultation on the draft 2025/26 Budget and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | Members are asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission to the Department of Finance (DoF), subject to any comments or amendment provided. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Draft 2025/26 Budget sets out the proposed departmental allocations for the incoming financial year.</p> <p>The Executive is encouraging people to get involved in the Draft Budget consultation and have their say on how to prioritise the finite funding available.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>Members should note that the closing date for responses is 13th March 2025. A copy of the draft response to the consultation is proposed in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 below. A summary of the key issues are outlined below.</p> <p>A Link to the Consultation is detailed below.</p> <p>https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-budget-2025-26-consultation</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>DoF are seeking consultees' comments on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you agree with the prioritisation of funding within the 2025-26 draft budget document? 2. What services should be prioritised in the 2025-26 budget? 3. Are there any services that no longer need to be delivered or can be reduced in 2025-26? 4. Do service charges need to be considered for some services? 5. Should Public Sector pay be prioritised? 6. And have you any other views? |
| 3.4 | The information provided is at a very high level. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult to make an informed response to the questions posed. On that basis it is recommended that the Council does not respond to questions 1-5. |
| 3.5 | Within the written ministerial statement issued with the consultation documents, dated 19 th December 2024, there is reference to the Autumn budget and the increase in employers' National Insurance and the potential cost to local government. |

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| 3.6 | Prior to this in a statement from government on 18 th December they have confirmed £515 million in support for local authorities in England to mitigate the additional impact of the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. As members will be aware, this funding will then come through the block grant as a result of the Barnett Consequentials. |
| 3.7 | Members will be aware that additional funding received by the Executive via the block grant is unhypothecated and as such it is at the discretion of the executive as to how that funding is allocated. It is proposed that the Council provides a response to Q6 – Any other views – as follows: |
| 3.8 | Belfast City Council fully understands the serious financial pressures across public services and local government is committed to doing its bit in addressing those pressures. We do believe in the benefit though of a joined up and ‘whole of government’ approach to public services in Northern Ireland and would encourage us both to work together to protect essential local services. By doing this, we can avoid just transferring the financial pressures public services are experiencing from one part of the public sector to another part of the public sector and instead put our collective efforts into the transformation needed to put all our public services on a sustainable footing. |
| 3.9 | On that basis, it is imperative, that additional funding received through the block grant as a result of the Barnett Consequentials is passed onto Local Authorities to ensure the continued delivery of core services. |
| 3.10 | Members are asked to consider the draft response above and approve its submission to DoF. |
| | Financial & Resource Implications |
| 3.11 | There are no implications associated with this report |
| | Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment |
| 3.12 | There are no implications associated with this report. Members are advised that DoF have undertaken an equality Impact assessment on the draft budget and this is available on their website. |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |

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Belfast
City Council

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| Subject: | Review of Illuminate Policy |
| Date: | 24 January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager |

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| 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 type="checkbox"/></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 | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To consider the proposed updated criteria for illumination requests |

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| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the recommendations made in regard to application and approval process. • consider the recommendations made in regard to updated criteria. • consider annual dates/ celebrations to be added to the illuminate calendar. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <p><u>Background information</u></p> <p>3.1 Members will be aware the ILLUMINATE LED lighting system installed in 2013 on the north, east and west facades of the City Hall has been very successful allowing the council to mark significant dates, occasions or achievements using bespoke lighting scenes.</p> <p>3.2 In September 2016 Members recognized the growing demand for illuminations and operational constraints and committee agreed to enhance the criteria and governance arrangements. A copy of the current criteria is in Appendix One.</p> <p>3.3 In recent years, there has been an increase in illuminate requests and members have sought an updated report on Illuminate governance arrangements and recommendations for their consideration.</p> <p>3.4 Additional illuminations approved – Committee approved 14 dates for inclusion in the annual illumination calendar (a copy is in Appendix Two). By way of illustration, 50 additional illuminations were approved in 2024; 69 in 2023; 56 in 2022.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.5 Increasing Demand - There is an inexhaustible supply of deserving organizations and causes who seek to mark their own particular function, group or cause.</p> <p>3.6 Operational and Resourcing Issues – The life expectancy of the luminaires system was 2023 so in due course the hardware will need to be replaced and upgraded if members seek to continue this service and feature of City Hall. Maintenance of the system to keep it operational is approximately £10,000 per year.</p> <p>3.7 In addition, the increasing number of requests now being approved is also causing operational problems, both in terms of the overtime costs associated with creating the bespoke scenes and also because the hardware in use cannot now accept any further stored scenes as it is at full capacity. All new scenes must be manually created and switched on/off etc; each additional scene above the 14 annual dates, must be programmed by a trained member of staff at an estimated at £10,000 per annum.</p> |

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| 3.8 | <p>Public Confusion – Due to increasing number of illuminations being approved and programmed, it is often the case that the general public do not understand why the City Hall is lit in a particular bespoke colour scheme on a given day, as the colours themselves are often only of significance to the adherents of the particular group requesting them. Council’s Marketing and Comms team do list all illuminates on website and promote on socials where possible and appropriate, however 64 illuminations programmed and promoted in 2023 dilutes the impact and uniqueness of each illuminate.</p> |
| 3.9 | <p>Fairness – Officers are concerned that the increased number of approvals outside the criteria will lead to difficulties for the Council, from both an officer and Member perspective, where requests are refused. In addition, illumination requests are being presented for review by differing mediums and channels which limits the ability to review all requests against criteria in transparent and consistent procedure.</p> |
| | <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> |
| 3.10 | <p>To address the points noted previously and to enhance the governance and management arrangements of this popular service, the Committee is asked to consider the recommendations noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of an application form • Enhancements to the current criteria • Additional dates to be added to the Illuminate Calendar |
| 3.11 | <p><u>AN APPLICATION FORM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated application form must be completed for all illumination requests. Information of the illumination process – form, timeframes and criteria will be promoted on the Council’s website, with contact info to engage with the City Hall Functions Team; consistent with other processes such as function hire. • The criteria for the illumination programme will be promoted online. • The form must be submitted by the requestor 4 weeks before the preferred illumination date to allow time for review, processing and programming if approved. • The new form will enable more time control measures for requests to facilitate a review of the application against the criteria by officers – approval and programming if request meets the criteria. • The application form process will reduce the multi channels for requests and negate the need to bring Notices of Motion to deal with illumination requests. |

ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CURRENT CRITERIA

- **Annual Dates**

Committee have previously approved 14 annual days for City Hall illumination as listed in Appendix 2. The following causes and dates have been requested and approved for the past number of years and Members are asked to consider if they wish to consistently support these and include in the Illuminate calendar.

- Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January
- Ramadan – *date tbc each year*
- National Day of Reflection (Covid) – 3 March
- World Fair Trade Day - May – date tbc
- Easter Sunday - *date tbc each year*
- Darkness into Light – May – date tbc
- International Day of Peace – 21 September
- Babyloss Awareness – 15 October
- Diwali Festival of Light – *date tbc each year*
- Recycle Week – *date tbc each year*
- World Mental Health Day- *October – date tbc*
- Organ Donation Week – September – date tbc
- Black History Month *October – date tbc*

- **Organisations only** - Applications only considered from a registered charity, public-sector, community or other non-profit making organisation. Illuminations applications from individuals and commercial organisations will not be approved.
- **Anniversary opposed to Annual Day** - Illumination applications will not be approved to mark an event/occasion that occurs repeatedly, for example an annual Day or Week, unless it is a significant anniversary of that event/occasion eg 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary.
- **Medical Causes** – applications only considered from registered medical charities and organisations to mark a significant anniversary rather than annual day.
- **Festive Programme** – due to the intricate programming required of the Building and LED system during the Festive Lighting programme, additional applications will not be approved during this festive period annually mid-November to 6 January.
- **1 in 3 year** - additional Illumination requests approved, delivered and promoted by council will be subject to “1 in 3 year approval” relating to any subsequent applications received by the same cause. This will enable a larger number of other charities,

causes and organisations to have increased opportunity for their illumination application to be approved in calendar year.

3.13

REVISED CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Illumination will take place as follows:

- on the 14 agreed annual days, plus additional days noted in this report if approved.
- any council-run events
- one illuminate for each charity nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries in their term of office.
- where a charitable, community or other non-profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary.
- where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade or anniversary
- where an event not organised by Belfast City Council, but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted.
- no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January.
- where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (*e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc*). These requests should be made to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, who will review if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.
- Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a '**once-in-three-years**' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly. (This rule will not apply to those charities which have been illuminated by virtue of being a civic dignitaries nominated charity).

3.14

Financial & Resource Implications

Committee should be minded that as each additional scene must be programmed by a trained member of staff, there will be additional staffing costs for each additional illumination approved beyond the Illumination calendar as set out in the report.

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| 3.15 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Equality or good relations implications may arise where significant numbers of requests are being facilitated outside of the agreed criteria, as is happening at present. The recommendations detailed above if approved would aim to address these concerns.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | <p>Appendix 1 - Current Criteria for illumination approved by Committee in September 2016</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Current Annual Illuminate Dates</p> |

Current Illuminate Governance Arrangements

The current governance scheme for the illumination system as approved by Committee in September 2016. Illumination will take place as follows

- a) on the 10 agreed annual days, plus any council-run events, plus charities nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries.
- b) where a charitable, community or other non profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary;
- c) where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade;
- d) where an event not organised by Belfast City Council but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- e) no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted, and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component)
- f) no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January
- g) in other specific circumstances where approved by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

NB: in relation to requests falling under (b), (c) and (d) above the Committee has currently delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects (now Director of Legal and Civic Services) in these circumstances.

Internal member's requests

Members are reminded that where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (*e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc*) the request should be made to the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) who will see if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.

Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a '**once-in-three-years**' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly.

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Annual Illumination (2024) x 14

| Date | Occasion | Colour |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 February | Chinese New Year | Orange and Red |
| 14 February | Valentine's Day | Red |
| 08 March | International Women's Day | Purple |
| 17 March | St Patrick's Day | Green |
| 31 March | Transgender Day of Visibility | Pink and Blue |
| 2 May | May Day | Red |
| 21 June | Day of Reflection | Yellow |
| 12 July | Oranifest | Orange and Purple |
| 1 August | Belfast Pride | Rainbow |
| 11 November | Polish Independence Day | Red and White |
| 13 November | Remembrance Sunday (Cenotaph only) | Red |
| 14 November | King Charles Birthday | Red, White and Blue |
| 24 December | Santa Siren | Red siren on City Hall dome |
| 31 December | New Year's Eve Countdown | Multicoloured |

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|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update |
| Date: | 24 January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services |
| Contact Officer: | Mark McCann, City Innovation Manager |

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| 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: 30px; 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: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></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"/> | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To update Members on plans for an Inclusive Innovation workshop to take place at the Titanic Hotel on January 28 th and on Council’s application to the Bloomberg Mayoral Challenge competition 2025. |

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| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the details of the Inclusive Innovation workshop and the invitation to Members. 2. Note that Belfast City Council has applied to the Bloomberg Mayoral Challenge competition to support work on re-imagining city alley-ways. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | <p>The Smart Belfast Urban Innovation programme encourages collaboration between government, industry, SMEs, academia, and communities. The aim is to harness digital innovation to address public policy challenges, while at the same time encouraging greater investment in innovation to stimulate economic growth. The following update outlines two initiatives that contribute to these aims:</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>Inclusive Innovation Workshop</p> <p>Members had previously approved a city partner workshop to be held to explore the opportunities for ‘inclusive innovation’; what it means; why it’s important; and how it can help to unlock more local economic and social value from innovation investments such as Belfast Region City Deal and planned major investments by UK Government in innovation over the next four years.</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>Invitations have been extended to all Members, community organisations, industry, public and university partners (with 70 participants currently confirmed). It will take place on 28th January at the Titanic Hotel from 9:15am. The agenda has been developed with the Belfast Innovation Commissioner, Adrian Johnston, who will chair the event. It will feature local and national speakers who will share their experiences and perspectives on inclusive innovation. This will include the Council’s own four-year Hubs of Innovation project with the Maritime Belfast Trust; research by King’s College who have been working with Catalyst on measuring inclusive innovation; Newcastle Upon Tyne’s i30 research programme (which are looking at practice in Newcastle, Belfast, Medellin, and Pittsburgh); and Queen’s University’s Communities & Place programme.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p>This workshop, which is mainly funded by Horizon 2020, will help inform a future programme of work led by the Innovation Commissioner and the City Innovation Office. Members are encouraged to come along.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p>‘Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayoral Challenge’ competition</p> <p>This global innovation competition opens every few years and provides city governments with up to \$1 million and multi-year support to transform an essential, city-wide public service.</p> |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 3.6 | The competition is delivered in two stages: Phase 1 provides up to \$50,000 to 50 cities to refine and test their initial ideas (March 2025.) While Phase 2 will provide 25 of these cities with a further \$1 million to bring their ideas to life. (Phase 2 awards will be made in October 2025.) |
| 3.7 | The deadline for submission was 20 December, giving Council officers very little time to prepare an application that would meet Bloomberg’s detailed criteria and not affording time to submit this first iteration of the application to committee in advance. Officers therefore focused on areas that aligned to areas of work already agreed by Members. Following an ideation process, that included discussions with the Bloomberg team in New York, the Belfast application focused on re-imagining the city’s alley-ways. The idea is to develop a mechanism that would allow Council and other bodies, including social enterprises, to work directly with communities to sustainably manage city alleyways to promote biodiversity, cultural activities, to encourage active travel, and by doing so crowd out anti-social behaviour. This builds on an existing priority of Members and the existing work of the Parks Outreach Team, the Climate team and others. |
| 3.8 | Members are asked to note the application, and that any decision on whether Belfast has made it through to the first phase is expected in March 2025 at which point, if selected to progress to the next stage, the proposal will be brought back to Members for further consideration. |
| | Financial & Resource Implications |
| 3.9 | Resources for the initiatives have been identified within the existing City Innovation Office budget. The Inclusive Innovation workshop is primarily funded from Horizon 2020. |
| | Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment |
| 3.10 | None. |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None. |

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| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Asset Management: i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal |
| Date: | 24 th January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects |
| Contact Officer: | Pamela Davison, Estates Manager |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

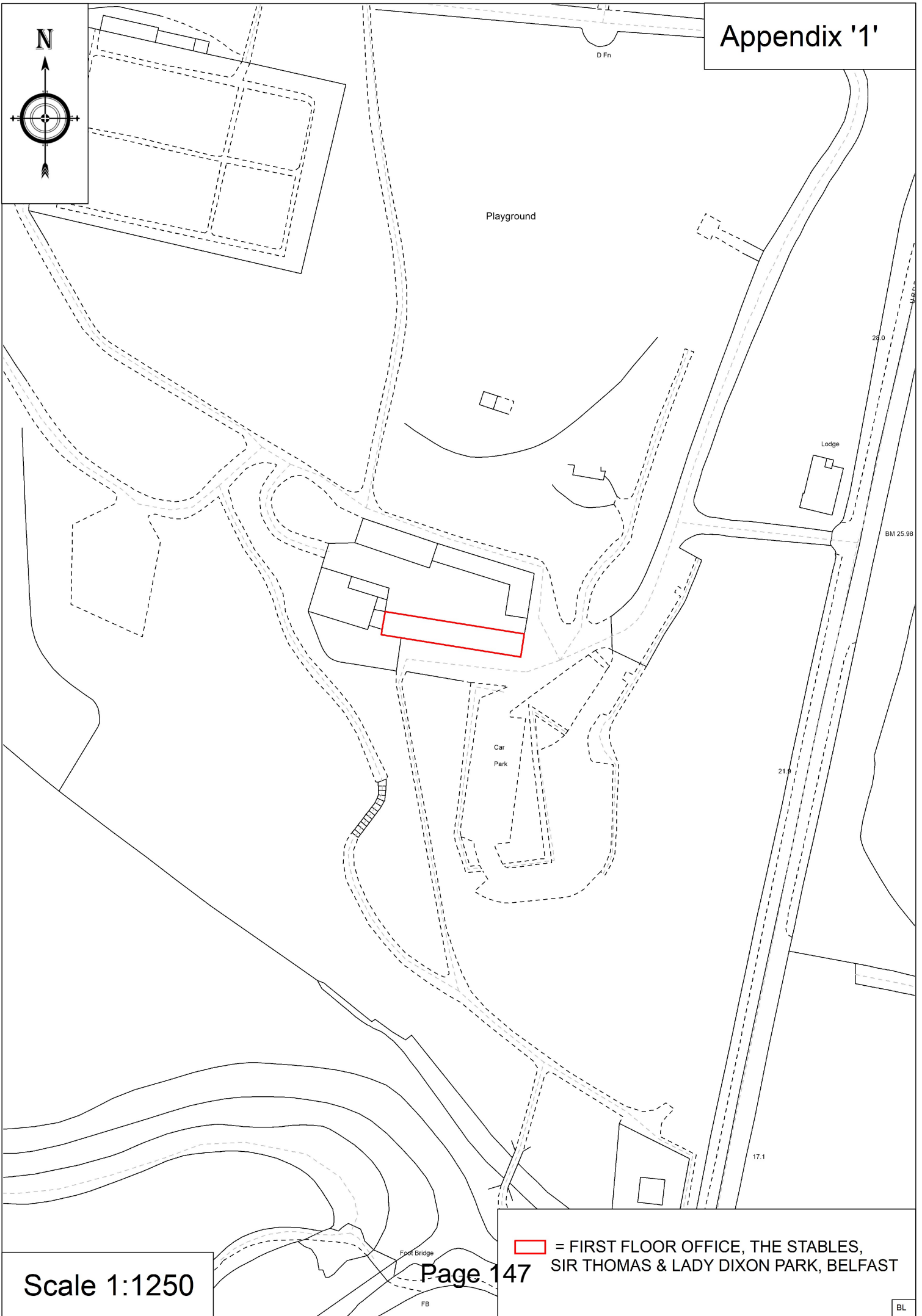
| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve a new lease being entered into between the Council and Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland for use of the First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | i) First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park - Lease Renewal |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland have held a 5-year Lease which commenced on 2 nd March 2020 at an annual rent of £15,000 per annum for use of the First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park. The net internal area of the subject office is c. 1,334 ft ² . |
| 3.2 | Based on comparable evidence it is proposed that the rent is reviewed to £17,500 per annum and, subject to Members' approval, a new 5-year lease commencing on 2 March 2025, will be entered into between the Council and Church Mission Society Ireland T/A CMS Ireland. |
| | <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> |
| 3.3 | The Council will receive a rent of £17,500 per annum if approved by Members. Legal Services will prepare a new lease on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. |
| | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> |
| 3.4 | None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 – showing First Floor Office, The Stables, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park delineated red. |




Playground

Lodge

Car Park

Foot Bridge

Scale 1:1250

 = FIRST FLOOR OFFICE, THE STABLES, SIR THOMAS & LADY DIXON PARK, BELFAST

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| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 13 th January 2025 |
| Date: | 24 th January 2025 |
| 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

| | |
|------------|--|
| 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 13 th January 2025. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 | <p>That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 13th January 2025 including:</p> <p><u>Good Relations Action Plan 24/25 Quarter 3 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report, including the reallocation of £7,500 from BCC9 into BCC7 to support the Christmas Interface Events as well as the allocation of the additional funding from TEO. <p><u>PEACE IV – Secretariat Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership notes the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report. <p><u>PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan – Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members note the contents of the report and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer. <p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed to undertake a walking tour of the Forth Meadow Greenway on either Thursday, 27th March, at 13.30, or Wednesday, 30th April, at 13.30, Officers to progress. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 3.2 | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The key issues on the agenda at the 13th January 2025 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Papers of 09th December 2024 • Good Relations Action Plan 24/25 Quarter 3 Update • Peace IV Secretariat Update • PEACEPLUS – Theme 1.1 – Local Action Plan Update • AOB – Proposal for Members to walk and experience Forth Meadow Greenway |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3.3 | <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the following minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1 Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 13th January 2025; Appendix 2; Summary of 24/25 Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3 and in Appendix 3; Peaceplus Letter of Offer for Belfast City Council's Local Action Plan</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.4 | <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets, and the Good Relations Action Plan is included in the current estimates process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> |
| 3.5 | <p>The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | <p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 13th January 2025 Appendix 2 – Summary of 24/25 Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3 Appendix 3 – Peaceplus Letter of Offer for Belfast City Council's Local Action Plan</p> |

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 13th January, 2025

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

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. Briggs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Father M. Magill, Faith Representative;
Ms. T. Mimna, The Executive Office;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

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

Apology

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Independent Members Mr. J. Donnelly and Mr. M. McBride. Apologies were reported also on behalf of Mr. J. Girvan and Mr. D. Robinson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13th December.

Declarations of Interest

In respect of item 6, 'PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update' declarations of interest were reported by the Chairperson (Councillor J. Duffy) and Independent Members Ms. B. Arthurs, Mr. M. Briggs and Mr. W. Naeem, in that they worked for organisations which were in receipt of funding under the terms of the fund. The Members retired from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

Good Relations Action Plan - Quarter 3 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 3 which covers the period October – December 2024.**
- 2.0 Recommendation**
- 2.1 That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report, including the reallocation of £7,500 from BCC9 into BCC7 to support the Christmas Interface Events as well as the allocation of the additional funding from TEO.**
- 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. The original 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 was allocated towards programmes.**
- 3.2 In December, TEO offered the Council an additional resource of £38,170, at 100%. While this was less than was initially suggested, Officers have allocated all of this additional resource to programme costs as follows:**
- 1. The costs for the new Good Relations Audit, Strategy and a 3-year Action Plan to cover 2026 – 2029, to be included into BCC9, enabling a reallocation from BCC9 into the Christmas Interface Events programme.**
 - 2. Support for the East Meets West Community Centre Programme for activity in the New Year, to be included in BCC9.**
 - 3. Resources to offset the costs for the 2024 Beacons Programme in BCC3**
- 3.3 The new Action Plan total for programme costs is therefore £403,170 and the additional resource will be allocated in Q4 and reported on then, once a confirmation letter of offer has been received by the Council. 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 Delivery of the Action Plan continued during quarter 3. In Q1, £181,714.48 was allocated. In Q2, a further £109,420 has been allocated. During Q3, £58,473 was further allocated, giving a total allocation thus far of £349,607.48.**

3.5 Members should also note that the Action Plan does not include the £128,700 allocated to the Council for work on refugee integration, or the Asylum Dispersal allocations totalling £406,228, all from TEO. These funds are in addition to the Action Plan.

3.6 The following is a summary progress update on activity and allocations during Q3:

| Code | Project Summary | Budget | Progress in Quarter 3 | 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 workshops underway | £20,000 |
| BCC3 | Positive Cultural Expression Programme | £20,000 (Plus an additional £13,170) | Beacon Programme delivered. 16 Beacons deployed on 11 July. | £0 (all allocated) |
| BCC4 | Civic Engagement and Learning Programme | £20,000 | 2 projects allocated support: - EID celebrations - Visit My Mosque prog | £3,000 £850 |
| BCC5 | Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme | £60,000 | December meeting of migrant forum took place. DiverseCity Event | £300 £3,000 |
| BCC6 | Embedding Good Relations Programme | £0 | This programme didn't proceed as a result of budget shortfall | £0 |
| BCC7 | Interface Engagement & tackling sectarianism and racism | £60,000 | 6 Christmas Interface Events supported | £8,823 |
| BCC8 | Shared Education Schools Programme | £20,000 | Programme agreed and being delivered in Q3 and Q4. | £20,000 |
| BCC 9 | Strategic Connections and Support Programme | £10,000 (Plus an additional £25,000) | Reallocation of £7,500 towards Christmas Interface programme events East Meets West Community Centre Programme | £2,500 |
| | TOTAL | £365,000 | | £58,473 |

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

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

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

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."

The Good Relations Manager outlined the principal aspects of the report and, after discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation as contained in section 2.1.

Peace IV - Secretariat Update

The PEACE Programme Manager reminded Members that a sum of £1,425,854 remained outstanding in respect of projects which had been supported under PEACE IV. She advised that officers continued to liaise with the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) regarding the verification of outstanding claims, which, it was reported, would be reimbursed once an Article 27 Audit of the Shared Space & Services Period 31 Claim had been completed by the Audit Authority. The PEACE Programme Manager added that all information requested relating to the audit had been forwarded and that the Audit Authority had acknowledged the receipt of the information.

Noted.

(Councillor I. McLaughlin in the Chair).

PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation

Mobilisation of the revenue projects within the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan is continuing with progress and key actions outlined below.

3.2 SEUPB Approval / Letter of Offer (LoO)

Members are referred to the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan Letter of Offer (Appendix I) which was received on 19 December 2024. Officers are currently reviewing the Letter of Offer and Conditions of funding to progress the approval process.

3.3 Members are requested to note key points from the LoO, as follows:

- no changes to the Project submitted were required by the Steering Committee.
- Data Sharing Agreements (DSA) are currently being reviewed and amended in collaboration with SEUPB and IGU. The DSA and adherence to the publicity and marketing materials, including the privacy notices, will form part of the contractual requirements with appointed delivery partners.
- Project Lifetime is for 48 months starting on 1 January 2024 (“Project Lifetime”). The Project end date is 31st December 2027. It is likely that an extension to June 2028 will be necessary and can be requested following acceptance and submission of the LoO.
- The pre-commencement condition regarding a state aid assessment has been completed and returned to SEUPB.
- Project implementation conditions are progressing, with minor amends and points of clarity for JeMS work plans project identified and ready to agree with SEUPB.
- Officers are currently reviewing SEUPB’s Verification/Controller tender documentation and drafting council requirements to enable a suitable Financial Controller to be appointed in line with SEUPB requirements and as soon as possible.
- Community background has been assigned to each tender based on target groups. This will enable the community background to be achieved
- Reporting from delivery partners will be monthly / quarterly to enable progress against results to be monitored against outputs and results targets

3.4 A report to Council’s Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 13th December 2024, outlined that the LCAP LoO will be accepted in € / Euros. Given that the LoO is issued in Euro/€ exchange rate fluctuations will be monitored in collaboration with Council’s Finance Department.

3.5 Members are requested to note and agree acceptance of the Letter of Offer, subject to internal council checks to ensure that legal implications are considered.

3.6 Pre Market Engagement and Procurement

As previously reported all pre-market engagement sessions for revenue projects have now been completed with all tender exercises open.

Tender evaluations are progressing for the Youth Empowerment, Community Empowerment and Language Up, with contract awards imminent. Evaluations have commenced for the Sports, Health & Wellbeing, Interfaith and Belief projects.

Implementation of projects is subject to the market response to the tender calls and bidders' responses meeting the tender requirements. On completion of the tender evaluation phase members are requested to note the following:

TPC3 Youth Empowerment

SEUPB advice regarding further clarification on the Lot 4 submissions is currently being progressed. A further tender call may be necessary, and if so, will be issued early 2025. The project should remain achievable within the approval timeframe.

CCD5 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

A nil response to the Lot 1 of the tender call. Feedback is currently being sought, and subject to feedback a possible rescope of the project may be necessary.

Bids received for Lot 2 do not meet the requirements. Feedback is being progressed and again subject to feedback, a rescope may be necessary.

Members are requested to note that the Programme Board has agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and Peace Programmes Manager to progress project rescopes, where necessary.

The project elements should remain achievable within the approval timeframe and a further report on any required project amends will be presented to members.

3.6 Mobilisation of Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme

As previously reported, planning for the mobilisation of projects within the Community Regeneration and Transformation (CRT) theme is underway with an indicative timeframe for the mobilisation of animation activities developed.

3.7 Critical to the mobilisation of the CRT infrastructure and works elements is the allocation by SEUPB of a representative from

Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD), who will provide advice on the procurement for all capital works. As the LoO progressing for approval, it is envisaged that SEUPB will appoint the representative soon.

A further report on the mobilisation timeframe and animation strategy will be presented to members at a future meeting.

3.8 PEACEPLUS 1.4 Project - Waterworks / Alexandra Park

Members may be aware that the Council was also successful in securing €13.5m for the Reconnected Belfast Waterworks / Alexandra Park Project. The project will be implemented by Council's Property and Projects department.

Collaboration of this project with the 1.1 LCAP is required given the strong alignment on Council approaches, processes and procedures as well as to communicate the lessons learnt from PEACE IV. To aid this collaboration the Programme Manager will oversee the staff responsible for the implementation of the animation aspect of the 1.4 project to ensure complementarity, and avoid any duplication, across the two projects. Internal discussions on the governance for the two projects is being considered.

3.9 Staff Recruitment

Appointment of three Project Support Officers is progressing and once appointed, only one post remains to be recruited.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

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

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

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

During discussion, several Members expressed disappointment in that, in respect of the tender exercises for Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the 'Multiculturalism to Interculturalism' project, no suitable tenders had been received to oversee its delivery. It was pointed out that, within the context of the disturbances which had occurred across the city during the summer of 2024, it was important that the work associated with this project was delivered in a timely fashion.

In response, the Good Relations Manager indicated that, subject to receipt of feedback in respect of the tendering exercises, it was anticipated that a rescope of the

terms of the project would be undertaken with a view to the overseeing a further tendering exercise. Accordingly, he added that the Programme Board had agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and the Peace Programme Manager to progress such a rescope as deemed appropriate in order to procure a suitable partner to oversee the projects.

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation as set out within 2.0 of the report.

Update from Partnership Members

Mr. Gunn outlined the steps which had been undertaken during the recent cold weather to support homeless persons by providing sheltered accommodation for short-term use. Mr Gunn undertook to provide further information to the Partnership in this regard for information purposes.

Any Other Business

Father M. Magill reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 7th October, it had agreed to undertake a walking tour of the Forth Meadow Greenway on a date to be determined. Accordingly he suggested that the tour be held on either Thursday, 27th March, at 13.30, or Wednesday, 30th April, at 13.30.

The Committee Services Officer undertook to circulate the dates to Members with a view to identifying a preferred date. It was noted that transport would be provided to and from the starting and ending points of the tour.

Chairperson

2024/25 Quarter 3 Action Plan Summary Report

| Code | Key Priority | Project Summary | Budget | Progress in Quarter 3 | Total Q3 allocation |
|------|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| BCC1 | All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme | Good Relations Small Grants Prog Criteria focusing on the 4 T:BUC themes and providing opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote Good Relations. | Total: £155,000 | 43 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process in Q1. Projects ongoing. | Full allocation in Q1 |
| BCC2 | Cultural expression | St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme to embed Good Relations Outcomes into events marking the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. | Total: £20,000 | Programme agreed with Tourism and Events. Suppliers appointed. Workshops taking place. | £20,000 |
| BCC3 | Cultural expression | Positive Cultural Expression Programme – to facilitate the positive expression of cultural heritage through the provision of bonfire beacons on the 11 th July. | Total: £20,000 (Plus an additional £13,170) | 16 Beacons deployed on 11 July at sites across the City. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ainsworth Avenue - Brown Square - Denmark Street - Cregagh - Dunmurry - White City - Clara Street - Clarawood - Diamond project (East Belfast) - Grove Street East - Moltke Street - Springmartin - Wheatfield (Ballysillan Park) - Lower Oldpark - Connswater | Full allocation in Q2 |
| BCC4 | Shared Community | Civic Engagement and Learning Programme To develop and deliver a range of programmes of events and training on good relations/diversity issues. | Total: £20,000 | 2 projects allocated support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EID celebrations - Visit My Mosque prog | £3,000 £850 |
| BCC5 | Shared Community | Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme To facilitate partnership working on the inclusion and participation of new communities. This programme will build on this engagement and continue to support initiatives that seek to support the integration and inclusion of all Communities, through good relations related projects as well as supporting advice giving organisations. | Total: £60,000 | December meeting of migrant forum took place. 3 projects allocated support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversecity Event with Ashton and Shankill Women's Centre | £300 £3,000 |

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| BCC6 | Shared Community | <p>Embedding Good Relations Programme</p> <p>This programme seeks to develop an awareness of Good Relations and how it can support effective service and programme delivery and will develop and deliver a series of workshops on how to 'design in' Good Relations in programme and project planning as well as building the Good Relations capacity of groups and organisations across the City.</p> | Total: £0 | This programme will not proceed as a result of budget shortfall | £0 |
| BCC7 | Safe Community | <p>Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism & racism</p> <p>Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop and deliver a city-wide initiative on anti-sectarianism and anti-racism to include other agencies and government 2. support progress towards the softening, transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. | <p>Total £60,000 (Plus £7,500 from BCC9)</p> <p>Total: £60,000</p> | <p>10 groups allocated funding under for Christmas Interface Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shankill Women's Centre £900 - Blackmountain Shared Space £895 - Denmark St. Community Ass £728 - Divis Community Centre £900 - White City Community Centre £900 - City Life Centre £900 - Colin Neighbourhood Partnership £900 - Holy Family YC £900 - Suffolk Community Forum £900 - NBIN/TACIT £900 | <p>Total: £8,823</p> |
| BCC8 | Children & Young people | <p>Shared Education Schools Programme</p> <p>This initiative will be delivered in partnership with Education Authority and will focus on developing the Pupil Voice in Shared Education Partnerships.</p> <p>4 Post-Primary Shared Education Partnerships (220 pupils) will be recruited onto the programme. The purpose of the programme is to engage pupils from different communities in a range of Pupil Voice Programmes that seek to explore sensitive and controversial issues through a variety of engagement sessions.</p> | Total £20,000 | Programme agreed with EA and currently being delivered. | £20,000 |
| BCC 9 | All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme | <p>Strategic Connections and Support Programme</p> <p>The aim of the Programme is to target resources through a Strategic Connections and Support Programme distributed on a themed basis for localised programmes, events and activities – across the City.</p> | Total £2,500 (Plus an additional £25,000) | <p>£7,500 reallocated into BCC7 Interfaces Programme</p> <p>East Meets West Community Centre Programme</p> | £2,500 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | £365,000 | Quarter 1 allocation | £181,714.48 |
| | | | £365,000 | Quarter 2 allocation | £109,420.00 |
| | | | £365,000 | Quarter 3 allocation | £58,473.00 |
| | | | £365,000 | Quarter 4 allocation | |
| | | | £365,000 | Total allocation | £349,607.48 |

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LETTER OF OFFER

19th December 2024
Mr John Walsh
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
Antrim

Project Name: Belfast Local Community PEACE Action Plan

Application Reference Number: PP00353

Dear Mr Walsh

1. Award and description of project

I am pleased to inform you that the PEACEPLUS Steering Committee agreed on 12th August 2024 to offer the above project the following grant aid;

Grant of **up to a maximum of** €17,437,277.00 (the “**Grant**”) to be incurred and defrayed by 31st December 2027. This is inclusive of €13,949,821.60 ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent and €3,487,455.40 governmental match provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.

This grant is awarded under Theme 1, Investment Area 1.1 Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans (Specific Objective ISO4.1) to Belfast City Council as Lead Partner for the following project and approved Output and Result Indicators.

The project as set out in the latest approved version of the application form (the “**Project**”)

The approved **Output and Result Indicators:**

| Output Indicators (Programme Level) | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| ID | Indicator | Measurement Unit | Target Value |

| PSO1.1 | Co-designed PEACEPLUS Action Plans implemented | PEACEPLUS Action Plan | 1 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| Result Indicators | | | |
| ID | Indicator | Measurement Unit | Target Value |
| PSR1.1 | People from different communities engaged jointly in the implementation of local PEACEPLUS action plans | People | 17,437 |

The following is a list of all project partners:

- Belfast City Council as Lead Partner

2. Budget and Conditions of Funding

In the event that the Lead Partner accepts the Grant offer detailed in this Letter of Offer any payment claim forms shall provide details of Project expenditure based on grant budget (the “Budget”) below;

| Funding Sources | Value (€) |
|---|-----------------------|
| ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent | |
| Total | €13,949,821.60 |
| Intervention rate (% ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent) | 80% |
| Match Funding | |
| Governmental Match Provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive | €3,487,455.40 |
| Cash Contribution (Partner Supplied/other grant) | N/A |
| Revenue Generated (Participant fees/Income) | N/A |
| Total | €17,437,277.00 |

| Simplified Cost Option Key: | |
|--|--|
| Office & Administration costs - 15% flat rate of eligible direct staff | The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible office and administration costs (indirect costs) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 40 (1) and (2). |
| Travel & Accommodation costs for project staff - 7% flat rate of eligible direct staff | The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible Travel and Accommodation costs (direct staff) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 41 (5). |
| €100,000 Preparation Lump Sum | The lump sum is intended to cover all costs which relate to the preparation phase of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan incurred between the 1st January 2021 and the application submission date. Infrastructure and Investment costs are not an eligible cost in the preparation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. The lump sum has been established in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 Article 53 (3). |

It is conditional that Project implementation and expenditure is in accordance with this Letter of Offer, the Programme Manual and Standard Conditions of Grant (as amended from time to time). The most up to date versions of these documents are available on the SEUPB website. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that they are compliant with these.

- a. This Letter of Offer is to be read alongside the Standard Conditions of Grant, Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form. Words and expressions defined in the Standard Conditions of Grant and Programme Manual have the same meaning in this Letter of Offer.
- b. Any changes to the Project submitted, for instance to the Budget, activities, Output or Results Indicators, required by the Steering Committee, will have been communicated to the Lead Partner in the Notification of Approval.
- c. The Grant can only be used for the approved purposes of the Project to achieve the agreed Outputs and Result Indicators.
- d. Any change to this Letter of Offer must be agreed in writing with SEUPB prior to expenditure being incurred.
- e. If you do not spend all the funding on the delivery of the Project, the unspent balance will not be available to the Project Partners to utilise.
- f. This Letter of Offer is conditional upon the Lead Partner entering into a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), with the SEUPB in relation to any personal data shared between the parties.
- g. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about the purposes of processing of their personal data, how their data is handled, whom it may be shared with and their rights as data subjects in accordance with any applicable Privacy Notice(s) and relevant terms and conditions.
- h. Where data is shared between Lead Partners and Project Partners and/or End Beneficiaries, the sharing of information must be in full compliance with applicable data protection laws. Data Sharing Agreements between these parties are recommended.
- i. By signing and returning this Letter of Offer, the Lead Partner understands, acknowledges and agrees that all publicity and marketing materials shared with SEUPB may be shared onward with third parties and/or made publicly available. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about this collection and processing. A copy of the (JEMS) Privacy Notice and, where applicable, the Child and Young Person Privacy Notice, should be provided to all data subjects.

- j. Information submitted onto JEMS and any other monitoring and evaluation tool(s) by a Project Partner may be transferred and subsequently stored on the PEACE Programmes Learning Platform for research and archiving in the public interest.
- k. Payments cannot be made to Project Partners until the receipt by SEUPB of a Partnership Agreement acceptable to SEUPB is signed by all Project Partners.

3. Project Lifetime

The period of assistance is for 48 months starting on 1st January 2024 (“Project Lifetime”).

The Project end date is 31st December 2027, after which time any costs not defrayed will be deemed to be ineligible for reimbursement. Your activity should cease in advance of this date to ensure the final claim for expenditure has been certified by the Controller and all associated costs have been incurred by the final date of the Project Lifetime.

All documentation related to the administration of the Project including but not limited to supporting documents regarding Output and Result indicators, expenditure and audit must be retained and kept available in accordance with the terms of the Programme Manual.

The Project Lifetime may be only extended with the prior written agreement of SEUPB.

4. Conditions & Recommendations Specific to the Project

The Steering Committee has specified additional conditions (the “Additional Conditions”) for pre-commencement and during the implementation of the Project. These are conditions that the project must comply with in order to receive the Grant in full. The conditions are as follows:

Pre-commencement conditions

- (1) A state aid assessment is to be completed by the Lead Partner on behalf of the project and reviewed by SEUPB before the Letter of Offer is issued.

Project implementation conditions

- (1) JEMS work plans must be amended to the satisfaction of SEUPB.
- (2) Applicant to provide a breakdown of all travel and accommodation costs, any equipment/fixtures (to include detail and confirmation of match funded elements) and detail lump sum allocation.
- (3) Verification/Controller arrangements to be in line with SEUPB requirements. This must be in place before financial claims are submitted on the Jems system.

- (4) The community background of each of the Cohorts of participants should be confirmed and not vary from that set out in the application and detailed on Jems. If a variation is necessary, it will be subject to the agreement of SEUPB.
- (5) Progress against outputs and results targets will be considered at the 3-year point of implementation, this will determine if a break clause is enacted.

The Programme has also identified a series of recommendations for pre-commencement and during implementation of the Project. While not binding conditions of funding, Project Partners are requested to implement these recommendations where it is possible to do so within the existing scope and budget of the Project. The recommendations are as follows:

(a) The PEACEPLUS Programme has been designed to address issues related to our past history. Common traits that occur in post-conflict societies include aggressive and violent outbursts, lack of empathy, emotional distance, depression, addiction and limited life opportunities. We have also been influenced by the evidence associated with intergenerational trauma and the affect it can have on young people who were born long after the conflict/violence ended. These young people still bear the scars of their parents' and grandparents' experience and present with related trauma. Traumatized communities and individuals will not have all the necessary parenting skills to break the cycle of trauma without interventions and assistance.

All PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider what they can do to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls both within their project (activity) and how they can ensure awareness within the project partnership (staff). This may include: campaigning and awareness raising; specific actions to ensure women and girls feel safe everywhere; championing healthy, respectful relationships in the workplace; challenging attitudes, behaviours and social norms where they are unacceptable. You will find more information and some simple activities you can undertake in the attached links (<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>). In Ireland, please refer to the [Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#). Further information can be found [here](#).

As part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, where the projects have addressed the priority of ending of gender-based violence, the project will be asked to record actions, spend and location of these activities.

(b) Violence in the home, in many cases, can be linked to traumatic experiences from the past. Such traumatic instances can also be linked to the development of addiction and mental health issues. PEACEPLUS aims to support young people at an early stage, when they are, for example, at the point of possibly sofa surfing, and so help divert that young person from ending up in a state of homelessness. Funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant if there are any or part of their project activities and actions, that could support those at risk of homelessness, or have an early intervention which may prevent a person becoming homeless.

Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address prevention of Homelessness.

(c) Affordable and accessible Childcare is often a barrier to employment and progression. The young people targeted by the PEACEPLUS programme are categorised as some of the most disadvantaged in our communities and therefore are most lacking in support. PEACEPLUS will help remove barriers to employment, particularly in the skills development investment area, to ensure that those young people have equality of opportunity in accessing training which may lead on to employment and better life opportunities. PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant to the funded action, what positive actions they can take to support the childcare needs of their PEACEPLUS Programme participants.

Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address the priority of Childcare.

(d) Over the life of the programme, further priority areas for support may emerge and we reserve the right to request your assistance in addressing those priorities.

5. Grant Contract

You will find with this Letter of Offer, the following:

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Annex A | Form of Acceptance |
| Annex B | Request for bank details form |
| Annex C | Standard Conditions of Grant |
| Annex D | Data Sharing Agreement |

The Standard Conditions of Grant and the Programme Manual are available on the SEUPB Website.

This Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant (Annex C), the Data Sharing Agreement (Annex D), the Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form constitute the Grant Contract.

6. Bank Details

SEUPB will make payments into a dedicated bank account, unless otherwise agreed. Therefore, you need to open a **separate bank** account for the receipt of the Grant. Please **return the attached bank details form**, or else seek authorisation for a cost centre. Please see the section Bank Account of the Standard Conditions of Grant for more detail of this requirement.

7. Accepting the Letter of Offer and Standard Conditions of Grant

The Grant offer is made conditional upon you, the Lead Partner, adhering to our Standard Conditions of Grant and entering into the Data Sharing Agreement. If you accept this Letter of Offer, you will also be agreeing to abide by the Standard Conditions of Grant, the terms of Data Sharing Agreement and to abide by the Programme Manual. This Letter of Offer together with the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and latest approved version of the Application Form will (on acceptance as evidenced by your return of the completed Form of Acceptance) create the legally binding Grant Contract and you should read all documents carefully before accepting the Grant offer.

If you agree to accept our offer you should return the Form of Acceptance, along with the signed Data Sharing Agreement to SEUPB at: js.peaceplus@seupb.eu; together with the Bank Details Form which is attached as ANNEX B.

You must sign and return the Form of Acceptance and the Data Sharing Agreement within 28 days of the date of issue of the letter otherwise this offer of the Grant will expire unless otherwise agreed by SEUPB.

If there is anything you are unsure about regarding this Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement or the Programme Manual, please contact SEUPB at your earliest convenience.

8. Communications

We understand that you will be keen to share the news of your funding award with your stakeholders as soon as possible, however, we would ask that you contact the SEUPB communications team before making any public announcements in order to discuss your communications plan and ensure that all public communications comply with your obligations under the Grant Contract. Please email communications@seupb.eu

SEUPB reserves the right to co-ordinate all public relations/media announcement activity relating to this Letter of Offer. This includes the content, timing and distribution of any Grant offer made. No Grant offer announcement can be made by the Lead Partner or any other party without the prior agreement of the SEUPB.

Yours sincerely



Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive

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Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum Thursday 16 January 2025

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Councillor Ryan Murphy
Councillor Sarah Bunting
Councillor Aine Groogan

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran Beattie, Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive
Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place & Economy
Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development (item 3)
Eunan McConville, Director of Communications, Marketing & External Affairs (item 6)
Lynsey Cameron, Executive Manager (Acting) (secretariat)

Other:

Grainia Long, Chief Executive
Liam Gunn, Regional Manager
Elma Newberry, Director of the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland
Fiona McGrath, Head of Place Shaping Belfast

1. Presentation from NIHE

NIHE representatives were in attendance to present on their Belfast Housing Investment Plan.

2. Finance Update

The Director of Finance provided an update on the setting of the district rate for 2025/26. Various scenarios on the impact on the rate were highlighted to Party Leaders and non-recurrent spend requests were also outlined. Discussion also took place on income modelling for the Crematorium. Party Leaders noted this would be brought to January SP&R committee.

The Director of Finance also outlined two live consultations, NILGOSC McCloud Remedy and Stormont Draft Budget. It was agreed a draft response to both consultations would be brought to committee for member consideration.

3. Citywide Strategic Site Assessments

The Director of City Regeneration and Development reminded Members of the status of Council sites which had come forward through the SSA process as well additional opportunities presented to Council through working with housing delivery partners, DfC as the Housing Regulator and NIHE as the statutory housing provider. The Director outlined the 11 sites proposed to be presented to SP&R committee in February. Following discussion members agreed that 10 of the 11 sites should be brought to committee to agree progressing to explore delivery routes for housing led regeneration development, with the eleventh site to be brought pending confirmation of plans adjacent to the site. A member also requested that sites across the north of the city be reviewed.

4. Planning Update

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and provided an update on the applications to be considered at the January Planning Committee.

5. Illuminate Requests

The City Solicitor outlined requests received to illuminate City Hall for Donors Day on 31 January, Covid 19 Day of Reflection on 9 March and Ramadan at the end of February. Cllr Bunting advised of a request she had received to illuminate City Hall for Batten Disease in June and would share the specific details on this with the City Solicitor. Party Leaders were content these requests were approved under the City Solicitor's delegated authority.

The City Solicitor advised a report will be brought to January SP&R committee for consideration outlining a draft Illuminate Policy. Members noted the proposed new approach which will be outlined in the report.

6. AOB

Waterfront Hall

The update from the Strategic Director of Place and Economy was noted by members.

Linenhall Library

The Director of Finance outlined the finance request received from the organisation. It was agreed this would be brought to January SP&R committee for consideration and that the representatives from the Linenhall Library be invited to present this request to committee.

Malone Tornadoes

The Director of Finance advised a funding request had been received from the mixed ability rugby team. It was agreed this should be brought to January SP&R committee with further details on the request to be outlined.

Pest Control

Following discussion at December committee, the City Solicitor advised a report will be brought to January SP&R committee. Party Leaders were advised this would be published as a late report.

Display of Flags and Emblems Bill

The Chief Executive brought to members attention correspondence received from Paula Bradshaw MLA on a consultation on a proposed Bill to regulate the display of flags and emblems from street furniture. It was agreed that Party's should consider their own responses to this consultation.

Termination of Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Project Management Agreement for Arboricultural Operations (Street Trees)

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to Party Leaders the arrangements in place with DfI regarding the Arboricultural Operations (Street Trees) which involves the management of 14,000 street trees in the Eastern Division by the Council's Woodland and Recreation Team. Party Leaders agreed that further conversations take place with DfI on this agreement, to include revising the tree boundary managed by the Council.

Ballysillan Playing Fields

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined existing plans for a 4G floodlit pitch in the area and asked members to note the emerging issues with regards to pitch usage. Issues around sectarian graffiti, social media comments and threats to Council staff working in the area were noted. Party Leaders noted senior officers were meeting area reps and a further update may be brought to members.

IFA National Training Centre

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded Party Leaders of previous discussions on this and advised that the IFA have recently announced a location outside of Belfast for this Centre. However, a request from the IFA to have a single pitch base at Blanchflower was outlined and discussed with members who agreed not to support

this request. This matter will now formally be brought to P&C committee. Party Leaders requested an update on the Councils Pitches Strategy be brought to members.

Follow up process on presentations to Party Leaders

This item was raised by Cllr Long, and discussion followed on how best updates, feedback and follow ups are progressed following attendance by external organisations at Party Leader meetings. It was agreed that an item be added to the Party Leaders agenda the month following attendance a meeting to allow for updates to be brought.

Advertising panels at bus stops

Following discussion and queries raised at October SP&R committee, the Director of Communications, Marketing & External Affairs provided an update on the approach, including the cycle of advertisements.

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| | rooms received up to 3 January 2025. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <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 | Functions permitted <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 | Functions not permitted <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. |

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| | <p>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.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p>The standard charging structure will apply to the event listed in the Schedule at Appendix 1.</p> |
| | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.6 | <p>None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.</p> |
| | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> |
| 3.7 | <p>None.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 3 January 2025.</p> |

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JANUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

| NAME OF ORGANISATION | FUNCTION DATE | FUNCTION DESCRIPTION | CRITERIA MET | ROOM CHARGE | HOSPITALITY OFFERED |
|--|---------------|--|--------------|---|---|
| Youth Action NI | 9 April 2025 | 80th Birthday Celebration Dinner - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing. Numbers attending: 200 | C | Current rate free as charity | |
| Bready Ulster Scots | 5 April 2025 | European Highland Dance Championships Celebration Evening - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and ceili dancing for guests attending the Highland Festival. Numbers attending: 200 | A & B | Current rate free as charity | |
| Community Arts Partnership | 12 April 2025 | The Trash Fashion Show to celebrate 25th Anniversary of CAP providing art projects in the community. The show will showcase fashion pieces made during community workshops. Numbers attending: 200 -250 | C & D | Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group | Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group |
| Queen's University Women Graduates (QUWG) | 25 April 2025 | Centenary Celebration of QUWG and Opening Reception for the Triennial conference of the Irish Federation of University Women for guests attending this 3 day events programme. Numbers attending: 70 | A & B | Current rate free as charity | |
| Albert Foundry Football Club | 10 May 2025 | Club Centenary Celebration - Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing. Numbers attending: 200 - 250 | C & D | Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group | Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group & Anniversary |
| The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) | 23 June 2025 | Business Leaders Drinks Reception for guests attending the 5-day CIOB Members Forum in Belfast. Numbers attending: 120 -150 | A & B | <i>Under review</i> | |
| Queen's University Belfast Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences | 3 July 2025 | International Summer School Farewell Event to mark the end of a three-week International Summer School hosted QUB- drinks reception and dinner and certificate presentation. Numbers attending: 100 | A, B and C | <i>Under review</i> | |

JANUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

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|---|-------------------|---|-------|---|---|
| Minorities Recognition Awards NI and University of Ulster | 4 July 2025 | International Inclusivity Conference Dinner for guests attending this 3-day conference at University of Ulster. Numbers attending: 350 - 400 | A & B | <i>Under review</i> | |
| Paediatric ICU Team in Royal Belfast Hospital | 11 September 2025 | Paediatric Critical Care Society Gala Dinner for guests attending 3-day conference at ICC Belfast. Numbers attending: 200 - 250 | A & B | <i>Under review</i> | |
| Ulster Journals Ltd | 18 September 2025 | Ulster Tatler Awards 2025 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending: 350 – 400 | B | <i>Under review</i> | |
| International Brigade Commemoration Committee | 3 October 2025 | Opening Reception for of International Brigade Memorial Trust AGM for guest attending this 3-day AGM. Numbers attending: 75 | D | Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group | Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group |
| Shankill Protestant Boys Arts and Cultural Society | 11 October 2025 | Shankill Protestant Boys Flute Band 45th Anniversary Celebration Drinks Reception, Dinner, Presentations, and entertainment. Numbers attending: 180 - 220 | C & D | Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group | Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group & Anniversary |
| Image Nation NI | 25 October 2025 | Belfast Diwali Celebrations – an evening of food and entertainment to celebrate one of the biggest celebrations in Hindu Calendar. Numbers attending – 350 | C | Current rate free as Voluntary Community Group | Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Voluntary Community Group |
| MKON – Professional Conference Organiser | 4 June 2026 | Gala Dinner for The Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC. Numbers attending: 350 - 400 | A & B | <i>Under review</i> | |
| UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) | 23 June 2027 | UKCISA Conference Drinks Reception for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC. Numbers attending: 250 | A & B | <i>Under review</i> | |



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| Subject: | Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition in June 2025 |
| Date: | 24 January 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager |

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|--|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------|
| 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: 30px;" 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: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></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"/> | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
|------------|--|

| | |
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| 1.1 | To consider a request from Belfast Photo Festival for the use of City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to host a photographic exhibition. This is an annual exhibition which has been held in the grounds in previous years. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise Belfast Photo Festival to use City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to display a photographic exhibition as part of the Belfast Photo Festival. 2. Authorise the exhibition in line with similar events previously approved by Council. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) has asked to place a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 9 – 30 June 2025. Exhibition content is placed around the perimeter of the West and East Lawn allowing for other events to be hosted and the lawns to remain available for recreational use.</p> |
| 3.3 | The theme for the 2025 Photo Festival exhibition is Climate and Environment and will delve into photography’s power to capture and reflect the changing environment and its impact on the world around us. |
| 3.4 | There will be 6 exhibition framework structures installed on the perimeter of the West & East Lawn of City Hall grounds on 9 June and dismantled on 30 June 2025. It would be free for members of the public to view daily in line with the opening times of the grounds. |
| 3.5 | Belfast Photo Festival have a dedicated Front of House Team who will be roaming throughout their open-air public exhibitions across the city. They will engage with visitors/ publics to talk about the work, as well as ensure any maintenance, graffiti or other issues arising. |
| 3.6 | Good Relations and Corporate Communications will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications identified that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is included in Appendix 1. |

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|-----|---|
| 3.7 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request and hosting of the exhibition.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Good Relations will be consulted on this request and the exhibition content, but don't foresee any negative implications.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents attached |
| | Appendix 1 - Exhibition Proposal artwork and site map in City Hall grounds |

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CITY HALL LAWN PROPOSAL

9 – 30 JUNE 2025



**BELFAST
PHOTO FESTIVAL**



BELFAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

- Page 188
- “One of the best photography festivals in the world” - Capture Magazine
 - 100,000+ visitors in June 2024
 - Working with 30+ partners in arts, culture & education to deliver the 2025 festival
 - Winner: Best PR Campaign (2021 CIPR Awards)
 - Winner: Arts Award for Excellence (2019 Allianz Arts & Business NI Awards)

PREVIOUS OUTDOOR EXHIBITIONS



Page 189

Since 2013, Belfast Photo Festival has been producing exhibitions and art works for outdoor display across the city, including the City Hall and Botanic Gardens.





2025 FESTIVAL THEME: CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Page 09

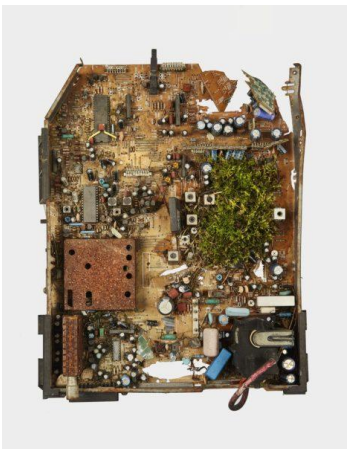
SPF 2025 will delve into photography's unique power to capture and reflect the changing environment and its impact on the world around us. This edition will explore how contemporary photographers are responding to urgent ecological challenges and offering reimaginings of our relationship with nature. Through their lenses, they confront the pressing realities of climate change, environmental degradation, and the complex interconnections that define our globalized world, while seeking to bridge the divisions and inspire solutions for a more sustainable future.



PROPOSED ARTWORKS FOR CITY HALL

Diana Lelonek: Center for Living things

The Center for the Living Things is the research institution founded in 2016, in order to examine, collect and popularise the knowledge concerning new humanotic nature forms. All exhibits gathered in the Institute's collection are abandoned objects, used and no longer needed commodities – wastes of human overproduction, which have become the natural environment for many living organisms. Specimens were found in illegal waste dumping site, where the transgression of man-derived objects and plant tissues take place. These hybrids of plants and artificial objects are difficult to classify, as they are contemporaneously animate and inanimate. Exhibits collected in Center for the Living Things can't be conventionally classified. Recently, wastes have been taking over behaviours from living matter. In the process of overproduction, ceaseless demand of constant update of possessed goods is the reason why most of unnecessary products seem to be out of control. Center for the Living Things is aimed to describe mechanisms appearing in the sphere of rejection and uselessness. In this sphere, products are no longer tools used by people. Products participates in almost every process that occurs in biosphere, hence we can't definitively divide economic or social processes from so-called natural process.









OUTDOOR EXHIBITION INSTALLATION

C-Bond Triangular Displays

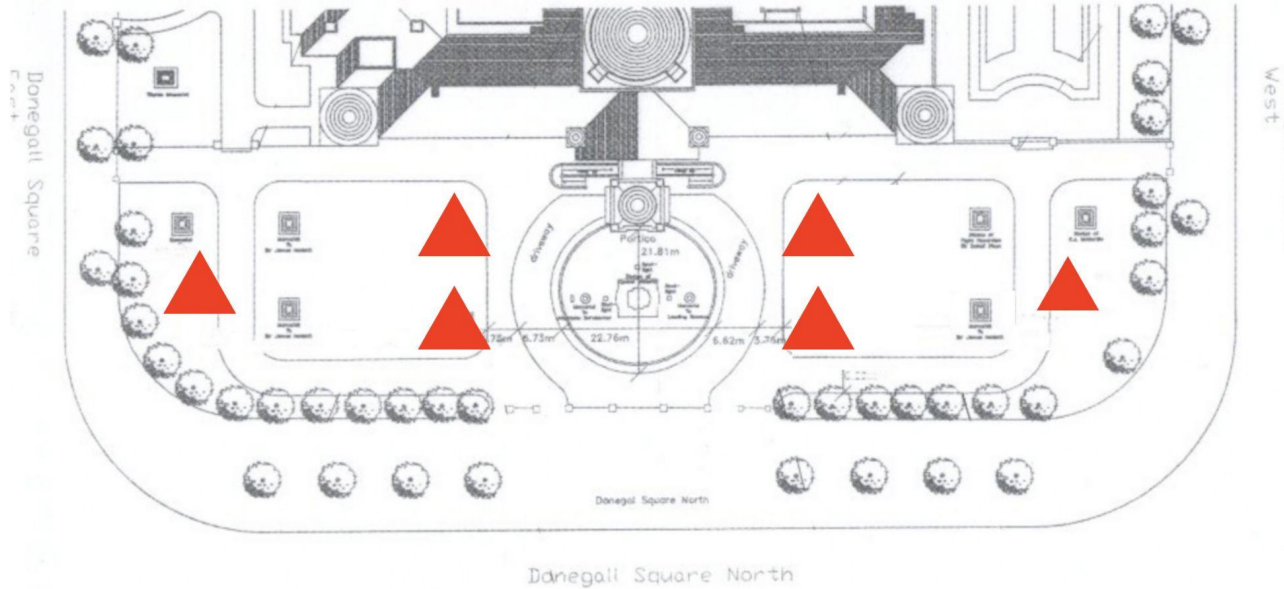
Page 195
Artworks: 6 structures, Size: 1500mm x 2100mm. (Three images per display unit)

Displayed as presented in these photographic examples showing the same method used at Belfast Harbour & Queen's University.



PROPOSED EXHIBITION LAYOUT

Page 196



▲ Number of Display Units = 6 framework displays



| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2025 |
| Date: | 24 January 2025 |
| 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 <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%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="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"/> | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 consider requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025 |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 6 June 2025 • Pride Picnic – 19 July 2025 • Féile Rock’s Pride Concert – 26 July 2025 • Belfast One Film Screening – 2 and 3 August 2025 • Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party – 16 August 2025 |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on dates noted above. 2. Authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <u>Background Information</u> |
| 3.1 | <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the requests set out below falls into this category.</p> |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.2 | <p>Several requests have been received for events over the spring and summer period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p> |
| | <u>The Proposed events</u> |
| 3.3 | <p>The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p>The event would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025</u> Hosted by Tourism NI this outdoor interactive community event, running from 11.00am to 2.00pm, will mark the start of a four stop journey towards The Open.</p> |

A display of large letters spelling out 'The Open' will allow for photos with local schools, organisations, dignitaries, and sportspeople. An interactive golf section with artificial grass and gazebo enables individuals to partake in hitting a golf ball into a washing machine and the famous Claret jug will be on display for viewing and photo opportunities. The event is free and access managed.

3.6 **6 June 2025 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward walk**

The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at City Hall since 2014. It is Action Cancer's flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.

3.7 **19 July 2025 Belfast Pride Family Fun Day**

This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12noon to 5.00pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs. The event would be free to attend and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. Previous event in recent years were very popular and delivered without incident.

3.8 **26 July 2025 Féile Rock's Pride Concert**

The annual "City Hall Rocks Back" event is organised by Feile an Phobail featuring local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8.00am and 7.30pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.

3.9 **2 and 3 August 2025 Belfast One Cinema Screenings**

This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed, and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <p>way of face painting and film props. Previous events in 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident. 2024 event was affected by impromptu rallies on the cobbled area and this element will be reviewed for 2025 event planning.</p> <p><u>16 August 2025 Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party</u></p> |
| 3.10 | <p>In 2022, ArtsEkta launched a new event as part of the festival titled ‘Mela Carnival, a spectacular opening to the festival and begin a series of 50 events across a full week which will culminate in the traditional event at Botanic Gardens. The past 3 year events were very successful and wish to host the event again this year.</p> <p>A 800-participant carnival parade will begin at Writers Square, proceed onto Royal Avenue into Donegal Place and end at City Hall grounds. ArtsEkta request the use of the City Hall grounds for a free to access carnival party and celebration event for the participants, family/friends and wider audiences with stage entertainment, performers, food traders and carnival floats.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.11 | <p>There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.</p> |
| 3.12 | <p>There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.</p> |
| 3.13 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |

Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Steering Group

Tuesday, 8th January, 2025

CASTLE, CAVEHILL, ZOO AND NORTH FORESHORE STEERING GROUP MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING IN THE CONOR ROOM

Members present: Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Anglin and Cobain.

In attendance: Ms. S. Kalke, Client Manager;
Mr. S. Wilson, Estates Surveyor; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

Resolved - that Alderman Rodgers be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in June, 2025.

(Alderman Rodgers in the Chair.)

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Nelson and Smyth.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declaration of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in the item relating to the development of the Giant's Park in that he was a member of the Council's Planning Committee, which would consider the application in due course. It was noted that the declaration would not preclude Alderman Rodgers from chairing the meeting.

North Foreshore - Update on Commercial-Led Leisure Development (GPBL)

Alderman Rodgers welcomed to the meeting Mr. K. Carlin, Director of Carlin Planning Limited, together with Mr. G. Kennedy of Kennedy Planning Management, and Mr. K. McKay of the Benmore Group, who were in attendance to provide a presentation in respect of the development at the North Foreshore.

The Working Group was informed that an initial planning application for the development had been submitted to the Council in December. The first phase of the project would see the development of a 160-acre portion of the site for the purposes of an adventure

park, with construction could potentially commencing in late-2025, subject to planning approval. Mr. Carlin outlined the further plans for the remaining 90 acres of the site, which would enable the creation of mixed-use, distribution, logistics and commercial zones. All plans relating to the site, he added, had been developed collaboratively, with the input of local communities, and would seek to balance the requirement of an outdoor nature park and ensure the management of the surrounding environment in a sensitive manner.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson